



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday of Lent

3rd April, 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, 3 rd April Fifth 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	Francisco G Ximenes Christina Treavajo & Rita Greenridge
Monday, 4 th April <i>Op. Comm. of St. Isidore, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass 9.45 am Lectio Divina	Richard Bolton
Tuesday, 5 th April <i>Op. Comm. of St. Vincent Ferrer</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Mick Mullagh (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 6 th April	No Public Mass Today	Joaquim da Costa Vaz
Thursday, 7 th April <i>Op. Comm. of St. John Baptist de la Salle</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	Maisie Moran
Friday, 8 th April	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (11.30 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Steven Fontaine Celso Maliksi
Saturday, 9 th April	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 10 th April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord <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	Jimmy & Mona Doherty The People of the Parish
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 5.30 - 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

In the "old" calendar, the 5th Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday, and it still marks the start of the more intense period of Lent as we prepare for Holy Week. The statues in the church will be veiled from today until Holy Saturday. The signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion.

Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church's year. We shall begin at the back of the church and process to the altar.

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.

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, Pat Markham, Irene Hollick and all who have died recently, or whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Anthony Emery, Canon William Swift, Frs. Lawrence King, Michael Clive Glynn, Timothy Burke, Kevin Preston and Eamon Clarke and also Larry Gardner, Samuel E. Williams, Jack and Kathleen Duffy, Joan Ann Kelly. May they rest in peace.

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.

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

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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.*

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.

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

Ukraine: Update on the Diocesan Response

We are pleased to say that since we sent out our last update on the response to Ukraine, Fr Hudson's Care has received numerous offers of sponsorship/accommodation and of translation skills in Russian and Ukrainian. The evident enthusiasm for support from our parishes and parishioners is a testament to our faith.

We have continued to work with Fr Hudson's Care, with our Ukrainian communities, with local councils and with agencies such as Reset and Caritas Social Action Network to understand how best to offer our support as a diocese. So far, a lot of our work has been preparatory.

As we understand it only a few refugees have arrived from Ukraine so far under the families' scheme, and they have been accommodated with family members. We are not aware of anyone yet arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, needing housing or schooling. We are expecting some more guidance from the government on the matching process over the coming days, but we are acutely aware that the matching process needs more support to ensure refugees can safely come to the UK.

It is imperative to us that we must utilise our own Catholic network in this country and in Europe to help to identify refugees and help them find sponsors here in the UK to expedite their journey for safety and support.

Father Hudson's is happy to continue to receive offers of accommodation and language services and to support and remain in touch with those who offer their help. Contact Father Hudson's (01675 434000) or go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ukraine

Sacramental Preparation. Please pray for the children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments. First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, 19th June; Confirmations will be on Sunday, 29th 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 today**, starting at 12.00.

New national Catholic newspaper. There are copies of the first edition of *The Catholic Post* available at the back of the church. This edition is free, so please take a copy. If you like it and would be willing to pay for it in the future please let me know.

Diocesan Directories. The new directories (or as they are now called, "Year Books") are now available. If you want to know anything about our diocese, this is the book for you. Spiral-bound £4.50, normal binding £3.50.

"Climate Change and our Catholic Response", an online talk by Dr Carlos Zepeda. Carlos is the deputy director of the Laudato Si institute in Oxford. He will talk to us about climate change and church action. Carlos will be speaking to us via Zoom on Friday 8th April at 2.00-3.15 pm. To receive the Zoom link reply using the email: actabhm@gmail.com.

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. The closing date is Monday, 25th April, at 12:00pm with interviews on Thursday, 5th May. More information and application form at <https://st-john-fisher.oxon.sch.uk/category/staff/vacancies>

Tailpiece. A priest decided that he needed a pet and he bought a parrot. Unfortunately, the parrot must have previously been in bad company: it was as loud and foul mouthed as they come. Any attempt to approach or calm it down ended in a stream of swearing and abusive language. One day the priest saw the Bishop coming to his front door. Panicking, he grabbed the bird, opened the freezer, and slammed the creature inside. There was instant silence, and the priest, worried he had harmed the bird, opened the freezer door. The parrot quietly stepped out and said, "Dear Sir, I am deeply sorry for any offence I may have caused and I promise from now on to amend my ways. I am indeed a reformed parrot and you will hear no more bad language from me." The priest was amazed and was about to ask what had caused this conversion when the parrot added humbly, "And may I ask what the chicken did to offend you?"

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