



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

First Sunday of Lent

26th February, 2023

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)

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Sunday, 26 th February First Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 5.00 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm Mass	Lucia Josephat Daniel Tang (Intentions) Joao Lobato and Ana Saldanha
Monday, 27 th February <i>Op. Comm. of St. Gregory of Narek</i>	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 28 th February <i>Op. Comm. of St. Oswald, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Daniel Tang (Intentions)
Wednesday, 1 st March <i>Feast of St. David, Patron of Wales</i>	No Public Mass Today	George Rhodes (Anniversary)
Thursday, 2 nd March <i>Feast of St. Chad, Bishop, Patron of the Archdiocese</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Mary Doyle (Get Well)
Friday, 3 rd March CAFOD Lent Fast Day <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	William McDermott
Saturday, 4 th March <i>Optional Commemoration of St. Casimir</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass , followed by Exposition and Confessions (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Jimmy Doyle MaryAnne Borthwick (Get Well)
Sunday, 5 th March Second Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 5.00 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm Mass	Thomas Gaughan (Get Well) Daniel Tang (Intentions) Ansel Netto
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am (Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm at Our Lady's)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day is this Friday, 3rd March. Thank you for your very generous response to the emergency appeal a few weeks ago. On Friday we shall have our more regular Lent Fast Day: we give up some food and put the money we save into the second collection next Sunday. **First Friday.** This Friday is the first of the month.

We pray for all those who have died recently: Sr. Helen Carey FMA, Canon Gary Byrne, William McDermott, Francis (Tom) Billington, Felix Saulong and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Kevin Dunn, Frs. George Brewster, George Henry Tarrant, John Flynn, William Diver and Douglas Carter, and also Lucia Zawadi Josephat. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

William McDermott's funeral will be at the Immaculate Conception, Bicester, on Friday.

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Sally McVeigh, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff and Eileen McGarry and all those we know who are sick. If someone you know is sick and would like to be prayed for, please let me know.

The counting rota: Sunday, 26th February: Rachel and Phil. Sunday, 5th March: Chris and Edwin.

*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.*

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

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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.

First Holy Communion. The children who are starting their preparation for Holy Communion will be enrolled at the Masses this weekend. Please pray for them and their families.

Exciting News! We are planning to re-start a parish youth group next month. Forms are available for parents to complete, and young people will need to bring them on our first day which will be announced soon.

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. The idea is to walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends, have fun or take time to pray and reflect. There is a fundraising page for Sacred Heart if anyone would like to walk and fundraise online <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/sacred-heart-blackbird-leys>

To sponsor Rachel go to: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/rachel-beward-oxford>
To sponsor me go to: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/harry-curtis>



Lent House Masses. If you would like/be willing to be a host for a House Mass, please let me know; it means inviting your Catholic neighbours (non-Catholics are welcome too) to come to your home.

Walk With Me and My Day By Day Booklets. These are available in the porch, together with Lent calendars. They are a good aid to daily prayer and reflection.

Stations of the Cross. We shall meditate on the Stations together each Sunday in Lent, 5.00 pm.

Lent Day of Recollection, Saturday, 11th March, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, in Our Lady's church and parish hall. This is open to everyone, but will be especially for Eucharistic Ministers, ahead of the renewal of their ministry on Maundy Thursday. There will be a talk, the chance for Confession, and prayer. Light refreshments provided. Please let me know if you are able to come.

Morning Prayer of the Church. I pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at Our Lady's, usually at 8.00 am, and I should welcome your company if you wish to join me, either in person or on the live streaming.

Parish Penance Service followed by Confessions, On Thursday, 23rd March, at 5.30 pm.

Mondays in Lent. There will be no Mass here at Sacred Heart on Monday mornings, but there will be Mass at Our Lady's at 7.00 am, followed by breakfast.

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. We shall save it all up and let rip with sound, light and colour at the Easter Vigil.



Mass for Missio, 11th March, 12.00 noon at St Chad's Cathedral. Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and supports the Church in greatest need, where it is growing and where it is suffering. All supporters of Missio, through prayer, through giving to the Red Box, as local secretaries are invited to a Mass at St Chad's Cathedral with Archbishop Bernard Longley and representatives from Missio and Mill Hill Missions. This will be a chance to thank God for the work of Missio and pray for the Church's Mission to the world.

Gift Aid. Thank you to everyone who is taking part in the Gift Aid scheme. It means that for every £1 you give us the taxman gives us a further 25p, so it is a big help. For anyone who is a Gift-Aider, the envelopes will be issued in March. Please let Sally McVeigh know if you have stopped paying tax (and when). New Gift-Aiders are welcome. For those who use the non-GA envelopes, if you didn't collect your envelopes last year then there will be no new ones this year unless you let Sally know.

Tailpiece: A priest wanted to buy a horse and he went to a farmer who, he was told, had a special one. "Why is it special?" the priest asked. "Well, he's very religious," replied the farmer, "If you want him to go forward you have to say 'Praise the Lord'. If you want him to stop, you say 'Amen'." The priest mounted the horse, shouted "Praise the Lord", and the horse started running. The priest was so excited that he let the horse run until he saw a cliff ahead. He yelled "stop", "halt", "whoa"; but the horse just kept running. The priest finally recalled the farmer's words and yelled "Amen". The horse skidded to a halt at the very edge of the cliff. The priest took off his hat, wiped his brow, took a deep breath and, speaking from the heart, said, "Praise the Lord."

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