



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5th February, 2023

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

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Sunday, 5 th February <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Dec'd McVeigh & McGarry Families Daniel Tang (Intentions) Horacio Liu & Filomena Liu
Monday, 6 th February <i>Mem. of St. Paul Miki & Comps.</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Simon Smith (Get Well)
Tuesday, 7 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Angel Freitas
Wednesday, 8 th February <i>Op. Mem. of St. Jerome Emiliani or of St. Josephine Bakhita Day of Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 9 th February	1.30 pm Requiem Mass 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Richard Hansen Merryl Jennings (2 nd Anniversary)
Friday, 10 th February <i>Mem. of St. Scholastica, Virgin</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Marian Boggis (Birthday)
Saturday, 11 th February <i>Op. Mem. of Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Mary Clarke
Sunday, 12 th February <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Florrie Murphy Daniel Tang (Intentions) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. The theme is “*All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together?*”

We pray for all those who have died recently: Sr. Helen Carey FMA, Canon Gary Byrne, Ryszard Kaniszewski, Richard Hansen, Eufemia Maria Gentile Mastroddi and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop Frederick William Keating, Mgr. John Heslin, Frs. Thomas O’Carroll, John Watkins, John Gibb, and John Paul O’Sullivan, and also Bridget Culhane, Mary Thompson, Dolores Connolly, and Billy Flynn. Here in Sacred Heart we remember especially Fr. Matt Brady, Pioneer Priest of this parish. May the souls of all the faithful depart, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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

The counting rota: Sunday, 5th February: Rachel and Phil. Sunday, 12th February: Kylla and Lilian.

*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 Preparation. Children aged 8 or older are invited to start preparing to receive Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 10th/11th June.

Preparation classes will be in the parish hall on Monday afternoons, 4.30-5.30 pm, starting on Monday, 20th February. The Mass of Enrolment on Sunday, 26th February.

Parents, if you haven't done so already, please register your children's names with me, either with one of the application forms at the back of church.

My Day By Day Book. The February edition is now available at the back of church (price £1).

World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Next Saturday, 11th February, is the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, a good day to pray for people who are sick – our fellow-parishioners, our family, our friends, and also people who have no one to pray for them.

Invitation from CAFOD. CAFOD's Big Lent Walk is for a school, a parish, or a group of friends to walk together. Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends, have fun or take time to pray and reflect. As a Lent commitment, it's an inspiring way to bring our faith into every day of Lent, and support others in need. For more go to walk.cafod.org.uk

For some time I have been intending to do a sponsored walk around the boundary of the parish to raise money for the parish, but if you wanted to walk with me you could do it to raise money for CAFOD. It could not be done every day, but in easy stages (perhaps two miles each day) we could get round Sacred Heart parish and also Our Lady's parish by the end of Lent. I shall equip myself with a street map and work out an itinerary and keep you updated.

News from the Society of The Work, Littlemore. *"We are pleased to let you know that from Friday, 17th February until 9.00 pm on Sunday, 19th February there will be 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in Newman's Chapel at Littlemore to pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Benedict XVI and of all Holy Souls."*

Lent 2023.

1. **My Day By Day and the Walk With Me Booklets** will be available.
2. **Stations of the Cross**, at 5.00 pm each Sunday afternoon, before the evening Mass.
3. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection**, Saturday, 11th March, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at Our Lady's, Hollow Way. There will be a talk, the chance for Confession, and a time of prayer. It will be open to all, but it will be especially for Eucharistic Ministers, in preparation for renewal of their ministry on Maundy Thursday.
4. **Parish Penance Service.** On Thursday, 23rd March, before the evening Mass at 5.30 pm.

Saturday morning Mass and Confessions during Lent. It seems that Thursday evening is not a good time for people to come out for Confession and Mass, and so during Lent I should like to invite you to Mass, with Confessions before Mass, on Saturday mornings (for those Saturdays when I can be here).

Lent House Masses. This is an idea to celebrate Mass in parishioners' homes in different parts of the parish. It could bring all sorts of blessings, including attracting some people who do not come to Sacred Heart at present. If you would like/be willing to be a host for a House Mass during Lent, please let me know; it means inviting your Catholic neighbours (non-Catholics are welcome too) to come to your home. Ask them to bring some refreshments so that we can have a simple shared meal after Mass.

Ashes for Ash Wednesday (22nd February). If you have palms from last Palm Sunday that we could use to make the ashes, please let me have them by next Sunday.

Tailpiece: A man decided he would give up sweet things for Lent. One morning, however, he arrived at work carrying a gigantic cheesecake. "This is a very special cheesecake," he explained to his colleagues. "I drove by a bakery this morning and there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, 'Lord, if you want me to have one of those delicious cheesecakes, you will let me have a parking place directly in front of the bakery.' And sure enough," he went on, "the eighth time around the block, there it was!"

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