



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

First Sunday in Lent

18th 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.

Sunday, 18 th February First Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</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	Nora Allen (<i>Intentions</i>) Cecilia Michael Ellen Gaughan The People of the Parish
Monday, 19 th February	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School)</i>	Lourenco Viani Garry Heaney
Tuesday, 20 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Claudino Serra Vaz (<i>Get Well</i>)
Wednesday, 21 st February <i>Op. Comm. of St. Peter Damian</i>	No Public Mass Today	Helen Towey and Winnie Gildea
Thursday, 22 nd February <i>Feast of the Chair of St. Peter</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.30 Requiem Mass 6.15 pm Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Mass	Mary Doyle Nossa Senhora de Fatima
Friday, 23 rd February <i>Op. Comm. of St. Polycarp</i> CAFOD Lent Fast Day	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(7.30 pm Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's)</i>	Clara (<i>Birthday</i>)
Saturday, 24 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Henriqueta Capeola Lui & Family The People of the Parish
Sunday, 25 th February Second 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	Lucia Josephat <i>In Thanksgiving</i> Clare & Robert Curtis
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.

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>

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.

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.

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Claudino Serra Vaz, 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, Brigida da Costa Vong, Lourenco Viana, Anne McCarthy and Michael Carroll who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canons William Roughan and Sean McTernan, Frs. Joseph McEvilly, Timothy Healy, Terence McDonnell, Francis Jordan, Alexander McGavin, Francis Coyle, Sean Farrell, Michael McCabe, Martin Meagher, John Collins and Oliver Kemp, Deacon Hugh Robinson, and also Thomas Dermot Moran. 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.

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 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.

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 Recollection.** 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.

Marriage Banns. Kisitu Dennis and Mutesi Miriam are getting married in Kampala, Uganda, on 5th April, 2024. If anyone objects or knows any impediment why this should not take place please come and see me.

Altar Servers. If you have received your First Holy Communion and would like to join our servers and take up this important ministry in our community – 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://cafod.org.uk).

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal. Next Friday is the CAFOD Family Fast Day when we are asked to save some money from our food bills and put it in the second collection next Sunday. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families with good. Please use the envelopes provided, or



Year of prayer. Thank you to everyone who came to the talk at Our Lady's a couple of weeks ago. The next talk and prayer will be led by Fr. Nicholas Edmonds Smith C.O. at the Oxford Oratory Parish Centre this coming Saturday, 24th February, at 11.00 am. All welcome.

Gift Aiders. First, a big thank you to everyone who gift aids their offerings. Anyone who pays income tax can do this. It means that if you give money to the Church we can get back the income tax you have paid to earn it. For every £1 you give in the collection we can get another 25p from the Government. Second, it won't be long before Sally will be putting out the new envelopes, so if any of your circumstances have changed (i.e. if you have stopped paying tax or your address has changed), please let Sally know as soon as you can. If you would like to start gift aiding your offerings, please speak to Sally.

Tailpiece: From a Parish Magazine: "We would like to express our thanks to Mrs Hill for acting as the subject during the Wolf Cubs' recent Class in First Aid, and we are pleased to report that she is now out of hospital."

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