



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28th 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.

Sunday, 28 th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Racial Justice Sunday</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	<i>In Thanksgiving</i> <i>Cecilia Michael</i> <i>Carla Maria Da Costa</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 29 th January	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Private Intention (Bintaldays)</i>
Tuesday, 30 th January	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>In Thanksgiving to Nossa Senhora</i>
Wednesday, 31 st January Memorial of St. John Bosco	<i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Antonio Pereira</i>
Thursday, 1 st February	<i>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Mary Doyle</i>
Friday, 2 nd February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) <i>World Day for Consecrated Life</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 12.00 noon Mass <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Anita Allen</i> <i>Robin McDonald</i>
Saturday, 3 rd February <i>Op. Memorial of St. Blaise or of St. Ansgar or of St. Werburg</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 10.00 am Mass <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Hermenegildo do Rego</i> <i>Azad Joshi (Birthday)</i>
Sunday, 4 th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 1.00 pm Baptism <i>(2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Rosemary Birmingham</i> <i>Kath Kavanagh (Anniversary)</i> <i>Theo Hussain</i> <i>Elijah Clement</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30-11.30 am. <i>(Confessions at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)</i>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today.

Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), this Friday, 2nd February. Mass here at Sacred Heart will be at 12.00 noon and at Our Lady's it will be at 7.00 pm. We shall start at the back of the church with the blessing of candles and process to the altar.

First Friday. This Friday is the First of the month. The Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said before Mass on Thursday evening.

*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, Terry Manuell, Madeleine Watson and Michael Knibbs who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Michael Williams, Canons Giles Goward and Kevin James Good, Frs. Charles Smith, Mortimer Loftus, John Berry, David Patrick Joseph Condron, Denis Clancy and Joseph Connelly, and also Joseph Hughes, Iris Morton, Thomas (Tom) Penders, Anna (Anne) Barlow, Wayne St Clair, Patrick Tuttle, Sheila Evans and Christopher Graham. May they rest in peace. **Mary Doyle's funeral will be here on Thursday, 22nd February, at 10.30 am.**

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.

Year of prayer. We had a very good introduction to our series of talks for the Year of Prayer from Canon Mervyn at Corpus Christi last Monday. The next talk will be at Our Lady's Church on Monday, 5th February, 7.00-8.00 pm. All welcome.

Today 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 this weekend for Racial Justice.

Oxford Pro-Life Rosary Witness: On Saturday 3rd February (on Our Lady's first Saturday of the Month) all pro-lifers are warmly invited to recite the Rosary for the end of abortion and in defence of life. Meet outside the Clarendon building at 48 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ at 12.00 noon. For more information contact Honor Roberts at honorroberts@hotmail.com

First Holy Communion Preparation.

- Preparation classes will be in the parish hall on Mondays, 4.30-5.30 pm, starting on 5th February.
- There will be a meeting for parents this Monday, 29th January, at 4.30 pm.
- The children will be enrolled during Mass next Sunday, 4th February, at 9.00 am or at 6.00 pm.
- The children will make their First Confession in March and receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 25th 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.

Old Palm Crosses. If you have any old palm crosses at home that you don't want, please bring them to church by next Sunday to be burned to make ash for this year's Ash Wednesday services. Ash Wednesday is on 14th February, only just over 2 weeks away!

The Pope's Prayer Intention for February: The terminally ill.

The Sacrament of Confirmation. Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be coming to Sacred Heart on Thursday 25th April to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 7.00 pm Mass. If you wish to receive this Sacrament, please fill in an application form found at the back of church and give it to me. Lessons will be in the parish hall on Saturday mornings, at 10.30 am, starting on Saturday, 2nd March.

Lent 2024 begins on 14th February - only just over two weeks away!

1. **Prayer petitions.** Please write out any petition that you would like the rest of us to pray for and post it up on the board by the statue of St. Joseph.
2. **My Day By Day** and the **Walk With Me Booklets** will be available to help your journey through Lent.
3. **Stations of the Cross.** We shall meditate on the Stations together before Mass each Thursday during Lent, at 6.15 pm.
4. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection,** I have plans for a parish day with a talk, prayer and Mass. It will include a Penance Service with time for Confession. More information to follow.

Tailpiece: Christmas officially ends on Friday. What was that? You want some more!!! Well, alright then, just one more week of Christmas cracker jokes:

Question: How long did Cain bate his brother?

Answer: As long as he was Abel.

Question: Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

Answer: Because Noah was standing on the deck.

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

Fr. Harry