



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Easter

18th April, 2021

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Happy Eastertide, everyone.
Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Sunday, 18 th April Third Sunday of Easter <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Marissa Fereira da Costa - RIP</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 19 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.15 am	<i>Ncho Aya Leontine - RIP</i>
Tuesday, 20 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 21 st April <i>Op. Memorial of St. Anselm, Bishop</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 22 nd April <i>Easter Feria</i>	6.00 pm <i>Exposition & Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Special Intention</i>
Friday, 23 rd April Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 24 th April <i>Optional Memorials of St. Adalbert & St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyrs</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 25 th April Fourth Sunday of Easter	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Ernesto FP Madeira & N Carvalho - RIP</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today. If you have recently moved into this parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please say hello to me. Thank you.



The Easter Season

The Easter Season began on Easter Sunday, and ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday. These fifty days are a very special time and, as St. Athanasius wrote, they “are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday.” The joyful sound of “Alleluia!” is heard many times throughout this season.

Please pray for those we know who are sick, including Domenico Mirto and Regina Soares. 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 James Kinyanjui, Kathleen Mullan, Aileen Young and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Patrick Leo McCartie, Frs. William Smith, Reginald Slade, Patrick Downey, Antony Conlon (Westminster), Hugh Griffith, Andrew Kenny, Oswald Joyce, Liam Bouchier, Patrick Quilty, Benjamin Cox, Wilfrid Davenport, Desmond Donnelly, Peter Dennison and Deacon Peter Seeney, and also Edward Murphy and Eddie Parker. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We pray too for the repose of the soul of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and for comfort for the Queen and the Royal Family.

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Prayer at the end of Mass:

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

**O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

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 a Livestream Mass:

“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.”

Weddings and Baptisms. As you all know only too well, Government restrictions have led to multiple postponements of events in the church over the last year, so it is very good that restrictions are beginning to lift. As I understand it, from last Monday 15 people may attend a wedding and from 17 May, 30 people may do so. For Baptisms, the Government covid roadmap permits the public celebration of Baptism after 17 May, when 30 people will be permitted to attend. I should therefore be grateful if couples who wish to get married here, or parents who wish to have their children baptised, could contact me (preferably by email or letter, please) to arrange some meetings and dates. Thank you.

However, please remember that COVID RESTRICTIONS STILL APPLY. Although covid restrictions are in the process of being lifted cautiously across society, restrictions in church remain unchanged. It is very important that we all continue to observe them for the safety of all who use our facilities. These include: sanitising your hands as you enter and leave the church, leaving contact details as you enter, wearing a face covering whilst in the building and maintaining at least one metre (+) distance from other people inside and outside the building. As well as being government requirements, observing these for the sake of others is also an act of charity on our part. It is worth bearing in mind that some people attending Mass have not yet received their first vaccination, let alone a second dose, and that even those who have been vaccinated may still potentially be able to spread the virus. Thank you for your continued co-operation and consideration of others.

First Holy Communions and Confirmations. I have received a few enquiries about what is happening about the children who are still awaiting these Sacraments from last year and also those who would like to prepare for them this year. The simple answer is that I still don't know. I am awaiting some guidance about what is or is not allowed in the way of preparation classes and celebrations. I hope that things may start moving again soon, so please keep watching for updates. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the hall as you leave today.

Day of Prayer. On Tuesday, 4th May, for the Church in England and Wales there will be a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse.

Talk on Church Finances in a time of Pandemic, today, Sunday, 18th April, 1.45pm for a 2pm start. Every organisation needs money including the Church. However, in recent years income to parishes has been steadily reducing and costs continue to increase. The pandemic has and will have a significant impact on that situation. To take part in this, join Zoom Meeting <https://redcliffe.zoom.us/j/84083946770?pwd=YkNNb0lPM0RCbjlMajh0SmJBUUV2QT09>

Vocations Sunday. Next Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray for an increase in Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese. There will be the annual collection at Masses next Sunday for the Clergy Training Fund which helps to support our seminarians and diaconate students. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Thank You from CAFOD. Thank you to all parishioners at Sacred Heart for your Lent Fast Day donation of £145.27. It means so much to us that you have reached out to our brothers and sisters around the world, when life here at home is quite changed. This Lent we shared the story of Abdella's ten hour walk for water through the mountains in Ethiopia. Your gifts will mean that we can help improve water access for Abdella's community and others around the world.

CAFOD Walk for Water. Congratulations to Rachel and Phoebe who achieved their 10,000 steps over 40 days, reaching an actual total of 543,920 steps over those days. They raised over £750 for CAFOD: this money could bring water to an entire community, so well done!!

If you would still like to sponsor them there is still time: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/rachel-and-phoebe-walk-for-water>

Tailpiece: There's only room for a short tailpiece this week, so ... What's the best way to make Easter easier? Put an "i" where the "t" is.

**May God bless you and all those you love.
Fr. Harry**