



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## *First Sunday of Advent*

*3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Migrants' Day</i>	<i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.00 am Mass</b> <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Janet Gildea  Joseph McGarry (Anniversary) Kevin Kirby (Intentions) John Cullen (Birthday)
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Op. Memorial of St. John Damascene, Priest</i>	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	John Cullen
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Emily Witherick (27 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Op. Mem. of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Deonpeter (In Thanksgiving)
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Candle-lit Mass at Our Lady's School)</i> <b>12.00 noon Mass</b>	Mike Simmons Kevin Kirby (Intentions)
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Op. Memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b>  <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bero, and family Kathleen Murphy (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.00 am Mass</b> <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Hilaria Monteiro Sean & Marion Hurley (50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am. <i>(Friday, 6.00 – 6.30 pm at Our Lady's)</i>		

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, Mike Simmons and Jean Claude Rubati who died recently,** and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Liam MacFarlane, Horace Relph, Michael George Knight, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorro, Jerome O'Flynn and Hugh Molloy, Sr. Eileen McGarry FMA, and also Mary Batten. 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.**

***Our Parish Christmas Bazaar.***

***Again, a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way with the Parish Christmas Bazaar last week, and especially to Sally McVeigh who always does so much to make sure that it is a great afternoon, and to Jacqui Halliday who does so much of the heavy work and organisation.***

**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.

**Congratulations to** Piter and Benvinda Bintaldays who were married at Our Lady's this weekend. May God bless them.

**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.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for December: For people with disabilities.** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

**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.** I am very sorry to say that the heating engineer came again this week and after working for a long time on the boiler gave the sad news: the main circuit board is worn out and cannot be replaced. The boiler is dead, and we shall have to invest in a new one. Fortunately, the Parish Finance Committee has budgeted for such an event, but until a new boiler is installed we shall have no central heating. We shall have heaters in the church, but please do wrap up warmly.

**Poor Parishes Fund.** There will be a second collection at Masses next weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund is to help those parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception, next Friday.** The Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Archdiocese. There will be a candle-lit Mass in Our Lady's School at 9.15 am and everyone is invited. There will also be Mass here at Sacred Heart at 12.00 noon. But there will be no Mass at Our Lady's in the evening because ....

**.... Diaconate Ordination.** Next Friday evening Kevin Kirby, Ursula's son, is to be ordained in Scotland as a Deacon. Please pray for him and his family. Obviously we can't go to Scotland to be with him, but we can watch the service on the livestreaming. I invite you to a party in the Don Bosco Centre at Our Lady's on Friday evening, starting at 6.30, to watch the Ordination and celebrate with Ursula.

**The new Diocesan Directories** are available from the Piety Stall, £4.50.

**Thank you for all your cards, presents and good wishes to me last week for my birthday. As always, I shall remember you all in my prayers. May God bless you and all those whom you love. Fr. Harry**