



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th September, 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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This Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. At present, our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Margaret Lawes. She can be contacted at: sgsacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern. We are still asking for someone to volunteer to take Margaret's place. Please come and see me.

Sunday, 17 th September Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Home Mission Sunday)</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 3.00 pm Baptism 6.00 pm Mass	Anne O'Neill Bridie & Martin (Tim) Keane Aria Karina McKoy The People of the Parish
Monday, 18 th September	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	John and Kathleen Pill
Tuesday, 19 th September <i>Op. Mem. of St. Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop, or of St. Januarius, Bishop, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Josephine & Dermot McMahon
Wednesday, 20 th September <i>Mem. of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang, & Comps.</i>	No Public Mass Today.	Peter John Rhodes
Thursday, 21 st September <i>Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	John McVeigh (Anniversary)
Friday, 22 nd September	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Maryanne Borthwick
Saturday, 23 rd September <i>Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i>	Ellen White Antonio da Silva & Rosa Soriano
Sunday, 24 th September Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Day of Prayer in Thanksgiving for the Harvest</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(2.00 pm Baptisms at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(3.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	Cecilia Michael Michelle (Intentions) Eilye & Emileo Flynn-Sefa Valentino Sotgiu Petrolina Miranda
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am		

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today, especially if you are visiting for the first time.

Today is *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday* (formerly known as Home Mission Sunday). There will be a second collection to support the work of evangelisation in our own country.

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Iris O'Brien, Mary Doyle, Thomas Gaughan, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff and Eileen McGarry and all those we know who are sick. If someone is sick and would like to be prayed for, please let me know.

Please pray for those who have died recently: Frs. Keith Enston, Paul Chavasse (CongOrat) and Edwin Cownley, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop George Patrick Dwyer, Canons Peter McKenna, David Mellor, Albert JJ Adams, Frs. William Alfred Oddie, Alan Leslie Holtham, Peter Lees, John David Steward, John Roddy, Bernard McAllister and Peter Lloyd, and also Andrew McGregor and Thomas Bolger. 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.*

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.

“International Day”

On Sunday, 1st October, we shall have something special, shared with Our Lady’s Parish. Just for that day Mass will be at 10.00 am at Our Lady’s Primary School (cancel 9.00 at Sacred Heart and 11.00 at Our Lady’s), followed by events/shared food/games until about 2.00 pm. People are encouraged to wear national costume and to bring national dishes to share. Please sign the sheet at the back of the church if you can offer to bring and share some food.

Guild Of St. Stephen Annual Mass This year’s annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David Evans on Saturday, 7th October at 12.00 noon at St Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham. Please let me know if you wish to attend by next Sunday, 24th September.

In aid of fundraising for CAFOD, Rachel Breward is going to be running her first ever Half Marathon in October! Please pray for her, especially her knees, and please sponsor her if you can <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Rachel-Breward-Oxford-half>. The run will take place on 15th October in Oxford (the flat bits of Oxford).

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 16th October 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights’ in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

A message from St. John Fisher School: “St John Fisher are pleased to announce their new Ofsted “Good” rating following their recent inspection – Mr Higgins and all of the staff are incredibly proud of all the hard work put in to achieve this grade. There are still a few in year places available, so please get in touch for a tour if you are interested in joining the best school in Blackbird Leys/Littlemore.”

40 Days for Life Campaign: The Campaign invites you to join other Christians in 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end of abortion.

- Come to the opening event, on Saturday, 23rd September at 7.30 pm at Cafe Neri, Oxford Oratory of St. Aloysius. This is a great opportunity for both those who are enthusiastic to be involved and those who are still unsure. Join us for a warm event with pizza and doughnuts and find out what 40 Days for Life is all about!
- From Wednesday, 27th to Saturday, 4th November, you’re invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside BPAS (Rectory Centre, 27-29 Rectory Road, OX4 1BU). If you’d like more information or like to volunteer to help, please contact Catherine at catherinerymell2@gmail.com

Day of Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Harvest. Next Sunday, 24th September, we shall give thanks to God for the food we receive. If you have fruit and/or veg that we could put before the altar on that day then please bring them along. After Mass you can either reclaim them or they can be passed on to the Foodbank.

The Leys Youth Fete is happening on 6th October, 15.30-20.00, at Leys Leisure Centre, Pegasus Rd, OX4 6JL, promising a vibrant and engaging event for the youth of the Leys area in Oxford. It will be a day filled with learning, fun, and empowerment. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of something special. ewa@leysyouthspace.com; <https://leysyouthspace.com>

Tailpiece: A bride-to-be was nervous about the ceremony and went to see the priest for some reassurance. He told her that there were only three things she needed to remember: “First the aisle, because that is what you walk up to start the service; second the altar, because if you keep your eyes on that you will keep walking in a straight line; third the hymn that everyone will be singing. If you keep those three things in mind you will be fine.” Much relieved she went home, but imagine the feelings of the groom as his future partner-in-life advanced towards him in the church with a steely, determined look on her face, muttering through clenched teeth, “Aisle. Altar. Hymn. Aisle. Altar. Hymn.”

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