



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st August, 2021

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 1 st August <i>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am <i>3.00 pm Baptism</i> 6.00 pm	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>Amara Mananna McKoy</i> <i>John & Family (Thanksgiving)</i>
Monday, 2 nd August <i>Optional Memorials of St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop, or St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Gabriela M Mosquita</i>
Tuesday, 3 rd August	No Public Mass Today	<i>Kate Murdoch and Family</i>
Wednesday, 4 th August <i>Memorial of St. John Mary Vianney, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>In Thanksgiving</i>
Thursday, 5 th August <i>Op. Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Brian Nolan (Anniversary)</i>
Friday, 6 th August <i>Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	<i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Claire French (Birthday)</i>
Saturday, 7 th August <i>Optional Memorials of St. Sixtus II, Pope, & Companions, Martyrs, or of St. Cajetan, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 8 th August <i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Oswaldo Da Silva</i> <i>Jose, E. Oliveira, Gilberto, Nella,</i> <i>Francisco Amado</i>

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church.

If you have recently moved into this parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please come and say hello to me. Thank 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 the repose of the soul of Shirley Anne Milne, and the souls of all who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Richard Philip Lynch CO, David Ford, Cuthbert Brown, James Gough, Francis Gwinnett and Deacon John Leach, and also Doreen Reilly, Tony Reilly, John White, Brian Nolan and Jimmy Doyle. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Mass at Home. We are no longer streaming the Sunday morning Mass from Sacred Heart on Zoom. 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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COVID REGULATIONS.

A cautionary tale: two friends of mine, a husband and wife, went to an Ordination outside of this diocese recently. It was a joyous occasion with the feeling that things were getting back to normal. Masks were worn in the Cathedral, but there was no social distancing and people were singing their hearts out. Afterwards there was a buffet reception at which a good time was had by all. This week the wife (already double-jabbed) tested positive for COVID and is now feeling very sorry for herself. The moral is: we must still take care. In summary:

- Hand sanitising is still **recommended**.
- Face coverings are still **strongly recommended** in church.
- Adequate ventilation is still a priority.
- The individual desire for social distancing still needs to be respected.
- Holy water fonts are to remain unfilled.
- The sign of peace remains suspended.
- As long as the Test, Track and Trace system is operational, QR codes will remain clearly visible and parishioners should sign in on the sheets provided if they are not using an app.
- Holy Communion will continue to be given under one Kind.
- Congregational singing may be reintroduced. Musicians, please take note (no pun intended), **but those who want to join in with the singing should wear a mask at this time.**

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended. The Bishops' Conference hopes that it will be reintroduced on the 1st Sunday of Advent (28th November).

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.** It has been pointed out to me that the date I chose for our party, in the middle of August, may not be a good one for many of you. Perhaps it would be a good idea to postpone it until September when everyone is back and we are able to celebrate together.
- **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**

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.



Holidays. I shall be away from Monday morning until Friday evening this week and so there will be no weekday Masses or Confessions here. I shall offer Mass for the intentions listed.

Parish Census. Thank you to everyone who completed the census forms last summer. However, 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.

Your Parish Needs YOU!! Please join in.

So many ministries and activities have been “mothballed” during the lockdowns that I don’t really know who does what normally. So can I start asking for help, please? Last week I gave out yellow leaflets inviting you to volunteer for different things. It is the chance to re-start things, or perhaps to start something new in the parish. Please ask yourself if you would like to be part of the re-awakening of our parish and fill in the leaflet and leave it in the box in the church porch by the end of August.

Pope’s Prayer Intention for August: The Church. Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Baptism. Today we welcome Amara McKoy into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please pray for her and for her family.

Keys. Can I ask that if you have keys to the downstairs door to the flat or to the small meeting room here at Sacred Heart can you return them to me or to Chris Breward as soon as possible, please?

Tailpiece: At a school Nativity Play a small boy was annoyed at being cast as the innkeeper when he wanted to be a Wise Man and wear a crown, so he decided to wreck the play. When Joseph knocked on the door he announced firmly, “Come in, there’s plenty of room!” Fortunately, Joseph was quick-witted: he took one look inside and said, “I’m not taking my wife into a place like that. Come on, Mary, we’ll sleep in the stable!”

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