



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11th February, 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, 11 th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Day for the Unemployed World Day of Prayer for the Sick</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>Kathleen Mullagh (Intentions)</i> <i>Briget Duncan & Roche Sebastian The People of the Parish John Flanagan</i> |
| Monday, 12 th February | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | <i>Winnie da Souza</i> |
| Tuesday, 13 th February | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | <i>Merryl Jennings</i> |
| Wednesday, 14 th February Ash Wednesday LENT BEGINS | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 7.00 pm Mass | <i>Mary Doyle Felix Saulong (1st Anniversary)</i> |
| Thursday, 15 th February | 6.15 pm Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Mass | <i>Comsetha Peter</i> |
| Friday, 16 th February | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's) (7.30 pm Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's)</i> | <i>Sean Jennings</i> |
| Saturday, 17 th February <i>Op. Comm. of the 7 Founders of the Order of Servants of the Blessed Virgin Mary</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>Dermot and Josephine McMahon Nora Allen (Intentions)</i> |
| Sunday, 18 th February First Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</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>Special Intention Ellen Gaughan The People of the Parish</i> |
| Confessions: 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.

Lent starts this Wednesday! Mass at Our Lady's will be at 9.15 am and here at Sacred Heart it will be at 7.00 pm. Ashes will be used as a mark of sorrow for our sins and a reminder of our mortality.

It is a day of fasting and abstinence when we should abstain from meat and those between 18-60 should also fast, taking only one meal and two lighter snacks.

During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "Alleluia!" There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled from the fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

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, Madeleine Watson and Maria Styles who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Joseph Vincent Healey, Mgr. Canon Peter W. Lawler, Frs. John Paul O'Sullivan, William Connick, James McGloin, Charles Joseph O'Reilly, and William Conefrey, and also Felix Saulong, William Tobin, Henrique Mgunngwe, Jim McNally, Billy Flynn and Elisa Faria. 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.

Alert!!! *If you are planning a romantic evening on St Valentine's Day, please note that this year it falls on Ash Wednesday - a day of fasting and abstinence.*

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.

Lenten Spiritual Concert at the Oxford Oratory. The CRUCIFIXION by Sir John Stainer, with the Oratory Choir and award-winning soloists Sebastian Hill (Tenor) and Florian Störtz (bass). Friday 23rd February, 7.30 pm. Tickets £15 (students £5). Book online at [John Stainer - The Crucifixion Tickets, Fri 23 Feb 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-crucifixion-tickets-fri-23-feb-2024-at-19-30)

Community Kitchen Surplus Curry. Volunteers are needed to help cook and serve a free curry on Thursdays at the Corner House pub on Hollow Way. For more information please contact the organiser, Dr. Saman Jamshidifard, at cadrsaman@gmail.com. You can find a BBC report about the project at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-67949269>

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated here on Thursday 25th April. If you wish to receive this Sacrament, please fill in a form from 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 2nd March.

Catenians are looking for Catholic men to join their Oxford Circle. They also have news of a Bursary Fund which makes awards to young Catholics aged between 16-24 who volunteer to work on development projects and as helpers on HCPT and Diocesan pilgrimages.

Lent 2024

- **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 in the church.
- **My Day By Day Booklets** are available at the back of church (£1.00). The **Walk With Me** booklets are on your seats. Please take a copy.
- **Stations of the Cross** each Thursday, at 6.15 pm. (Note that this means we shall not have Exposition and Confessions on Thursdays)
- **Parish Lent Day of Reflection.** More information to follow.
- **Mass on Monday mornings at 7.00 am at Our Lady's,** followed by breakfast. This could be a good Lenten practice to start each working week with Mass.

Altar Servers. It is nice to have new altar servers at Sunday Masses and it would be good to welcome more onto the team so that we can build up and develop over time. If you would like to join our servers and take up this important ministry in our community - age and experience don't matter, as long as you have received your First Holy Communion - please come and see me. Training can be provided.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Walk, run, skip, or stroll, when and where you choose over 40 days, as a school or a parish group, alone or with friends. To sign up or for more info go to [The Big Lent Walk 2024 \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

Tailpiece: An elderly man was coming to the end of his days and the priest and doctor had gathered at his bedside. After a while the priest said, "I think he's gone." The doctor agreed, but then the old boy opened his eyes, sat up and said, "No, I'm still alive." His wife patted him on the hand and said, "Now, now, Dear. Lie down. Father and Doctor know best."

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