



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

21st January, 2024

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley)

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.

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| Sunday, 21 st January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> | <i>(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass | Sean Jennings Ena Maguire Newton & Clara (Wedding Anniv.) The People of the Parish |
| Monday, 22 nd January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Vincent, Deacon</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | Bernadette Gavin (Anniv.) |
| Tuesday, 23 rd January <i>Memorial of Blessed Laura Vicuna</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | Mary Lillis (Anniversary) |
| Wednesday, 24 th January <i>Memorial of St. Francis de Sales</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> | <i>(11.30 am Requiem Mass in Bicester)</i> | Michael Knibbs |
| Thursday, 25 th January <i>Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> | <i>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass | Bernie Gavin and Mary Lillis |
| Friday, 26 th January <i>Memorial of St. Timothy & St. Titus</i> | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | Winnie Gildea |
| Saturday, 27 th January <i>Op. Mem. of Bl. Edward Oldcorne,</i> <i>or of St. Angela Merici</i> Holocaust Memorial Day | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 10.00 am Mass <i>(Marriage service at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | Special Intention Harry Kong Sen Yau & Alexandra Wong Ying Pei In Thanksgiving |
| Sunday, 28 th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i> | 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass | Cecilia Michael Carla Maria Da Costa The People of the Parish |
| Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. (Confessions at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm) | | |

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today.

Today is the "Sunday of the Word of God". It is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time and it is a day when we reflect on the importance of the Bible in our faith.

During the Mass your Bibles will be blessed and our Readers will be commissioned or recommissioned for their ministry.

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 Keith Dolton, Iris O'Brien, Thomas Gaughan, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Inna, Beatrice Upham and Eileen McGarry, Rosa Fernandes, Miguel Balbag 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 Mary Doyle, Anita Allen, Shean Scanlon, Madeleine Watson and Michael Knibbs who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Peter Dao-Duc-Diem, Canons Garrett (Garry) Byrne, Bernard McKenna and Thomas Sylvester Copsey, Frs. Michael Walshe, George Jackson, John Tolkien, Joseph McKenna, David Lloyd, Charles Ross, John Garvey, Anthony Timlin and Vincent Joseph Royles, Deacon Michael Ainsworth, Sr. Helen Carey FMA, and Mary McGarry, Sarah McVeigh, Anne Marie Kelly, Mary Bridget Lillis and Bernadette Gavin. 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.

Readers At Mass: Today is a good time to thank all those who read at our Masses, and also to encourage anyone else who would like to be part of this important ministry within Mass. Please speak to me after Mass.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18th–25th January. Resources are now available for the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso. They have chosen the parable of the **Good Samaritan** as the theme for this Week.

Holocaust Memorial Day is held on 27th January each year which marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives were changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, and in subsequent genocides. The theme this year is **Frugality of Freedom**.

First Holy Communion Preparation.

- Preparation classes will be in the parish hall on Mondays, 4.30-5.30 pm, starting in February.
- There will be a meeting for parents on Monday, 29th January, at 4.30 pm, with the Mass of Enrolment on Sunday, 4th February at 9.00 am.
- The children will make their First Confession in March and receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, 26th May.

CAFOD School Volunteers needed. Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Do consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Debbie Purfield dpurfield@cafod.org.uk or call 07786 114 390

The Salesian Sisters at Elmthorpe Convent, at the bottom of Hollow Way, would like to invite the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church to a **'Come and Meet Us' evening on January 25th from 7-9pm**



We will share a bit about ourselves, our community, work and prayer life as well as show a short video on the vision of St. John Bosco, our founder, on our call to serve the young in the Church. Please do come along. This time we can only invite adults, we hope to offer an opportunity to meet our younger members later in the year. RSVP by word of mouth or phone please on 01865 788160 so we know how many to cater for!

Year of prayer. There will be a talk and prayer, led by Canon Mervyn at Corpus Christi Church in Headington tomorrow, Monday, 7.00-8.00 pm. All welcome.

Old Palm Crosses. If you have any old palm crosses at home that you don't want, please bring them to church to be burned to make ash for this year's Ash Wednesday services. Ash Wednesday is on 14th February, only just over 3 weeks away!

Next Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday. The theme this year is: *"Seeing one another in the life of the Church"*. It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. There will be a second collect at Masses next weekend for Racial Justice.

Tailpiece: A child was intrigued to see people receiving Holy Communion when he went to Mass, and he asked his parents what it was about. "It's Jesus' Last Supper," he was told. He thought about it for a while and then said, "Boy, they didn't give Him much, did they!"

May God bless you and all those who are dear to you.
Fr. Harry