



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Easter

14th April, 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, 14 th April Third Sunday of Easter	Saturday Evening 8.00 pm Easter Vigil 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	Fr. Peter Dooley (Anniversary) Private Intention Martinho Amaral Laurie Debono (3 rd Anniversary) Fransisca Fatima and Manuel Fatima Tilwan
Monday, 15 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Sheila Jennings (Intentions)
Tuesday, 16 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School)	Mrs Susan Lawson
Wednesday, 17 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 18 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Ercia F. G. Andrade (Thanksgiving)
Friday, 19 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 12.30 pm Requiem Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Amelia Francis Peggy Upham
Saturday, 20 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Edward and Mary Murphy Mercedes Carrera (2 nd Anniversary)
Sunday, 21 st April Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	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 Mabel (Intentions) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday 10.30 – 11.30 am (Confessions at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart today, especially if you are new here or visiting for the Easter holidays.

The Easter Season

The Easter Season began on Easter Sunday and it ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday. These fifty days are a very special time and, as St. Athanasius wrote, they “are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday.”

Easter Duties. Remember! The Church says that all Catholics who have made their First Holy Communion should receive the Holy Eucharist sometime between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter Communion.



*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 wish to join the Mass from your home go to: <https://www.mcn.live/Camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

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 Amelia Francis, Susana Lee and Gillian Phipps who died recently, and all whose anniversaries are at this time: Frs. Anthony Browne, Peter Moore, Reginald Slade, Patrick Downey, and Antony Conlon, and also Laurie Debono, Mercedes Carrera, Dorothy Byrne, Edward Murphy and Phyllis Hilsdon. May they rest in peace. The funeral of Susana Lee will take place at Greyfriars this coming Wednesday, 17th April, at 11.00 am, followed by her burial at Botley Cemetery. The funeral of Amelia Francis will take place here at Sacred Heart church this coming Friday, 19th April, at 12.30 pm, followed by committal at Barton Crematorium.

Prayer at the end of Mass:

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

**O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

**Remember: refreshments are available in the hall
after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays.
Come and have a chat with friends.**

Work Experience opportunity for young adults with the SVP and CAFOD. The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are offering residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. It will be 7th–13th July in London. Candidates must be aged 20-30 years old and have a passion for social justice. For more info go to SarahB@svp.org.uk or khutchinson@cafod.org.uk.

Opposing the decriminalisation of abortion. The government's flagship Criminal Justice Bill has two important amendments that could fundamentally change our laws on abortion. You can write to your local MP to make your voice heard on this important issue. (Pre-printed cards are available on the table if you want them).

Gift Aid Boxes. Thank you to those who have collected their new Gift Aid envelopes, and a reminder to those who have yet to do so that they are available at the back of the church. Please let Sally McVeigh know if you no longer need the boxes. Thank you.

Annual Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. An invitation is extended to married couples, those celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year, to the annual Mass for Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham on Saturday 4th May at 12 Noon, followed by light refreshments. Please visit www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass.

Year of Prayer. The next Deanery talk about Prayer will be given by Br. Martin Mikuskiewicz OFM (Cap) at Greyfriars, Iffley Rd, Tuesday, 16th April, 7.00-8.00 pm.

Parish Forum Meeting. Next Sunday, 21st April, at 4.00 pm we shall have a meeting in the hall to plan events for the next few months. All are welcome, and since this is something for all the parish it would be good if representatives of all ages and nationalities in our community could be there, please.

Gardening Morning. All the grass, trees, litter and weeds around the church are growing well now that Spring is here, and it will need a big effort to get everything looking good. If you can spare the time there will be a "gardening morning" here on Saturday, 27th April, 8.00 – 12.00 am. Please bring whatever equipment you think might be useful.

The SJOG Homes for Ukraine Scheme seeks sponsors who have a spare bedroom in their home or empty property that could accommodate an individual or family for 6 months, to help those who are fleeing the war settle into life in the UK. For more information contact homesforukraine@SJOG.org.uk or visit the website at <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>.

Next Sunday is "Good Shepherd Sunday". It is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations when we pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese. There will be the annual collection at Masses for the Clergy Training Fund which supports our seminarians and diaconate students.

Tailpiece: A priest was being moved from his parish, and so he went round to explain and say goodbye to his parishioners. One dear elderly lady lamented, "O, Father, it is we old women who will miss you most. We always felt that you are one of us."

**May God bless you and all those whom you love.
Fr. Harry**