



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th September, 2021

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 19 th September <i>Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Home Mission Sunday</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Anne O'Neill <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 20 th September <i>Mem. of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Comps., Martyrs</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Dina Randolfi
Tuesday, 21 st September <i>Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Jose Manuel Da Cunha & Maria Augusta Ribeiro
Wednesday, 22 nd September	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 23 rd September <i>Memorial of St. Pio of Pietrelcina</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	John McVeigh (Anniv.)
Friday, 24 th September <i>Memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	In Thanksgiving
Saturday, 25 th September	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 26 th September <i>Twenty-sixth Sunday of the Year</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	James McVeigh (Anniv.) Ross and Doyle Families
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

If you are here with us for the first time today, welcome. If you are returning to Mass after a period of time away because of the pandemic, welcome back! It is lovely to see you again today. If you are a new student at Oxford or Oxford Brookes University, welcome to Oxford and to our parish. Welcome too to returning students whose digs this year are in our parish. We would love you to make your home with us during your time at university.

Things are starting to come to some sense of 'normality', but I should not like our new normal to be only half-filled churches. I think the time has come to ask everyone here today to encourage others to return to Mass soon, please. A personal invitation may be just the encouragement some people are needing. You can assure them that the church is ventilated, masks are worn, sanitiser used, the benches are cleaned, and parishioners respect the need to be careful. If people are nervous about coming to Sunday Mass, they can start with a weekday Mass (Monday morning or Thursday evening). The feast is ready, all that is needed is the guests. Come to the wedding feast.

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 souls of Br Ambrose May OFM Cap, Deacon Michael McGrail, Manuel Marco, Fr Bengt-Ove Jakobsson CHS, Nuala Scarisbrick, and all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons David Mellor, Leo Twiney and Albert J. J. Adams, Frs. Peter Lees, John Steward, John Hanrahan, John Roddy, Bernard McAllister, John Love, Peter Lloyd and John Bale, Deacon Michael McCormack, and also Thomas Bolger, James McVeigh and John McVeigh. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for Domenico Mirto and all those we know who are sick. If you are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, please let me know.

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

Home Mission Sunday. Today is Home Mission Sunday – a day when the Bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend to support the Bishops' work of evangelisation. Here in England, in Oxford, in our own parish, there is a pressing need for Catholics (that's you and me) to discover a renewed missionary impulse which reaches out to people who have never known Christ and his Gospel as well as to baptised Catholics who have lost a living sense of faith. The mission territory of the Church is all the world; the families and communities of this part of Oxford is ours!

Br. Ambrose May OFM Cap RIP. Br. Ambrose passed away peacefully at Greyfriars Friary last Sunday afternoon. He was born in Oxford just over 88 years ago in Cowley Road and most recently has been parish priest at Greyfriars until 2011. Thank you for your prayers for the repose of his soul. The Requiem Mass will be at St Edmund and St Frideswide, 182 Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SB on Monday, 27th September, at 10:00 am.

Nuala Scarisbrick RIP. Nuala and her husband Jack co-founded Life, a pregnancy support charity based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Life helps more than 60,000 people a year as they face pregnancy or pregnancy loss. Her legacy is tens of thousands of people here today who otherwise would have been aborted.

Eucharistic Ministers' Day of Recollection. Saturday, 25th September, 10.00-2.00 at Our Lady's, Hollow Way. This is a chance to reflect and pray about what it means to share the Body and Blood of Our Lord with others. We shall start by praying together before the Blessed Sacrament in the church and then move into the hall. It is open to all ministers and those who would like to know more. Tea/coffee provided.

Gift Aid Donors. There are still envelopes that gift aid donors have not picked up yet. It is essential that you use your envelopes for your offertory, otherwise we cannot claim the tax back on your weekly offerings.

Secondly, we need to know if you are no longer paying tax, so that we can take you off our records. If you have moved house in the past 2 years, we need an up-to-date address for you. **We need this information as soon as possible so that we can send in our claim for the year 2020/21.**

We would like to encourage all taxpayers, who do not at present gift aid their offerings to the church, to consider doing so, please. For more information or to sign up for gift aiding, contact Sally McVeigh on 01865 779078.

Your Parish Needs YOU!! Please join in.

Thank you to those who have returned their yellow leaflets. 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 basket on the table.

First Holy Communion Preparation. As you know, the pandemic has messed up our usual calendar of preparation. There have been only a few who have contacted me about preparing for Holy Communion this term. It is not good to try to run the classes for just a few children, so we shall leave it until after Christmas and offer instruction to all the children together.

CATHOLICISM MADE SIMPLE

I am planning a series of meetings on Monday evenings at Our Lady's, starting on Monday, 27th September at 7.00 pm. The meetings will be "live" in the Don Bosco Centre, but they will also be Zoomed to people who do not want to attend in person. Everyone is welcome. Please mention this to anyone you know who may be interested.

Justice & Peace Online Assembly 2021 will take place on Zoom over 4 days:

- Session 1, Monday, 27th September;
- Session 2, Wednesday, 29th September;
- Session 3, Friday, 1st October;
- Session 4, Sun 3rd October.

All sessions begin at 7.30pm. The Assembly is entitled Let us Dream: "The Path to a Better Future". Book online at <https://bit.ly/JandP2021>



Baptisms: Parents, if you have been delaying arranging your child's Baptism because of Covid you can now ask me and we can welcome your child properly into the family of the Church.

Weddings. The same can be said about the Sacrament of Matrimony. We can now make plans, so please come and have a chat with me.

Tailpiece: The morning after the Marriage Feast at Cana, St. Joseph woke up with a terrible headache. Our Lady was very concerned and asked if he would like a cup of water. "Oh, yes please," replied St. Joseph, gratefully. And then he added, "But don't let our Boy near it!"

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