



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 776903 • [sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) • [www.sacredheartoxford.com](http://www.sacredheartoxford.com)

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley, 01865 770910)

Email: [fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk)

Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i> <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	9.00 am 5.15 pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i> 6.00 pm	<i>Methodia Method - RIP</i>  <i>Jose - Thanksgiving</i>
Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	9.15 am	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland</b> <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Op. Comm. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop</i> <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	5.00 pm <i>Penance Service, followed by Exposition and Confessions</i> 7.00 pm Mass	<i>John &amp; Family-Thanksgiving</i>
Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary</b> <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March	12.00 noon, Mass of Induction	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Sunday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	9.00 am 5.15 pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i> 6.00 pm	<i>Methodia Method - RIP</i>  <i>Jose - Thanksgiving</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 5.00-6.45 pm		

**Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.**

**Laetare Sunday.** We are now three and a half weeks into Lent, and Easter is three weeks today. In other words, we are over halfway through and that's a cause for rejoicing! Today is "Laetare Sunday" – "Be Glad Sunday" – when we relax the disciplines of Lent slightly and think of the joy of Easter. It's also Mothering Sunday.

*Happy Mothering Sunday to all Mums*

**Please pray for those we know who are sick, including Dominico Mirto.** If you or any family members are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank you.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Flanagan, Bridget Willoughby, José Ribeiro, Sheila Evans, Fr. Oliver Kemp, Deacon Pat Duffy** and for the souls of all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop David Cashman, Mgr. Daniel Kelly, Frs. William Madden, Patrick Maguire, Andrew Brennan and Deacon Thomas Ashcroft, and also Fr. John McNally, Bernard McAndrew, Edward and Eileen James and Mary McAndrew. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Bridget Willoughby's funeral will be at Our Lady's on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, at 10.00 am. Because of the pandemic not many may attend the funeral Mass, although I know that many parishioners would like to be there. As usual it will be streamed and, if you can, I invite you to attend virtually and to pray for Bridie and her family.

**Mass at Home.** You are welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass, but if you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we can Zoom the Mass to you. Alternatively, you could watch the Mass on Saturday, 5.30 pm, and/or Sunday, 11.00 am from Our Lady's where we are now live and can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

Here is a prayer, **an Act of Spiritual Communion**, which you can say as you watch the Mass at home:

*"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."*

#### **Prayer at the end of Mass:**

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! *Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

**Please pray for all those we know who are sick.** If you or family members are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank you.

**Induction.** Next Saturday we shall have a Mass at 12.00 noon during which I shall be inducted as the new Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians by the Dean of North Oxford, Canon Mervyn Tower. The Induction is an opportunity when the Parish Priest can be officially presented to the people of his new parish. During the ceremony he makes the Profession of Faith and takes the Oath of Fidelity which is required of all those holding office and teaching responsibility in the Catholic Church, and he pledges himself to work as a faithful pastor of his people. For the people, it is an opportunity to welcome their new priest and to pledge themselves to work with him in the service of the Gospel. I invite you all to attend, but I also ask stewards and cleaners to be present, please, to make sure that we are COVID-secure.

**Praying together in a time of Pandemic.** You can join me for *Lectio Divina* by Zoom each Monday evening, 7.00–7.30 pm (please let me have your email address and I shall send you a link), and for *Morning Prayer* through Our Lady's livestreaming each morning (except Wednesdays and Thursdays) at 8.00.

**The Year of St Joseph.** Pope Francis has designated 2021 a year of St Joseph. We shall pray a Novena leading up to the feast of St. Joseph on 19<sup>th</sup> March, using a prayer that he has suggested. Copies of this prayer are available to take away today:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

**Parish Penance Service.** On Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, there will be an extended period when you can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can start with a short Penance Service at 5.00 pm, with Mass at 7.00 pm.

#### **Holy Week and Easter**

I wish I could say that Holy Week and the Easter Triduum will be back to normal this year, but sadly they won't. We are in a much better position than last Easter, but our Holy Week and Easter liturgies will reflect the fact that we are still living through a pandemic.

The most important week in the Church's year – indeed, the most important week in the history of the world – is Holy Week. It begins on Palm Sunday, when we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into the Holy City. On Maundy Thursday we remember the Last Supper and the commandment of Jesus to love one another, and the Institution of the Eucharist. On Good Friday we solemnly celebrate the Passion of our Lord. On Holy Saturday we join Him in the Sabbath Rest until the Easter Vigil when we begin to celebrate The Resurrection. The services will be shorter and more simple than usual:

**Palm Sunday Mass: 9.00 am and 6.00 pm**  
**Maundy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper: 7.00 pm**  
**Good Friday Solemn Celebration Of The Lord's  
Passion: 3.00 pm**  
**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil: 8.00 pm**  
**Easter Mass: 9.00 am and 6.00 pm**

**Stations of the Cross** each Sunday afternoon in Lent, at 5.15, before the evening Mass.

**Gift Aid Envelopes.** The new envelopes are available. Please take your box from the hall as you leave the church today, and if you have neighbours who are not here today, please do take their box and deliver it to them. If your circumstances have changed in a way that affects your income tax please let Sally know (01865 779078). Similarly, if you wish to start gift aiding your weekly donations to the church, please give Sally a call.

**Tailpiece:** Happy St. Patrick's Day to all on Wednesday: a man went to see his doctor who was baffled. "I'm very sorry Mr O'Flaherty, but I can't diagnose your trouble. I think it must be the drink." "Don't worry about it, Doctor. I'll come back when you're sober."

**May God bless you throughout the Season of Lent  
and all those who are dear to you. Fr. Harry**