



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

9th January, 2022

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 770910 • sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk • www.sacredheartoxford.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

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

Sunday, 9 th January FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	John Walsh & Maria Dirkin Manuel Salsina & Madalena Salsina
Monday, 10 th January <i>Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Private Intention
Tuesday, 11 th January <i>Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	James O'Brien (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 12 th January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	No Public Mass Today	Mike O'Donohue
Thursday, 13 th January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	No Public Mass Today	Elizabeth RIP
Friday, 14 th January <i>Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	Lesley O'Connell (Intentions)
Saturday, 15 th January <i>Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 16 th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Peace Day</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Cecilia Michael Don Peter (In Thanksgiving)

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church, especially if you are visiting our parish for the Christmas holiday.

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.

Christmastide ends this evening. From tomorrow we return to "Ordinary Time" in the Church's Year. Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle C, and Weekday readings are from Year 2. **Next Sunday** is the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is also designated as **Peace Sunday**, a day to pray for world peace.

I am planning to take a few days off this week, so there will be no public Mass here on Tuesday or Friday. I shall still be celebrating Mass, however, and I shall offer Mass for the intentions listed above.

My Day By Day Booklets. These booklets are very useful if you wish to follow the readings of the Sunday and weekday Masses. There are copies in the church hall of the January edition (price, £1).

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 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 Joseph Cahill, James (Seamus) Kenny, Isodoro Nahabwe, Maura Dennehy and all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time:

Mgr. John Cregg, Frs. Charles Becker, Philip Wyles, Patrick Farrelly, James Bromley, Patrick McSwiney, Patrick Joyce, Peter Tuite, Robert Kirby and Benedict O’Gorman, and Deacons William Murphy, Brian Dockerty and John Shanahan, Graciana Zgambo and Columb Whelan. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

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.

Christmas Decorations. The time has come once again to take down our Christmas decorations and put them into storage for another year. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the tree with stars as symbols of love. It helped us to appreciate the coming of Jesus, the Father’s Gift of love to us. If you would like to take your star away today as a keepsake, you are welcome.

Christmas Crib. Today is your last chance to make Crib Offerings which this year will be divided between Emmaus Oxford, who try to help homeless people in Oxford, and The Friends of the Holy Land, an ecumenical charity supporting the Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

Pope’s Prayer Intention for January: For true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal, and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

Synodal Pathway. Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to reflect and report on their experience of what it means to be the Church today. I invite you to let me have your thoughts next week using the open-ended questions on the separate sheets.

COVID Regulations.

When you come to church, please consider what keeps you AND others safe.

- Wear a face covering
- Sanitise your hands
- Keep 1m distance if you can
- Ventilation in church is important, but keeping doors and windows open means letting the cold in and the heat out, so please dress warmly

- If you feel unwell please stay at home
- Vaccination: have your jabs!

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.



Tailpiece. After Mass one Sunday a lady was praising her priest and she suggested that he should publish his sermons. The priest told her that he was planning that they should be published posthumously. To this news she replied, “Well good, the sooner the better.”

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