



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

7th January, 2024

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, 7 th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	(5.30 pm Saturday 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	Paul Concannon Jim McCann Winnie Gildea & Helen Towey (Anniv.) The People of the Parish
Monday, 8 th January Feast of The Baptism of the Lord	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) 7.00 pm Mass	Kitty Davies (Intentions) Osvaldo Da Silva
Tuesday, 9 th January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Alarico do Regio Soares
Wednesday, 10 th January	No Public Mass Today	Deacon Chris Blackman (Intentions)
Thursday, 11 th January	(6.00 pm Reception in Our Lady's) 7.00 pm Mass	Felix Saulong
Friday, 12 th January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's) (1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Sean Jennings Freya Maria Venete Kathleen Mullagh (Intentions)
Saturday, 13 th January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Hilary</i>	(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Anita Allen
Sunday, 14 th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Peace Sunday</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Lucas Da Silva Harry Thomson Oliver Philip Christopher Dell The People of the Parish

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Today we celebrate the (transferred) Solemnity of the Epiphany. Tomorrow, 8th January, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, after which Christmastide ends.

From Tuesday we return to "Ordinary Time" in the Church's Year.

Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle B, and Weekday readings are from Year II.

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, 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 Sean Jennings, Anita Allen, Shean Scanlon, Madeleine Watson and Michael Knibbs who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Philip Smith, John P. Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley, Charles Becker, Philip Wyles, Patrick Farrelly, Patrick McSwiney and Patrick Joyce, Deacons Joseph Patterson and William Murphy, and also John Shanahan, Graciana Zgambo and Columb Whelan. 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.

Crib Offerings. As usual, your crib offerings will be divided between a local charity and an international charity. This year we are supporting Emmaus (Oxford) and the Friends of the Holy Land. From FHL: "Overall, the situation for our Christian family in the Holy Land has gone from very difficult to critical, and we face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever. Our office in Bethlehem and contacts in Gaza, Israel and Jordan are well-placed to get urgent, direct aid to the families across the Holy Land most in need. After such a disaster, we know that our aid is going to be needed well into next year."

My Day By Day Booklets, with the daily readings for Mass from now until Lent are available in the porch (£1).

Parish Finance Committee. There will be a meeting next Sunday at 4.00 pm in the hall.

Year of Prayer. In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the *Our Father*. Every Catholic is encouraged to reflect on their life of prayer: what they pray, how they pray and why they pray.

Next Sunday is the **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**. It is also designated as **Peace Sunday**, a day to pray for world peace. The theme of World Peace Day this year is: 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace', that AI should be used in the service of humanity and not to further injustice and inequality.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The traditional time for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18th-25th January, the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul.

Christmas Decorations. The time has come once again to take down our Christmas decorations and put them into storage for another year. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the tree with stars carrying your prayers. It helped us to appreciate the coming of Jesus. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make the church so beautiful and prayerful this Christmas.

First Holy Communion Preparation. Children aged 8 or older are invited to start preparing to receive Holy Communion on Sunday, 26th May.

- Preparation classes will be in the parish hall on Monday afternoons, at from 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.

Parents, if you haven't done so already, please register your children's names with me by Sunday, 14th January if you wish them to receive their First Confession and Holy Communion this year, with one of the application forms at the back of church.

Tailpiece: Two men went to the church to pray; one of them was wealthy, the other was poor. The poor man beat his breast and cried aloud, "Lord, be merciful to me for I am a poor man and I am in great need." Whereupon the rich man asked him how much he needed. "£500 would get me out of my immediate difficulties," he replied. Without hesitation the rich man took out his chequebook and wrote him a cheque for £500. Then, turning to the altar, he prayed, "Now, Lord, do you think I could have your undivided attention?"

Thank you again for your very generous Christmas offerings and for the gifts and cards that I received. I hope your Christmas was as good as mine. May God bless you all in 2024.
Fr. Harry