



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th July, 2021

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 18 th July Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>John Quigley - RIP</i> <i>Dennis McVeigh (Anniversary)</i>
Monday, 19 th July	9.15 am Mass	<i>James McVeigh (Anniversary)</i>
Tuesday, 20 th July <i>Op. Mem. of St. Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr</i>	<i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Albert Phillips</i>
Wednesday, 21 st July <i>Op. Mem. of St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 22 nd July <i>Feast of St. Mary Magdalene</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Roy Regan (1st Anniversary)</i>
Friday, 23 rd July <i>Feast of St. Bridget, Religious, Patron of Europe</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Europe</i>	<i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>In Thanksgiving (Camillo & Marie)</i>
Saturday, 24 th July <i>Op. Mem. of St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today <i>10.00 am Baptism</i>	<i>Fideljo Amaral</i>
Sunday, 25 th July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>John Quigley - RIP</i> <i>Dennis McVeigh (Anniversary)</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass.

If you have recently moved into this parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please come and say hello to me. Thank you.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Florinda Louise Turner, Shirley Anne Milne, and the souls of all who have died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Peter Joseph Ryall, Canon Laurence Kelly, Frs. Liam Peter O'Connor, Thomas Rock, Albert Leo Kelly and Anthony Owen, and also James McCormack, John (Danny) Lyons, Margaret McHugh and Noreen Griffin. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Mass at Home. If you are wondering why you have not been able to watch the Sunday morning Mass from Sacred Heart on Zoom, the reason is that our license has expired and for the moment we have stopped transmitting. I should be very grateful to hear from parishioners who have been using this service to see if it might be worthwhile to renew and even expand it. 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."

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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 those we know who are sick. If you are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know.

COVID UPDATE. Following the announcement that step 4 of the Government's Covid-19 response roadmap will come into effect on Monday 19th July, we have received guidance from the Bishops' Conference. The guidance is accompanied by the statement *Sunday – it is our Day* which says, "***It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God. It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.***"

At this stage, it is important for us all to remember that although legislation is being relaxed, the pandemic is not yet over and there continues to be a duty of care for all who use our church and other facilities. And so, although there may be some degree of relaxation, I want to keep a cautious approach and **encourage you to continue to keep a social distance from others in the church and to wear a mask in church.**

Future Parish Events. As I am sure you will understand, it is very difficult to make definite plans for the near future, but here are a few ideas:

- **Parish Party, Sunday, 15th August.** What I have in mind is a time when we can enjoy being back together as a parish family with no formal start or end to proceedings. Just bring your own food and come and go at your leisure between 12-4pm. There will be games and perhaps we can have a BBQ. Free tea, coffee, soft drinks and wine will be served throughout the afternoon. It will need to be a community effort if it is to work – cleaners, furniture carriers, people to make and serve drinks, people to bring and organise games, and probably more. If you would like to help with any of these, please let me know (email, note through the letterbox, telephone). All hands to the pump! And let's all pray for good weather!
- **A Day of Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers.**
- **A course for anyone who would like to be received into the Church or who would simply like to know more about the Faith.**
- **Bible Study or Prayer Groups**

Baptism. Next Saturday we welcome Fideljo Amaral into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please pray for him and his family.

Parish Census. Thank you to everyone who completed the census forms last summer. However, with the upcoming review of diocesan structures, it is important that our records are as accurate as they can be. If your family did not complete and return the forms last summer, please can I encourage you to do so now. If you would like a paper copy of the form, please ask me for one. If you would like an electronic copy, please email sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk. Please return the forms to Chris Breward either by email (preferred option) or by post, c/o Sacred Heart Church.

Episcopal Vicar. Following the Holy Father's acceptance of Bishop William Kenney's resignation from office as Auxiliary Bishop, the Archbishop has appointed Canon Paul Fitzpatrick as Episcopal Vicar for the Pastoral Area of Coventry, Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, with effect from 1st September 2021.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Holy Father has designated next Sunday, 25th July, the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Keys. We have been asked if we would rent out the parish flat to a priest from the Syro-Malabar community, and we have started the hard work of doing this. We will also be turning the small meeting room into my study. Can I ask that if you have keys to the downstairs door to the flat or to the small meeting room can you return them to me or to Chris Breward as soon as possible, please?

Your Parish Needs YOU!!

Cue for a big poster of General Kitchener pointing. I have experienced a lovely welcome to Sacred Heart Parish, and I should like to thank you all very much. I have also got to know some of you and that is good too. However, so many ministries and jobs have been "mothballed" during the lockdowns that I don't really know who does what normally. So can I start asking for help, please? Next week I shall put out forms inviting volunteers for different things. In the meantime, please ask yourself if you would like to be part of the re-awakening of our parish after lockdown? I am sure we have vacancies for:

- Altar servers, musicians, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, tea/coffee makers, flower arrangers
- a Health and Safety Officer.

Tailpiece: A sign seen in a pub: "Drink is the enemy! But the Bible tells us to love our enemies!!"

May God bless you and all those you love.

Fr. Harry