



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

First Sunday of Lent

6th March, 2022

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

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Sunday, 6 th March First Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Carlos Esteban Francisco Gomes Ximenes
Monday, 7 th March <i>Op. Com. of Ss. Perpetua & Felicity</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass 9.45 am Lectio Divina	Eileen Joyce
Tuesday, 8 th March <i>Op. Com. of St. John of God</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Nora and Paddy Griffin
Wednesday, 9 th March <i>Op. Com. of St. Frances of Rome</i>	No Public Mass Today	Flora Abes
Thursday, 10 th March	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	Josephine Moloney
Friday, 11 th March CAFOD Lent Fast Day	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	O'Donnell Family Intentions
Saturday, 12 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 13 th March Second Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments Dementia Prayer Week</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Methodear Method The People of the Parish
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 - 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

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."

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael McCarthy, Kath Kavanagh, Noreen Hayes, Luciano Magnasco and all those who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Peter Taylor, Anthony Allport and Gerard Hanlon, Frs. Humphrey Crookenden CO, Terence Luxon, Ernest Jarvis, Thomas Fullerton CO, Francis Johnson, Joseph Purcell, Ralph Sheppey-Greene, Christopher Thornton and Connell Harkin, Deacons James Rowe, Philip Prince and Patrick Duffy, and also John and Jane Bartlett, Sr. Imelda James and Matthew Murray. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace. Amen.

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.*

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

A Liturgical Note: During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word “A*****a!” There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled until Holy Saturday.

Here are some things we can do as a parish during Lent:

1. **Prayer petitions.** You can write out any petition that you would like the rest of us to pray for and post it up on a board in the church hall.
2. **My Day By Day and the Walk With Me Booklets** for Lent are available (£1).
3. **Stations of the Cross.** We shall meditate on the Stations after Mass each Thursday, 7.30 pm.
4. **Lectio Divina.** For half an hour, following the 9.15 am Mass on Mondays. All welcome.
5. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection,** Saturday, 2nd April, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. There will be a talk and a time of prayer. All welcome.
6. **Parish Penance Service.** On Thursday, 31st March at 5.00 pm, before the evening Mass.

There is a very useful guide on the diocesan website of activities, prayer, courses, resources and retreats, suitable for individual, family, parish and school use. See www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lent-and-easter

Maintenance of St. Chad’s Cathedral. There will be a second collection at Masses today for St. Chad’s Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese in Birmingham.

National Novena to St Joseph, 10-18 March. Join St Joseph’s Missionary Society (the Mill Hill Missionaries) for the annual Novena to St Joseph. You are invited to send in your petitions to the Mill Hill Missionaries. They will be placed at St Joseph’s Altar during the Novena, to be remembered in the Masses and prayers. You can also join online – Masses from St Joseph’s in Maidenhead will be held via Zoom: 7:30 pm on weekdays, 10:00 am on Saturday, 12th March, and 11:00 am on Sunday, 13th March. Simply visit the Mill Hill Missionaries’ website to access the link: millhillmissionaries.com/novena

COVID precautions. The latest guidelines from the Bishops’ Conference make these points:

- Anyone with symptoms of Covid should stay at home.
- Hand sanitiser should be available for all to use at places of entry and exit to our churches.
- The necessity for social distancing is removed. (Note that in Sacred Heart we shall continue to make the left side of the church available for parishioners who prefer to keep some distance).
- Those who wish to wear a face covering may do so during the celebration of Mass. (Note that in Sacred Heart I ask that you continue to wear a face covering).
- Altar servers are encouraged to return.
- Singing can occur 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.
- There is no further need for track and trace.

The Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop William will be coming to Sacred Heart on Sunday, 29th May to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 6.00 pm Mass. If you have not already done so, would those who wish to receive this Sacrament please email me (fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk). Lessons will start soon.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day, this Friday, 11th March. This year CAFOD is focussing on helping children around the world who are malnourished. But of course, there is now an emergency caused by the war in Ukraine, and CAFOD will be working with the DEC to help there. We want to support them in both endeavours by having a second collection next weekend. You will be able to put whatever you save by fasting on Friday in the second collection next Sunday using a CAFOD envelope or you can visit the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/lent

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, Sunday 29th May - Friday 3rd 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

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

Dementia Prayer Week, 12-19th March. We remember especially the often-forgotten pain of those suffering with dementia, and those who care for them.

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.

Lectio Divina. On Monday mornings after the 9.15 Mass, we shall read a small section of St. Luke’s Gospel together and pray about it. It will last about half an hour; anyone is welcome to take part. There is a sheet about *Lectio Divina* in the porch if you want to know more.

Faith in Politics. Are you a student coming to the end of your studies, wondering what you can do next year? Might you be interested in the Faith in Politics scheme (Intern Scheme) at the Bishops’ Conference. If so, please see me for more details. Applications are open until Thursday 17th March.

Tailpiece. Arriving at church to attend a wedding, a lady in a large hat was approached by an usher. “Are you a friend of the groom?” he asked innocently. “Certainly not”, came the reply. “I’m the bride’s mother”.

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

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