



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## *Third Sunday of Lent*

*7<sup>th</sup> March, 2021*

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Third 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>Martin Patten</i>  <i>Vimala - Thanksgiving</i>
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Op. Commemoration of St. John of God, Religious</i>	9.15 am	<i>Susan Solly</i>
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Op. Comm. of St. Frances of Rome, Religious</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Novena to St. Joseph</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Novena to St. Joseph</i>	6.00 pm <i>Exposition &amp; Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Gerard Doyles - Intention</i>
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i> <i>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>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

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

**A Liturgical Note:** During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word “A\*\*\*\*\*A!” There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday. We shall save it all up and let rip with sound, light and colour at the Easter Vigil when we celebrate the Resurrection.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of John Flanagan, Bridget Willoughby, José Ribeiro, Sheila Evans, Fr. Oliver Kemp** and for the souls of all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Gerard J. Hanlon, Raymond Walsh and Anthony Allport, Frs. Humphrey Crookenden, CO, Terence Luxon, Ernest Jarvis, Thomas Fullerton, CO, Francis Johnson, Joseph Purcell, Ralph Sheppey-Greene, Christopher Thornton, Connell Harkin, Vaughan Lloyd and Anthony Sims, Deacons James Rowe and Philip Prince, and also John and Jane Bartlett, Sr. Imelda James and Matthew Murray. Fr Kemp was ordained in 1966 and, among other parishes, he served at Headington from 1977 to 1980. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. José Ribeiro’s funeral will be at Our Lady’s at noon on Tuesday, and Bridget Willoughby’s funeral will be at Our Lady’s on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, at 10.00 am. Marty Patten’s funeral has taken place in Ireland, but today’s 9.00 am Mass is a Memorial for him

**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.

**Lectio Divina.** Would you like to try “*Lectio Divina*” by Zoom during Lent? It is a Latin phrase, meaning “divine reading”, and it is a way of praying with the Bible. We had our first session last Monday and I think it worked quite well. You are welcome to join us. We read the following Sunday’s Gospel together and pray about it. It takes about half an hour, 7.00–7.30 pm. If you would be interested in trying it please let me know and make sure that I have your email address.

**Morning Prayer.** Each morning (except Wednesdays and Thursdays) I pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer of the Church at 8.00. You are welcome to join me through the live streaming at Our Lady’s.

**Parish Financial Statement for 2020**

Parish income	2020
Offeratories (inc £6,499 by gift aid)	£10,948
Rental income	£13,644
Donations (inc £40 by gift aid)	£ 739
Interest income	£ 178
Fundraising	£ 327
Repository/Newspapers/Votive Candles	£ 725
Tax refunds from gift aid	£ 2,296
Church Hall Rent	£ 1,838
Other collections for parish (eg CCTV)*	£ 299
<b>Total</b>	<b>£30,993</b>

Parish expenses	2020
Church (Lit. Past/Establishment/Maintenance)	£ 9,774
House (Domestic/Establishment/maintenance)	£ 3,791
Clergy (Salary/Supply priests/Expenses)	£ 8,012
General (Office/Levies/Donations/Repository/Newspapers/Votive candles)	£10,471
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Fundraising expenses	£ 132
Personnel/Wages	
Bank Charges	£ 95
<b>Total</b>	<b>£32,778</b>

I am very grateful to the Parish Finance Committee for their work throughout the year, and especially to Rachel who has prepared this statement. The Parish’s Finance Committee would like to thank Parishioners for their generosity over the past year.

**Parish Penance Service.** On Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, at 5.00 pm, with Mass at 7.00 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 today. 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.

**Induction.** According to Canon Law, a Parish Priest should be “inducted” into his new parish. Normally it would be a chance for a celebration in church, followed by a party. Unfortunately, we can’t do that at present, but there will be a service of Induction at 12.00 noon on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, when the Dean, Canon Mervyn Tower, with “introduce” me to the parish. All welcome.

**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.*

**Echoes of God.** The final chapter in our 7-week course on the Bible, written by David McLoughlin is available., or go to <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/thegod-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god/>

**Tailpiece:** Teacher, explaining the Parable of the Prodigal Son to her class: “But there was someone for whom the son’s return brought only bitterness and resentment. Do you know who that was?”

Eager young boy: “Yes, Miss. The fatted calf.”

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

**Fr. Harry**