



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Christmas Day

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

25th December, 2022

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Sunday, 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass at Dawn (11.00 am Mass During the Day at Our Lady's) PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO EVENING MASS HERE TODAY	John and Michael Cullen The People of the Parish
Monday, 26 th December Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (12.00 noon Mass at Our Lady's)	Leandras Agnew (Get Well) Private Intention
Tuesday, 27 th December Feast of St. John, Apostle	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Bridget Duncan
Wednesday, 28 th December Feast of the Holy Innocents	No Public Mass Today	Sr. Norma's Intentions
Thursday, 29 th December Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass	Jocelyn (Thanksgiving)
Friday, 30 th December Feast of the Holy Family	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Filomeno Da Cruz Martins
Saturday, 31 st December Seventh Day in the Christmas Octave	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 11.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Evening Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Thanksgiving for blessings in 2022 Martin and Bridie Keane
Sunday, 1 st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Grace Mungai (Intentions) Anne Mullagh Mr R. K. Joshi

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today, especially if you are visiting our parish for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Happy Christmas, everyone!

*Our Parish Prayer: Help us, Lord, to receive you with an open heart this day.
May our community receive your grace and deepen its faith in you.
Make us lights to shine forth with your love, giving life and hope to those who have fallen away
or who have never known you. Amen.*

Feasts in the next couple of weeks. Of course, today is Christmas Day. Hoorah! When Christmas Day falls on Sunday some adjustments have to be made to the usual calendar: St. Stephen's Day (a day of especial importance for Altar Servers) will be on Monday, 26th December as usual; next Friday, 30th December, will be the Feast of the Holy Family; next Sunday, 1st January, will be the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; the Epiphany will be on Friday, 6th January; and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which closes the Christmas season, will be on Sunday, 8th January.

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Felix Saulong, Jr., Jean Carpenter, Brenda O'Meara, Claudino Serra Vaz, Bridie Barry, Pat Mazonowicz, David, Thomas Gaughan, Ella Dawson and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cecilia Smith, Dermot Carroll and Lucy Lynch and all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgrs. Canon Thomas Gavin and Patrick O'Mahoney, Frs. Anthony Ireland, Thomas Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe, Seamus McInerney, David O'Callaghan, Francis Etherington Patrick Lynch, Deacon Peter Mason and Sr. Ann Hoskison FMA, and also Bridie Barnes, Paul Foster and Michael Brennan. May they rest in peace.

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Christmas Stars



Our Christmas tree has arrived. Instead of it being just a decoration we are trying to use it symbolically to represent something of the message of Christmas. Christmas is all about God's love for us, as we can see when we think about the birth of Jesus. It is also demonstrated in the way we receive and pass on that love.

All members of the parish and our visitors are invited to write, on one of the paper stars, the name(s) of anyone who has shown them love and who holds a special place in their hearts. The star will then be hung on the tree. The many stars will then become a testament to the presence of love in the world – and the way in which, individually, our lives have been enriched by love.

Our Christmas tree will then become a testimony to love in the world, and in our own local community.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023. Why not do something amazing next year and volunteer your skills to look after our Accueil (assisted) pilgrims on our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France (Saturday, 27th May to Friday, 2nd June)? Applications to join the Lourdes Nursing and Medical Team, or the Handmaids and Brancardiers, are now open. Go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/medical-and-non-medical-volunteer-applications-now-open-for-lourdes-2023

Mass at Home. If you are not able to come to Mass you could watch it on Saturday, 5.30 pm, and/or Sunday, 11.00 am from Our Lady's where it is livestreamed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>. Here is a prayer that you can say when you watch the 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.*

Remember: refreshments are available in the hall after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays. Come and have a chat with friends.

Crib Offerings. As usual, your crib offerings will be divided between a local charity and an international charity. This year we are supporting Emmaus (Oxford) and Bethlehem University.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of Church to use if you wish. Thank you.

Welcome and thanks to Fr. Frank Turner SJ who will be here this weekend at Sacred Heart to celebrate the Midnight Mass.

Thank you. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our church so beautiful for our Christmas celebrations and for every week throughout the year.

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Tailpiece. A priest was just starting his homily at the Christmas Midnight Mass when the electricity in the church failed. The ushers ran and found more candles and placed them all around the church. Then the priest re-entered the pulpit, shuffled his notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?" A tired voice called out, "Right near the end!"

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your friendship and help this year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.

Fr. Harry