

Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

30th January, 2022

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

Email: fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk

Sunday, 30 th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Francisco G Ximenes – RIP The People of the Parish
Monday, 31 st January <i>Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Emmi Egbuonu
Tuesday, 1 st February <i>Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Kevin Grace
Wednesday, 2 nd February <i>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)	In Thanksgiving Private Intention
Thursday, 3 rd February <i>Op. Memorial of St. Blaise or of St. Ansgar</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Florrie Murphy
Friday, 4 th February <i>Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Claudino Serra Vaz
Saturday, 5 th February <i>Memorial of St. Agatha</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 6 th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Edwardo Esteban The People of the Parish
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 - 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church.

Mass at Home. We are no longer streaming the Sunday morning Mass from Sacred Heart on Zoom. But as an alternative you could watch the Mass on Saturday, 5.30 pm, and/or Sunday, 11.00 am from Our Lady's where it is livestreamed 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.”

First Friday. This Friday is the First of the month. Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said before Mass on Thursday evening.

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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Michael Williams, Frs. Mortimer Loftus, David Condron, John Berry, Thomas O'Carroll, Joseph Connelly and Denis Clancy, and also Florrie Murphy. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

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.*

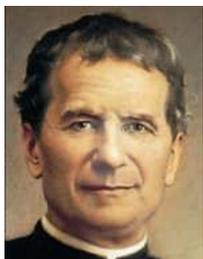
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Updated COVID Regulations. I have received some new guidelines from our Bishops this week:

- If you feel unwell please stay at home. Vaccination: have your jabs!
- **Face masks:** the main form of virus transmission is via personal oral or nasal aerosol. Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building. Churches should continue to ensure there is good ventilation.
- **Social distancing:** there is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others around them.
- The use of hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed.
- **Sanitising:** please sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, but there is no need for readers to sanitise their hands before reading. All ministers of Holy Communion should still sanitise their hands.
- **Holy water stoups** may be refilled but care should be seen that the water is changed regularly.
- **Church cleaning:** usual forms of church cleaning are sufficient.
- **The Sign of Peace** may be offered again during Mass if felt appropriate.
- For the time being, Holy Communion must continue to be given under one kind only (the Sacred Host).
- Where there is physical touch as part of another Rite of the Church (for example, anointing of the sick) the use of cotton buds is no longer mandated, but the hands should be cleaned well before and after the Rite.
- **Congregational singing** may continue and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing. However, it is recognised that not everyone will feel able to do this.
- **Social Activities:** parish social activities can resume, with suitable health and safety measures.

From next weekend therefore we can start to make a few changes. I would still like to ask everyone to wear a face covering in church, please. The holy water stoups will be re-filled in the church porch so that we can bless ourselves and remind ourselves of our Baptism. We shall stop the special cleaning of the church after each Mass. Thank you to our wonderful team of cleaners who have made it possible for us to continue to celebrate Mass all this time. Other changes can be introduced over the next few weeks.



Monday this week is the feast of St. John Bosco. This is a big day for all members of the Salesian Family (happy Feast Day to them all). Because they are based in Our Lady's parish I am changing the Mass times around just for this week. On Monday the morning Mass will be at Our Lady's instead of here. And the

Tuesday Mass will be here at Sacred Heart. So, no Mass here on Monday; Mass here on Tuesday.

Next Wednesday is Candlemas – the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Mass, with the Blessing of Candles, will be here at Sacred Heart at 9.15 am and also at Our Lady's at 11.00 am.

Parish Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will meet this evening, starting at 7.45 pm in the hall.

Does anyone need a fridge-freezer? We have one in the hall that we do not need. If you want it and can collect it, please come and see me.

First Holy Communion Preparation. Children aged 8 or over may receive their first Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi (18th/19th June). Children who are in St. John Fisher school will receive instructions in school. There will be lessons for children who do not attend St. John Fisher School here at Sacred Heart on a weekday after school. I hope that classes will start towards the end of February. If you haven't done so already, please register your children's names with me this week if you would like them to receive Our Lord (and also which school they go to). Thank you.

Confirmation. The Bishop will come to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 29th May. Anyone who is aged 11 or over may receive this Sacrament. If you would like to do so this year, please let me know in the next few weeks, if you have not already done so. Thank you.

Synodal Pathway. A while ago the Pope said, "If the Holy Spirit, who attracts people to Jesus, is missing, then there is no church there. There is a nice club of friends, good, with good intentions, but there is no church, there is no synodality". Let us pray therefore: *O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.* The 'Synodal way' is an invitation for us to listen to the Holy Spirit as we journey together. There is a box at the back of church for you to return your reflections. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Tailpiece. This is a true story that a colleague of mine experienced. He was celebrating a wedding, and a small boy had been carefully trained to read the Gospel account of the Wedding Feast at Cana. He was doing well when suddenly the back door of the church flew open and a woman stood there, arms akimbo. "I don't know what's going on here," she yelled, "But I want whoever has parked their car on my drive to move it". A dreadful pause followed, and the child who had been reading looked totally bewildered. Then he lowered his head and manfully took up the reading where he had been interrupted. "Woman, what is that to me? My time has not yet come"!!!

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