

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

Mass Times, Intentions and Services		
Easter Sunday 12 th April	09:30	Mass in Private for Larry Gardner RIP Mass in Private for John PM - RIP
Monday 13 th March	09:00	Mass in private for all Heath Workers
Tuesday 14 th March	19:30	Mass in private for all students and young people
Wednesday 15 th April	09:00	Mass in private for All died from COVID 19
Thursday 16 th April	19:00	Mass in private for all suffering from COVID 19
Friday 17 th April	19:00	Mass in private for the wellbeing of our parish
Saturday 18 th April	10:00	Mass in private for Government and policy makers
Sunday 19 th April	09:30 18:00	Mass in Private -Mary & Edward Murphy Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated

Offertory (collections): Normal weekend collections cannot be taken under current circumstances. While recognising that this is a very difficult time financially for many people, others may still wish to continue their regular Sunday donations, if they are not already using the envelopes or standing order facilities. Donations may be sent to the Parish even through standing order. We do not receive any financial support from the Diocese, and other important activities like letting out the hall for community use have ceased, while our expenditure remains effectively the same.

Dear all, this year year's Holy Week finds us all in an unusual and unprecedented territory. The gift of oneself, of a sacrifice made out of love, are deeds that save and give hope to this world of ours. This is precisely what Jesus did during Easter; he donated his own life so that ours could become "new lives". The Resurrection is our hope, it is the sign telling us that goodness always triumphs, that life is stronger than death. May the lord help us in overcoming together life's difficult moments! A blessed Easter to you and your loved ones.

Please, we also remember in our prayers the Late Harold Hicks who will be laid to rest on the 28th of April at Oxford Crematorium. May God grant consolation to the deceased family and eternal repose to his soul. Fr Pius Duke.

News**Mass Suspension Information**

COVID 19: If you or someone you know in the parish is self-isolating and is in need of any support, such as help with shopping or a chat on the phone, please get in touch with the Parish Office: Email: sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com Phone: 01865 776903 or 01865 762964. Corpus Christi Parish in Headington will continue to be live streaming weekday and Sunday Mass, and more details can be found at <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk> Also, you can please visit the parish website: <https://sacredheartoxford.com> <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>

EASTER SUNDAY REFLECTION

Easter is the most important Feast of the liturgical year. On this feast day we joyfully celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the greatest and the most solemn feast in the Church, for the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest of all miracles – it proves that Jesus Christ is truly God. It is the feast of joy and triumph. It is the feast of Jesus' victory over sin and death. It is the feast of Jesus freeing us from the bondage of sin and death. It is the feast of Jesus transforming us and making us a new creation – He gives us a new heart and a new life in the Holy Spirit.

'Easter' literally means 'the feast of fresh flowers,' and we celebrate it as a feast of new life with intense pride and great jubilation knowing that Jesus' life on earth did not end with his death and burial. He rose on the third day, as the Gospel tells us.

Although the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the basis of our Christian faith (i.e. all the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of it), we still have people who deny it outrightly. They try to bring different false allegations against its truth and reality. In the Readings, we have the testimony of Peter and John who declare that they had direct experience of the Risen Lord. The Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles from which we get their testimony are historical accounts and not works of fiction. Therefore, those who challenge Christianity challenge the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. St Paul tells us today that along with Christ we too have risen to a new life in the spirit through our baptism and so from now on we should live with our eyes fixed on heaven and not on earth.

As we celebrate Easter, let us pray for the deceased families of the COVID 19 pandemic that they may experience the joy and peace of the Risen Christ and that those who die in Christ will rise to new life at the end of time.

Happy Easter to you all!

Masses will be celebrated each day privately by the parish clergy for your intentions. New Mass intention should be sent to sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com.

Intercessions for Easter Sunday Mass

The prayers below can be used to aid our spiritual reflection over the coming week. As we celebrate the Risen Lord, in these very difficult times, we turn humbly to him in hope and place the needs of the Church and the World into his loving care:

1. We pray for all who are seriously ill, in mind or body, including those suffering with COVID-19, whether in hospitals or within the wider community. That they will respond to the care and treatment they receive and be restored to health. **Lord in your mercy...**
2. We pray for all who have to put themselves at personal risk to provide care and necessary services for others. Keep them, and their families, safe O Lord and guide their minds and hands to do your work. **Lord in your mercy...**
3. We pray for our families, for the young and the old and all who live on their own. May these times serve to bring us all closer together as a community of love and faith. **Lord in your mercy...**
4. As Easter dawns we also pray for our fellow Christians in the Churches Together in Marston and Northway partnership. **Lord in your mercy...**
5. We pray for Fr Pius and Fr Vincent, for Fr Mervyn (our Dean) and all the priests, deacons, seminarians, and members of religious orders - working across the Oxford Deanery - witnessing to the Faith and bringing hope to those in need. May they be supported by us all as they strive to fulfil their ministries. **Lord in your mercy...**
6. We pray for the Pope and for leaders everywhere. May those with political and civic authority strive to uphold the Common Good, protecting the rights of all to be treated with dignity and respect and to receive healthcare, appropriate to their needs. **Lord in your mercy...**
7. We pray for all who are being adversely affected economically and whose livelihoods are interrupted at this time. May they not lose hope and soon find channels to fully utilise their skills and experience once more. **Lord in your mercy...**
8. We pray for all affected by war, natural disaster, or political division, who struggle for the basic essentials of life. We remember especially the peoples of the Holy Land - our Christian brothers and sisters - who are in particular need at this time. May the Lord inspire us to give generously to those less fortunate than ourselves. **Lord in your mercy...**
9. We pray for all who have died, that God will enfold them in his loving mercy and bring comfort to all who mourn their passing. **Lord in your mercy**
10. We pray for our own intentions.

We turn to Our Lady Queen of Heaven and ask her intercession and say **Hail Mary**

In uncertain times we may find this meditation from Saint John Henry Newman a help.

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.

(John Henry Newman, had strong Oxford connections, studying and then serving as an Anglican priest in Oxford. He, quite courageously, converted in mid-life and became a Catholic priest and ultimately Cardinal. He was renowned not only as a scholar, but as a great pastor and a man of letters. His writings on conscience and the importance of developing, and acting upon, an informed conscience, rather than mere blind obedience to authority, have had a strong influence on the teaching of the Church.)