



## Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 776903 • [sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com) • [www.sacredheartoxford.com](http://www.sacredheartoxford.com)

Acting Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke

Email: [fr.piush.duke@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.piush.duke@rcaob.org.uk)

Acting Priest: Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

| Mass Times, Intentions and Services |                |   |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|
|                                     |                |   |
| Sunday<br>05 <sup>th</sup> April    | 09:30<br>18:00 | Mass in Private Sabas & L Balbag - RIP<br>Mass in Private |
| Monday<br>06 <sup>th</sup> March    | 09:00          | Mass in private for all Heath Workers                     |
| Tuesday<br>07 <sup>th</sup> March   | 19:30          | Mass in private, Maria Warne - RIP                        |
| Wednesday<br>08 <sup>th</sup> April | 09:00          | Mass in private for All died from COVID 19                |
| Thursday<br>09 <sup>th</sup> April  | 19:00          | Mass in private for all suffering from COVID 19           |
| Friday<br>10 <sup>th</sup> April    | 19.00          | Mass in private for the wellbeing of our parish           |
| Saturday<br>11 <sup>th</sup> April  | 10:00          | Mass in private for Government and policy makers          |
| Sunday<br>12 <sup>th</sup> April    | 09:30<br>18:00 | Mass in Private Larry Gardner RIP<br>Mass in Private      |

**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.

### News

#### Mass Suspension Information

**COVID 19:** The church is now closed until further notice, in line with the Government's current regulations to protect ourselves and the vulnerable. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays is also suspended.

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](mailto: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>

**Palm Sunday Reflection from Fr. Pius Duke:** Today, Palm Sunday, we enter the Holy Week. We remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The Readings remind us of the passion and death of our Saviour. Today and throughout this Holy Week we shall do well to reflect on the trial, the condemnation, the suffering, and the death of our Lord. The prophet Isaiah speaks of the manner the Saviour was insulted and humiliated and yet how he was untouched by these humiliations. He bore them courageously with patience. God the Father will glorify him for humbling himself and willingly bearing all the humiliations. The Gospel speaks in detail about the passion of the Lord. The reading of these details should help us to understand better the gravity of our sins which caused these sufferings, the immensity of the love the Lord has for us which made him willingly undergo these sufferings, and how we should be careful not to add to his sufferings through our sins. It is an undeniable fact that this Holy Week will be different because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Undoubtedly many are suffering from the scourge. But the Lord will be with us even when we are like the disciples, fearful for our own safety rather than faithfulness to Jesus. He can and will turn even this crisis to redound to his glory.

**Masses will be celebrated each day privately by the parish clergy for your intentions. New Mass intention should be sent to [sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com)**

## Let us pray together as a parish....

We pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis, and all his bishops and priests, especially Fr Pius, Fr Vincent and Fr Mervyn. May these shepherds of your flock guide us in our spiritual preparation for Holy Week. **Lord hear us...**

We pray for our local catholic parish communities, especially St Anthony of Padua and Corpus Christi in Headington. May we remain steadfast, both in our faith and in our love and support for each other. **Lord hear us ...**

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against the Coronavirus, that has claimed lives and affected so many people. We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and of its disease and of stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and the minds of medical staff and experts that they may minister to the sick with love, compassion and skill. We pray for all those who have died from COVID-19 and for their families and friends. May the Lord bring them to the glory of heaven. We pray for all who are ill from the virus, that the Lord may heal them soon through the ministry of others. We pray for all who work in any way at this time to keep our society functioning – those who are involved with producing, selling and delivering goods, those who keep our transport systems going, and all those in other front line jobs. We pray for all who are struggling with isolation, loneliness and financial problems. Give us all the grace to deepen our faith and trust in you Lord, and so support each other every way we can.

(Those of us who attend live streaming of Mass with Fr Mervyn at Corpus Christi will hear him use this prayer at every Mass).

**Lord hear us ...**

We pray for all those who continue to suffer in our world as a result of war, migration, starvation and illness, but whose plight no longer reaches the headlines. Let us not forget the sorrow of others in the midst of our own concerns. **Lord hear us ....**

Let us say together, **Hail Mary ....**

**In conclusion:** O blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother. Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee, in our heavenly home. **Amen.**

(England was first dedicated to Our Lady by King Richard II in 1381, and on March 29th our country was re-dedicated to the Virgin Mary. A newly painted icon was taken to Rome by Archbishop Cardinal Vincent Nichols in February where it was blessed by the Pope before it was returned to the shrine at Walsingham)