



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Advent

12th December, 2021

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley, 01865 770910)

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Sunday, 12 th December Third Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Cecilia Michael Vimala Thomas (Thanksgiving)
Monday, 13 th December <i>Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Eileen Doherty
Tuesday, 14 th December <i>Memorial of St. John of the Cross</i>	(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Patrick and Mary Bailey
Wednesday, 15 th December	No Public Mass Today	Michael King (ill)
Thursday, 16 th December	6.00 pm Advent Penance Service, followed by Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Mary Doyle (Get Well)
Friday, 17 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Ellen and Patrick Grealish
Saturday, 18 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 19 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Fernando Weves Lui & Luzia Pereira Loba The People of the Parish
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent.

Today is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which means, “Rejoice, Sunday”. It is a slightly different day of Advent, when we set aside the penitential aspect and remember that the birth of Jesus is news of great joy.

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.

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.*

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.”

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia King, Sabina Hennigan and Sr. Patricia Millinson and all those who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. George Gallacher, William Henry Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, John Griffith, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Michael McKiernan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O’Connell, John Dewis, Daniel O’Connor and Michael O’Meara, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and also E.F.Brunnrius and Sarah Craig. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for Betty Duff, Eileen McGarry, and Daniel Holdsworth 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.

Christmas Stars



As last year, instead of our Christmas tree being just a decoration, we are trying to use it symbolically to represent something of the message of Christmas. Christmas is all about God's love for us, demonstrated in the birth of Jesus. It is also demonstrated in the way we receive and pass on that love.

So I invite you to write, on one of the paper stars, the name(s) of anyone who has shown you love and who holds a special place in your hearts. The star will then be hung on the tree. The many stars will then become a testament to the presence of love in the world – and the way in which, individually, our lives have been enriched by love.

Our Christmas tree will then become a testimony to love in the world, and in our own local community.



Grand Christmas Draw.

The DRAW will be made after the 9.00 am Mass TODAY,

12th DECEMBER. Thank you to everyone who organised and supported it.

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please ask a steward. Take a few and drop them off to your neighbours. Thank you.

Christmas Mass/Service Times at Sacred Heart

- **Confessions:** Next Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm;
- **Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December:**
6.00 pm Carols and Readings, followed by Mass at 6.30 pm;
11.30 pm Carols & Readings before Midnight Mass;
- **Christmas Day:** 9.00 am Mass;
- **Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December:** 9.00 am Mass. There will be no evening Mass on this Sunday.
- **New Year's Eve:** 6.00 pm Mass;
- **New Year's Day:** 9.00 am Mass

The Advent *Walk With Me* booklet. If you feel that you have not really entered into the spirit of Advent yet – well, there is only one Sunday left after this weekend! You might find that the *Walk With Me* booklet is a good help to get you going. It is available for £1, with daily and Sunday reflections.

There are also copies of the **Advent *My Day by Day* booklets** (also £1) which have the readings used at Mass for each day of Advent.

Oxford North Deanery: The clergy will be praying together at a Holy Hour at Corpus Christi this Tuesday, 11.30 – 12.30. All are welcome to join us to pray for the guidance for the Synodal Pathway.

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

The prayer for our path to the Synod 2021-2023
We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at the Christmas Midnight Mass and then will burn by Our Lord in the tabernacle or by the statues of the Sacred Heart or Our Lady, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be for any reason you want: to remember a loved one; for a special intention.



COVID Regulations. Please note that the wearing of face

coverings in church is now compulsory, unless you are exempt. We should continue to maintain safe practices in church. VENTILATION – windows and doors will remain open, so please dress warmly, HANDS – sanitise, SPACE – stay a metre apart whenever possible. The latest guidelines from the Bishops are available in the porch. Thank you to all our volunteer stewards and cleaners. Please don't forget that they have kept us open!

First Holy Communion. Congratulations to Luciana who will be receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time during the 9.00 am Mass this morning.

Tailpiece. Can you name these cryptic Christmas Songs?

1. Bleached Yule
2. Righteous Darkness
3. Arrival Time 2400 hrs – Weather Cloudless
4. Far Off in a Feeder
5. The Bantam Male Percussionist
6. A Monarchial Triad – That's Us
7. Nocturnal Noiselessness
8. The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis
9. Delight for this Planet
10. Pay Attention to the Melodious Messengers

If you can give me all ten answers by the end of Mass today – you're not paying enough attention to the Mass!

May God bless you and all those you love.

Fr. Harry