

Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Advent

4th December, 2022

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

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

Sunday, 4 th December Second Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	John Cullen Sabina Hennigan Martinah Madeira
Monday, 5 th December <i>Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Joseph McGarry
Tuesday, 6 th December <i>Op. Mem. of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Margaret Stevens
Wednesday, 7 th December <i>Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 8 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School)</i> <i>(12.00 noon Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Emily Witherick (Anniversary) Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira Mary Doyle (Intentions)
Friday, 9 th December <i>Op. Memorial of St. John Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Jim O'Brien
Saturday, 10 th December <i>Memorial of St. Edmund Gennings, Priest, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 1.00 pm Nuptial Mass <i>(Evening Vigil Mass: 5.30 pm at Our Lady's)</i>	Lukasz and Malgorzata Pedro Fernande Goncalves and Margarida Tulquel De Jesus
Sunday, 11 th December Third Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(4.30 pm Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	Dorothy Gardner (Intentions) Mary Florence Joshi Amelia-Rose Nirmala Singh Cecilia Michael

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

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.

Please pray for Lukasz Dabrowski and Malgorzata Szewc who will be married here next Saturday afternoon. May God bless them with joy and love.

Please pray for the soul of Fr. Ian Ker, Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira, and the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. Liam MacFarlane, Horace Relph, Michael George Knight, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorrow, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Molloy and Vincent Lucas and also Mary Batten May they rest in peace.

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.

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.*

Sacred Heart Christmas Bazaar.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who put so much hard work and time into our Bazaar, and thank you to everyone who came along to support it.

Remember: refreshments are available in the hall after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The phrase "Immaculate Conception" does not refer to the conception of Jesus, as some people think, but rather to the conception of Mary. It means that through the merits of her Son, she was totally free from sin from the first moment of her life, her conception. Because the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Archdiocese, this Feast, which falls on Thursday, is a big day for us. There will be Mass in Our Lady's School at 9.15 am to which all parishioners have been invited and there will also be Mass here at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund is to help those smaller parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service. Caritas Social Action Network have launched a service to bring together Ukrainian people displaced by the war with people in the Catholic community willing to host them in their homes for six months. Please visit <https://sjoq-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

Diocesan Directories. Do you want to know where any priest of the Diocese is now? Or perhaps you need to know where to find a Catholic Church in Wolverhampton (or anywhere else in the Birmingham Diocese). If so, you want a Diocesan Directory. The new directories have just arrived and are available from the piety stall. (Spiral bound: £4.50, plain bound: £3.50).

Young Adult Group for 18-35's at Holy Rood Church on Abingdon Road, Monday, 5th December, 7.30 pm, with Fr Alex, OCD. He will be talking on 1 Timothy 4:18-16 - Values for Godly living (Part 2). It will end with prayer at 9.00 pm. For further information contact Kate on 07933 765367. All are welcome.

First Holy Communion Lessons. Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next June, please register them with me, using the form at the back of the church.

Social Outreach. Veronica has sent a great message: "How about opening our Hall one morning a week and providing a welcome and friendship and tea and cakes to whoever would like to drop in? The old? The lonely? Longlands residents? Asylum seekers? Refugees? I am very happy to organise this if 3 or 4 other people would form a team with me. If you are interested, contact me please. Veronica Robbins 07796916786. Veronica70@live.co.uk"

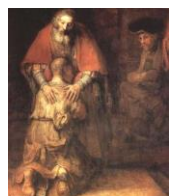
The Advent Walk With Me booklet is now available for £1 (or whatever you can afford), with daily and Sunday reflections. There are also copies of the **Advent Day by Day booklets** (also £1) which have the Mass readings for each day of Advent.

Christmas Music.

- On Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December, there will be a Crib Service at 4.00 pm, followed by the first Mass of Christmas at 4.30 pm.
- At 11.30 pm there will be Carols and Readings, followed by the Christmas Midnight Mass.
- On Christmas Day there will be Mass at 9.00 am.

For all of these we need singers and musicians. Please have a think which services you will be attending and if you could help with the music.

Advent Penance Service. To help us prepare for Christmas there will be a short penance service before the evening Mass at 5.30 pm on Thursday evening, 15th December, followed by the opportunity for Confessions. All welcome.



Tailpiece: I have always admired the priest who put up a notice in the car park of his church: "*Church parking only. Violators will be baptised*". But as a surreal notice I think this, from the kitchen of a church hall, takes some beating: "*Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot please stand upside down in the sink*".

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