



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Seventh Sunday of Easter

16th May, 2021

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Happy Eastertide, everyone.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Sunday, 16 th May Seventh Sunday of Easter <i>World Communications Day</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	Annette Robbins <i>All those sick with Covid-19</i>
Monday, 17 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.15 am	Peter (Anniversary)
Tuesday, 18 th May <i>Op. Memorial of St. John I, Pope, Martyr</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 19 th May <i>Optional Memorial of St. Dunstan, Bishop</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 20 th May <i>Op. Mem. of St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Tom Hiceta (Anniversary)
Friday, 21 st May <i>Op. Mem. of St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 22 nd May <i>Op. Mem. of St. Rita of Cascia, Religious</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 23 rd May Solemnity of Pentecost <i>Day of Prayer for the Church</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	Herminia Madeira Cosme Ximenes and Adeline Fatima Lemos
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

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.”

Please pray for those we know who are sick, including Jesmi Peiris, 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 Aileen Young, Laurie DeBono and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. John Humphreys, Canon Wilfrid Smith, Frs. Thomas Canning, Joseph Griffin, Ernest Cook, William Lyons and George Henry Boulton and also Margaret Boyle, Mary Catherine Cleary, Rozan Peiris, Tom Hiceta, Peter. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

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 (please email me for a link). 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."

Taking the next step with care. This is a very exciting time. One of the Psalms speaks about the Lord as a warrior awaking as if from sleep and stretching, ready for action. It feels that the Church is also once again starting to awaken and stretch. Things are starting to happen and it is lovely to see parishioners coming back to Mass. It is important that we all continue to observe restrictions in church. These restrictions 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 physical distance from other people. It is also very important that we co-operate with the stewards in being seated safely. Thank you.

First Holy Communions. Some of our children are in the process of preparing to receive their First Holy Communion at the end of this month. Please pray for them and their families, and for their teachers. Parents, if your child is still waiting to make his or her first Holy Communion and is not at either St. John Fisher School or Our Lady's School, please have a chat with me.

May Prayer Initiative. In response to the Holy Father's heartfelt wish, the month of May is being dedicated to a "marathon" of prayer, to ask for the end of the Coronavirus pandemic. Pope Francis wishes to involve Shrines around the world in this initiative, so that they may become vehicles of the prayer of the entire Church. With the people at the shrines we are asked to pray the Holy Rosary each day of the month for a daily prayer intention. A list of each day's shrine and prayer intention is printed in the booklets that were made available last week. The Vatican website will broadcast the prayer said each day in each of the thirty Shrines at 5:00 pm, BST.

Holy Water. If you would like holy water for use at home, please bring your own bottle, ready filled with water, which I shall be happy to bless.

Commemorative Candles. The large candles in front of the Tabernacle, the Sacred Heart statue and Our Lady's statue burn night and day. These lights indicate the presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle and also give honour to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady. They also show our desire to remain present to the Lord in prayer, even though we have to leave church and go about our daily business. If you would like one of the week-long candles to burn for a particular intention or in memory of a loved one, please add the intention to the list at the back of church and enclose your intention in an envelope, with an offering of £5, and give it to me after Mass or leave it in the collection basket.

World Communications Day, Sunday 16 May. On this day, Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those professionals who work in Communications, and particularly for those who are responsible for communicating on behalf of the Catholic Church in this country. The communications office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales supports the bishops and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through digital, social, print and broadcast media. The office is the central point for media enquiries and is a key resource for national and international media professionals. It also plays an important role in developing the public profile of the Church through word and image. There is a second collection for Catholic Communications. Please support it if you can.

Message from CAFOD: As Coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with Caritas India to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID and vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely-run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

Fundraiser for Pax Christi. This week Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid-19 by looking to be sponsored for various imaginative enterprises. See their website www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-your-interest/ for details on how you can sponsor them.

Tailpiece: A teacher lined up the children in her class to recite the creed they had been memorising for the past few weeks. "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth," Robbie began. "And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord," Suzy said next. "Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary," said Timmy. "Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried," said Molly. "He descended into hell," said Jim. "The third day he rose again from the dead," said Margaret. "He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty," said Billy. "From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead," said Jill. Then there followed a long silence. Finally Timmy spoke up and said, "Please Miss, the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit isn't here today."

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