



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday of Lent

17th March, 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

(01865) 455182 • sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk • www.sacredheartoxford.com

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, 17 th March Fifth Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments Dementia Prayer Week	(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's) 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (3.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Carlota Maria da Costa Private Intention Methodear Method Kathleen Davey Beatrice Awe The People of the Parish
Monday, 18 th March Op. Comm. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Dementia Prayer Week	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Nalini (Silver Anniversary)
Tuesday, 19 th March Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary Dementia Prayer Week	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Eddie Wager
Wednesday, 20 th March	No Public Mass Today	Felix Saulong
Thursday, 21 st March	6.15 pm Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Mass	Mary Doyle
Friday, 22 nd March	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)	Michael Jennings (50 th Anniv.)
Saturday, 23 rd March Op. Comm. of St. Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Sarah McVeigh The People of the Parish
Sunday, 24 th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Private Intention Cecilia Michael Sr. Mary (Birthday) Special Intention
Confessions: Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am (Confessions at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

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>

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.

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, Eileen McGarry, Rosa Fernandes, Miguel Balbag, Keelin Trahearn, Cheryl Jones 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 Pat Mazonowicz, Lisa O'Brien, Anne Dewdney, Amelia Frances Roach, Margaret Stevens, Anne McCarthy and Madeline Dandridge who died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishops Bernard Ullathorne OSB and Francis Joseph Grimshaw, Frs. William Madden, Andrew Brennan and Laurence Crowe, Deacons Thomas Ashcroft and John Higgins, and also Edward and Eileen James, Mary McAndrew. 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.

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.

The statues in the church. Before the liturgical reforms of the 1960s, the 5th Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday because one of the Gospel accounts of the Passion of Our Lord would be read. To mark that, the statues in the church will be veiled from today until Holy Saturday. The signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion and death.

Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church's year. We shall begin at the entrance to the church with the blessing of palms, and we shall then process to the altar.

Easter Triduum. There is a list on the table at the back of church inviting people to sign up for various roles at the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday – welcoming, having feet washed, watching at the altar of repose. There is plenty for everyone so please don't be shy.

The Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday, 27th March, 11.30 am in St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation. Because 25th March this year falls in Holy Week, the Annunciation will be deferred and will be celebrated after Easter.

Easter Cards. I hope you like the cards. Please take one away with you and one for your neighbour. Besides Easter greetings, it has all the times of the Holy Week Masses and Liturgies and I look forward to seeing you.

Dementia Prayer Week, 12-19th March. Please pray for those suffering with dementia, and those who care for them. Prayers, short videos, printable materials, and other resources can be found at [Dementia Prayer Week | RP Books](#)

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. 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.

Easter Raffle. *Tickets are available after Mass for the great Easter Egg raffle. Have a go and perhaps win a great quality Egg. Proceeds will go to support the work of the De La Salle Brothers.*

National Novena to St. Joseph, 10-18 March. Join St. Joseph's Missionary Society (Mill Hill Missionaries). Novena Masses will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Maidenhead, at 10.00 am on weekdays and Saturday (16th), and 11.00 am on Sunday (10th & 17th). Evening Prayer will be at 6.00 pm daily during the Novena. These will be on Zoom, www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena



The Kenelm Youth Trust will be travelling to Lourdes on the annual Diocesan pilgrimage. Over 16's have the opportunity to travel to Lourdes with the trust to serve in the Accueil and take part in all aspects of the pilgrimage. Any young people who are interested can find all the information they need at: <https://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/lourdes.html> or email Libby - libby.cox@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Tailpiece: A priest announced one Sunday that he was being moved to another part of the Diocese. He was quite touched after Mass to find an elderly man sitting at the back of the church with his head in his hands and his eyes full of tears. He tried to reassure him. "Don't get upset," he said, "there will soon be another priest here and I've no doubt he will be a lot better than me." "Oh no, he won't," said the old man. "The last priest said that when he left and it wasn't true."

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