



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## *Second Sunday of Lent*

*25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

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| Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February<br><b>Second Sunday of Lent</b><br><i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i> | <i>(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i><br><b>7.45 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</b><br><b>9.00 am Mass</b><br><i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i><br><b>6.00 pm Mass</b> | <i>The People of the Parish</i><br><br><i>Lucia Josephat</i><br><i>In Thanksgiving</i><br><i>Martinho Amaral</i> |
| Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February   | <i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i><br><i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i><br><i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>   | <i>Special Intention</i><br><br><i>Private Intention</i>   |
| Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February<br><i>Op. Comm. of St. Gregory of Narek</i>  | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i><br><i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>  | <i>MaryAnne</i>  |
| Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February<br><i>Op. Comm. of St. Oswald, Bishop</i>  | <b>No Public Mass Today</b>  | <i>Clare &amp; Robert Curtis</i>   |
| Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> February   | <b>6.15 pm Stations of the Cross</b><br><b>7.00 pm Mass</b>  | <i>Paul Simmons</i>  |
| Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup> March<br><i>Feast of St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales</i><br><i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i>   | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i><br><i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i><br><i>(7.30 pm Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's)</i>  | <i>George Rhodes (Anniversary)</i>   |
| Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March<br><i>Feast of St. Chad, Bishop, Patron of the Archdiocese</i>                              | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i><br><b>10.00 am Mass</b><br><i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i>  | <i>Thomas Gaughan</i><br><i>Special Intention (LP)</i>   |
| Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March<br><b>Third Sunday of Lent</b><br><i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>      | <b>7.45 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</b><br><b>9.00 am Mass</b><br><i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i><br><b>6.00 pm Mass</b>   | <i>Joe Durkin</i><br><i>The People of the Parish</i><br><i>Martinho Amaral</i>                                   |
| Confessions: Saturday, 10.30-11.30 am.<br><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: Bishops Joseph Francis Cleary and Kevin Dunn, Frs. George Brewster, George Henry Tarrant, John Flynn and William Diver, and also Eddie Kelly, John Gerard Flanagan, John A. Duffy and Lucia Zawadi Josephat. 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.**

**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](mailto:dpurfield@cafod.org.uk) or call 07786 114 390.

**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 \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://The Big Lent Walk 2024 (cafod.org.uk))

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal.** You will be able to put whatever you saved by fasting last Friday into the second collection at Masses this weekend. Please use the envelopes provided, or give online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**On Monday evening** the Deacons of the Southern part of the Diocese will be at Our Lady's for Mass followed by the meeting with Canon Paul Fitzpatrick. Everyone is welcome to come to the Mass.

***The Sacrament of Confirmation.***

*Next weekend we shall have a short service during Mass to enrol the candidates for Confirmation this year. Today is the last chance to register, so if you wish to receive this Sacrament in April, please fill in one of the forms at the back of church and give it to me.*

***The date of Confirmation is: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, during the 7.00 pm Mass***

*Lessons will be on Saturday mornings in the parish hall.*

***They will begin NEXT SATURDAY, following the 10.00 am Mass, 10.30 -11.30 am.***

**Parish Lent Day of Recollection.** Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at Boar's Hill Carmelite Convent. £10 per person, and bring your own lunch. There will be Mass, a reflection, and a chance for quiet prayer. Please sign the sheet in the porch if you would like to take part.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. If anyone objects or knows any impediment why this should not take place please come and see me.

**Readers for Holy Week and Easter.** There is a list on the board next to St Joseph's statue. Would readers please sign up for what services they will be here from Palm Sunday to easter Sunday. Sally will prepare a list of readers from those who are available. Thank you.

**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. If you sign up as a gift aider, for every £1 you give we can claim back 25p from the Government. Second, it won't be long before Sally McVeigh 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), or if you would like to start gift aiding, please let Sally know as soon as you can.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for March: For the new Martyrs.** We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

**Oxford Pro-Life Rosary Witness** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March (Our Lady's first Saturday of the Month) all pro-lifers are invited to recite the Rosary for the end of abortion and in defence of life. Meet outside the Clarendon building, 48 Broad Street, OX1 3AZ at 12.00 noon. For more info contact Honor at [honorroberts@hotmail.com](mailto:honorroberts@hotmail.com)

**Tailpiece:** An old legend tells us that when God was creating the world the angels were in awe and they asked Him if they could give it a try. God agreed, so the animal-creation committee set to work and designed the platypus – a creature with the bill of a duck, the fur of a dog, the tail of a beaver, and the feet of a frog. ... Since that day there have been no committees in heaven.

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