



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

*27<sup>th</sup> March, 2022*

**Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD**

(01865) 770910 • [sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) • [www.sacredheartoxford.com](http://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](mailto:fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk)

Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	<b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	John Cullen Ansel Netto
Monday, 28 <sup>th</sup> March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass 9.45 am Lectio Divina	Ellen McGarry
Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	In Thanksgiving (Olivia)
Wednesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> March	No Public Mass Today	Brenda O'Meara (Get Well)
Thursday, 31 <sup>st</sup> March <i>Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said before Mass.</i>	<b>5.30 pm</b> Penance Service, followed by Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	Bob Bryer RIP
Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April <b>First Friday of the Month.</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Emmi Egbuonu
Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April <i>Op. Comm. of St. Francis of Paola, Hermit</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	<b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Francisco G Ximenes Christina Treavajo & Rita Greenridge
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 5.30 - 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

***Happy Mothering Sunday to all Mums***

**Laetare Sunday.** We are now three and a half weeks into Lent, and Easter is three weeks today. In other words, we are over halfway through and that's a cause for rejoicing! Today is "Laetare Sunday" – "Be Glad Sunday" – when we relax the disciplines of Lent slightly and think of the joy of Easter. It's also Mothering Sunday.

**Please pray** for Betty Duff and Eileen McGarry, and all those we know who are sick.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of Steven Fontaine, Debbie Gaughan** and all who have died recently, or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop Thomas Leighton Williams, Mgr. Canon John Joseph Welch, Mgr. Canon Daniel Leonard, Mgr. Henry Francis Davis, Canon Brian Withers, Frs. John McManus, Thomas Cockburn, Matthew Sheridan, John Callaghan, Philip O'Reilly and Deacon Raymond Zacaroli, and also Charlie O'Connor, Betty Kellett, James Craig, Mary Batten and Elizabeth Conry. May they rest in peace.

**Parish Penance Service.** There will be a Penance Service here this Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, at 5.30 pm. It will be a short reflection followed by the chance for Confession.

**Marriage.** Congratulations to Aisling and Thomas Gaughan who were married in Galway last Friday. May God bless them in their life together.

**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."*

#### **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.*

**Sacramental Preparation.** Please pray for the children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments. They made their First Confession yesterday; First Holy Communion will be on Saturday/Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> June; Confirmations will be on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May. The preparation sessions for Confirmation will normally be in the Mornese Centre (in Elmthorpe Convent, Oxford Road, OX4 2LF) on Saturdays at 12.00, but **the first lesson will be next Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April**, starting at 12.00.

**Gift Aid Envelopes.** The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the church porch. If you would like to start or stop using the Gift Aid scheme, or your circumstances have changed (e.g. you no longer pay income tax, or you have changed your address) please let Sally McVeigh know (01865 779078). We do need more people to be involved in the Gift Aid scheme, please.

**Wanted!** Someone to cut the bushes down to a manageable size around the church, and clear up. We do have tools. If you can help, please talk to Jacqui.

**St. John Fisher School: Vacancy.** Commencing in September, 2022, the Directors of the Academy Trust, in partnership with the Governing Body of St John Fisher Catholic Primary school, are seeking to appoint an experienced Early Years Teacher to lead the Nursery and Reception classes. Contract: Maternity Cover: temporary until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, in the first instance. Working Hours: Full-Time (1.0 FTE). Salary Details: MPR or UPR. The closing date is Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, at 12:00pm with interviews on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> May. Access further information and application forms on the school website <https://st-john-fisher.oxon.sch.uk/category/staff-vacancies/>

**Refreshments are available after the 9.00 Mass in the Parish Hall. Come and have a chat with friends.**

**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.** The leadership team for the Lourdes Pilgrimage is now actively planning for the pilgrimage. Lourdes has always been an important part of Diocesan life and therefore after two years' absence it would be good to make every effort to be present in Lourdes in 2022. For more information see [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage)

**Message from CAFOD.** Thank you so much for your support of CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day and the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. For details of how your donations are being used, go to [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**Easter Duties.** All Catholics who have made their First Holy Communion should receive the Holy Eucharist sometime between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter Communion.

#### **Homes for People from Ukraine.**

Many people want to help those who are having to leave their home country of Ukraine. The Archdiocese and Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham have asked Father Hudson's Care to coordinate the many generous offers of help. This is so that we can put in place a welcome that will be so important to the individuals and families in this tragic situation. Always working with others, Father Hudson's has been welcoming asylum seekers, refugees and migrants for over 30 years.

Father Hudson's will offer a diocese-wide approach, working with the existing Catholic Ukrainian communities based in Coventry and Wolverhampton to offer a coordinated response to anyone forced to leave Ukraine due to the war.

If you wish to offer accommodation, please contact Father Hudson's on (01675) 434000 between the hours of 8.30 – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30 - 4.30pm on Friday or, within or outside of these hours please email Maria Gallagher on [mariagallagher@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:mariagallagher@fatherhudsons.org.uk) providing a phone number that you can be contacted on. Or ring, text or WhatsApp 07966 935533 outside of these hours, please leave a voicemail and number if unanswered. For more information and other ways help will be needed please go to [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ukraine](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ukraine)

**Tailpiece.** A teacher was telling her class about the armour of God – the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation. "There's something else we must carry," she added, thinking of the Sword of the Spirit. When no one answered she said, "Well, it's very sharp." On hearing this, one little girl's face lit up as she asked, "Is it the Axe of the Apostles?"

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