



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Lent

12th March, 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, 12 th March Third Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments Dementia Prayer Week</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (4.30 pm Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 5.00 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm Mass	Methodia Method Anthony Raj (Anniversary) Sally McVeigh (Intention)
Monday, 13 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Aveen Kavanagh (get well)
Tuesday, 14 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Madeline Carvell
Wednesday, 15 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 16 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Lorraine McNally (get well)
Friday, 17 th March Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Johanna Berg
Saturday, 18 th March <i>Op. Comm. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop Dementia Prayer Week</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Nathaniel Jacob Pawan and Nalini (Wedding Anniv.)
Sunday, 19 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments Dementia Prayer Week</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	Fr. John McNally Dermot Carroll Doyle and Ross Families
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.

The counting rota: Sunday, 12th March: Chris and Edwin. Sunday 19th March: Rachel and Phil

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.

We pray for all those who have died recently: Johanna Berg, Francis (Tom) Billington, Felix Saulong, Regine Umurungi, Dermot McMahan, Baby Sidney Francis Hunt and Barbara Harrold, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop David Cashman, Canons Gerard (Gerry) J Hanlon and Raymond Walsh, Frs. Connell Harkin, Vaughan Lloyd, Anthony Sims, Michael Crumpton, William Madden, John McNally and Andrew Brennan, Deacons Patrick Duffy and Thomas Ashcroft, and also Bernard McAndrew, Edward and Eileen James and Mary McAndrew. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

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

*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.

Cathedral Maintenance Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for St. Chad's Cathedral Maintenance Fund.

Exciting News! The parish youth group is up and running. Forms are available for parents to complete.

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>

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

Pope's Prayer Intention for March: For victims of abuse. We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Holy Week For Altar Servers. Holy Week is the greatest week in the Church's year and it would be a help to our celebrations if we could have a good number of altar servers. There is a list in the sacristy for servers to sign up when they will be here. Parents of our younger altar servers please add their name to the rota. Many thanks for all your support.

St. Patrick. It is the feast of St. Patrick on Friday – happy feast day to anyone of Irish extraction.

Dementia Prayer Week, 12-19th March. We remember especially the often-forgotten pain of those suffering with dementia, and those who care for them. Prayers, short videos, printable materials, and other resources can be found at www.rpbooks.co.uk/dementia-prayer-week

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. This week there will be no breakfast after Mass (sorry! – the hall is in use).

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.

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.

The Sacrament of Confirmation. Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be coming to Sacred Heart on Sunday 21st May to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 6.00 pm Mass. If you have not already done so, would those who wish to receive this Sacrament apply at www.olhoccowley.co.uk/sacraments/confirmation or fill in an application form found at the back of church. Lessons will be starting after Easter.

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 11th – 19th March 2023 at St Joseph's Church Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St. Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses are on Saturday (11th and 18th) at 10.00 am; Sunday (12th and 19th) at 11.00 am; Monday-Friday (13th-17th) at 7.30 pm. If you would like to join in from home, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena prayer booklet. Please contact the Novena Director (01628 673178, or novenamhm@gmail.com).

Tailpiece: A child's essay about today's Gospel which, I think, might be missing the point: "Jesus spake unto the woman and said, "How many husbands have you?" She answering, said, "Lord, five." And Jesus said, "Give me a drink!"

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