



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Lent

19th 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, 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
Monday, 20 th March Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Our Lady	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Adelaide Saldanha Barreto)
Tuesday, 21 st March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Thomas and Aisling Gaughan
Wednesday, 22 nd March	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 23 rd March <i>Op. Commemoration of St. Turibius of Mongrovejo</i>	5.30 pm Penance Service, with Confessions, Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sarah MvVeigh (Anniversary)
Friday, 24 th March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (5.30 pm Penance Service, with Confessions, Exposition and Benediction at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Regina Mihailova
Saturday, 25 th March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Francisco Moniz & Leonito Carvalho Sissie McManus & Mary Kate McTague (Anniv.)
Sunday, 26 th March Fifth 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	William McDermott Winnie Gildea (Birthday) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 5.30 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30-11.30 am (Friday, 5.30 – 6.45 pm at Our Lady's)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

There are two big feasts this week: Monday is St. Joseph's Day (transferred from today) and Saturday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation. There will be Mass at Our Lady's at 7.00 am on Monday and here at 10.00 am on Saturday.

The counting rota: Sunday, 19th March: Rachel and Phil. Sunday, 26th March: Kylla and Lilian.

Happy Mothering Sunday to all Mums.

Each of us has a mother, whether she is with us or has passed away. We thank God for them and pray for them especially today. We also pray for our holy Mother Church.

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. It's a good way to start the working week.

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 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, Dermot McMahan, Baby Sidney Francis Hunt and Barbara Harrold, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishops Bernard Ullathorne OSB and Francis Joseph Grimshaw, Fr. Laurence Crowe, and Deacon Louis Livesey, and also Mary McAndrew and Sarah McVeigh Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

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*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.*

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.

Today we have a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard about the Synodal process and the Diocesan Vision. The video and audio recordings of the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter are available via YouTube: https://youtu.be/pHFN9aKo_qc

Help!!! Next Saturday morning, at 11.30, following the morning Mass and Confessions, we are hoping to have a blitz on tidying the grounds and garages in time for Easter. Many hands make light work, so if you are free, please come and give a hand. If you have tools (e.g. hedge trimmers), please bring them with you.

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>

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 for Maundy Thursday (7.00 pm), Good Friday (3.00 pm) and Holy Saturday (8.00 pm). 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.

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.

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

The Sacrament of Confirmation. Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be coming to Sacred Heart on Sunday 21st May to celebrate this Sacrament during the 6.00 pm Mass. If you want to be confirmed please fill in an application form found at the back of church and give it to me. Lessons will be starting after Easter.

"Love The Stranger". There has been much in the news about people making dangerous journeys across the Channel to reach the UK. They are called by various names: 'refugees', 'asylum seekers', 'migrants', and often by more derogatory terms. *Love the Stranger* is a new publication by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales that presents a Catholic response. It shows our Christian duty to look beyond such labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life. Go to: www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/

The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company (PFMAC) is the family of local schools in Oxfordshire. The Board of Directors want to recruit new members of the Board – volunteers from the Catholic community – who will help to take the vision forward. A letter from the Chair, Paul Concannon, is available on: [The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company - Recruiting New Directors \(pfmac.org.uk\)](http://www.pfmac.org.uk)

Being a Welcoming Church. Fr Hudson's Society is running four one-hour online workshops. These look at being a more welcoming church for homeless people, refugees, older people and people with disabilities. For tickets see: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-welcoming-church-older-people-tickets-537737235547.

Tailpiece: A Priest, an Imam and a Rabbit went into a pub. The Rabbit looked around and said, "I think I must be a typo."



May God bless you and all your loved ones. Fr. Harry

P.S. Don't forget to put your clocks forward an hour next Saturday night as British Summer Time begins!