



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Advent

10th December, 2023

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

Parish Secretary: Reena Bartrip

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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: sg.sacredheart.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.

Sunday, 10 th December Second Sunday of Advent	(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's) 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Kathleen Murphy (1 st Anniversary) Hilaria Monteiro Sean & Marion Hurley (50 th Anniv.) The People of the Parish
Monday, 11 th December <i>Op. Mem. of St. Damasus I</i>	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Special Intention
Tuesday, 12 th December <i>Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Aveen Kavanagh (Get Well)
Wednesday, 13 th December <i>Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr</i>	No Public Mass Today	Special Intention (MB)
Thursday, 14 th December <i>Memorial of St. John of the Cross</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 5.30 pm Penance Service , Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	In Thanksgiving to Nossa Senhora de Fatima
Friday, 15 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (5.30 pm Penance Service, followed by 7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Josephine and Dermot McMahon
Saturday, 16 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 12.00 noon Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Eugenio and Nelia Cecilia Smith (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday, 17 th December Third Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Conoco Eilis Kirwan (Get Well) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 5.30 – 6.45 pm. (Friday, 5.30 – 6.45 pm at Our Lady's)		

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

Christmas Stars



As we prepare for Christmas we probably can't help but think of stars and in particular the Star of Bethlehem that led the Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. This Advent I invite you decorate our Christmas tree by writing your prayer for Christmas – for yourself, your family and friends, for the poor, for peace, and so on - on one of the paper stars that have been specially made for us, and hanging it on the tree. The stars can help us with our prayers to God. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas.

*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.*

If you are unable to come to church and wish to watch the Mass at your home, go to

<https://www.mcn.live/Camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Iris O'Brien, Mary Doyle, Thomas Gaughan, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Inna, Beatrice Upham 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 Anne Mullagh, Patrick Finnerty and Sean Jennings who died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Drinkwater, Frs. Vincent Lucas, William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Fergus O'Connell and John Dewis, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and also E.F. Brunnrius Joan Kelly, Sarah Craig and Bernie O'Neill. May they rest in peace.

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 Lessons. Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next May, please register them with me, using the form in the church porch. Lessons will begin in January.

All handmade Christmas cards and Scripture quotes are now available at Elmthorpe Convent at 20p each or £1.00 for any 6. Contact Sr. Margaret.

The Advent *Walk With Me* booklet, with daily reflections for the Season, is now available. Free, or if you wish to make a donation, thank you. There are also copies of the **Advent *Day by Day* booklets** (£1) which have the readings used at Mass for each day of Advent.

Heating in the church and hall. Work is going on to get a new boiler installed as soon as possible. Until then, as I said last week, please wrap up warm when you come to church.

The new Diocesan Directories are available from the Piety Stall, £4.50. If you want to know anything about the Birmingham Archdiocese – what time Mass is being said in any church, where priests are, etc. – this is the book you need.

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at Christmas and then will burn in the sanctuary, by the Sacred Heart or Our Lady, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present?



Please pray for Eugenio Pinto and Nelia Francisca Alves Da Cruz who are being married here next Saturday. May God bless them.

Christmas Flowers. There will be a retiring collection after Masses next Sunday to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year in memory of someone or for a special occasion, please speak to me.

Advent Penance Service. To help us prepare for Christmas there will be a short penance service this week, on Thursday, 14th December, at 5.30 pm, followed by the opportunity for Confessions.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese where they cannot pay their day-to-day bills.

Congratulations to Deacon Kevin Kirby who was ordained last Friday evening. Deacon Kevin will be serving and preaching at the 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's next Sunday.

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please take one from the porch for yourselves and/or your neighbours. They have got the times of our Christmas Masses, so you can plan when you can come to church.

Tailpiece: In the days before mobile phones, a priest travelled into the city to order a banner to hang outside his church for Christmas. But he forgot to take the details with him, so he sent a telegram to his housekeeper. The clerk at the telegraph office was staggered to receive the reply: "Unto us a Child is born; seven feet six by one foot eight."

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