



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday of Lent

26th 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, 26 th March Fifth Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	7.45 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 5.00 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm Mass	William McDermott Winnie Gildea (<i>Birthday</i>) Felix Saulong (<i>40 days</i>)
Monday, 27 th March	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i>	Ellen McGarry (<i>Anniversary</i>)
Tuesday, 28 th March	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Sean and Marion Hurley (<i>Intentions</i>)
Wednesday, 29 th March	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 30 th March	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	John Cullen (<i>Anniversary</i>)
Friday, 31 st March	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	In Thanksgiving (<i>Nossa Senhora</i>)
Saturday, 1 st April	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 10.00 am Mass <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Filomeno da Cruz Martins & Jose Madura Janet & Donald (<i>60th Wedding Anniv.</i>)
Sunday, 2 nd April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	7.45 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 5.00 pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i> 6.00 pm Mass	Sabas and Lourdes Balbag Mick Mullagh The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30-11.30 am <i>(Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm at Our Lady's)</i>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

The statues in the church. Before the liturgical reforms of the 1960s, the 5th Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday because one of the Gospel accounts of the Passion of Our Lord would be read. To mark that, the statues in the church will be veiled from today until Holy Saturday. The signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion and death.

The counting rota: Sunday, 26th March: Kylla and Lilian. Sunday, 2nd April: Chris and Edwin.

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 and Dermot McMahon, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishop Thomas Leighton Williams, Bishop Humphrey Bright, Mgr. Canon John Joseph Welch, Mgr. Henry Francis Davis, Canon Brian Withers, Frs. John Joseph Donnelly, John McManus, Thomas Cockburn, Matthew Sheridan, John Callaghan and Philip O'Reilly, Deacon Raymond Zacaroli, and also Betty Kellett, James Craig, Paddy McLoughlin and Charlie O'Conner. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

*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.

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

Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church's year. We shall begin outside the church (weather permitting) and process to the altar.

The Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday, 28th March, 11.30 am in St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

Easter Flowers. There will be a retiring collection next Sunday towards the cost of the flowers that will adorn our church for the coming celebration of Easter. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year, perhaps in memory of someone, please speak to me.

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)

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.

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.

Thank you. A big thank you to everyone who came to help with the "spring clean" of the grounds yesterday, and especially to Jacqui who organised it. It was a great thing to see people working together to get it done.

Easter Triduum. And talking of people working together to get things done, Holy Week and Easter are approaching. If you could volunteer to have your feet washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, please see Sally. Thank you.

Oxford Pro-Life Rosary Witness. Saturday 1st April. Calling all pro-lifers to unite at 12 pm to publicly recite the Rosary for an end to Abortion and in defense of life. Meet outside the Clarendon building: 48 Broad St, Oxford, OX1 3AZ. The public witness is an initiative for all Catholics who would like to be more active in defending the unborn. By coming along, you can hear more about other pro-life opportunities in Oxford. For more information contact Honor Roberts: honorroberts@hotmail.com

Easter Cards. I hope you like the cards. Please take one away with you. Besides Easter greetings, it has all the times of the Holy Week of Masses and Liturgies and I look forward to seeing you.

Tailpiece: A priest once announced proudly that there was to be a new font placed in the church. This, he explained earnestly, was so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

May God bless you and all your loved ones.

Fr. Harry