



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th October, 2020

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 4 th October Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00 am 6.00 pm	Edward & Mary Murphy (RIP) Maryamma Thomas (RIP)
Monday, 5 th October	9.15 am Mass	Ancy Joseph
Tuesday, 6 th October <i>Optional Memorial of St. Bruno, Priest</i>	No Mass Today	
Wednesday, 7 th October <i>Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 8 th October	<i>6.00 pm Exposition with Confessions</i> 7.00 pm Mass	Vimala (Thanksgiving)
Friday, 9 th October <i>Feast of St. John Henry Newman, Priest</i>	No Mass Today	
Saturday, 10 th October <i>Optional Memorial of St. Paulinus of York</i>	No Mass Today	
Sunday, 11 th October Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Prisons Week	9.00 am 6.00 pm	The People of the Parish Joy Thomas (RIP)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church, especially if you are here for the first time for a long time.

Please pray for those we know who are sick. If you are ill and you would like your name to be mentioned on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Similarly, if a family member is ill, please let me know in writing.

Please pray for **Antonio Abreu, Delia Simmons**, and all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time, including: HH Pope John Paul I, Mgr. Henry Farrelly, Frs. Edward Cotter, Laurence Daly, Denis Mary Egan, William McGann, John Nightingale, John Danaher, Deacons Tony Colby and John Burrows. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Sacraments. I am available for Confessions on Thursday evenings, 6.00-6.45. If you would like to arrange a Baptism or a Marriage, please call me.

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ”. When I was at school, the lower school was divided into four “houses”, one of which was named after St. Jerome. I confess that at that time I didn’t know anything about Jerome, but not being in that house I was prepared not to like him. Over the years I have discovered more about him, and I have to admit that he was an extraordinary man who performed a unique and important task within the Church. St. Jerome was born in 340 in Strido, in Dalmatia (in Croatia). He studied in Rome and was baptized there. He then travelled to the East, where he was ordained a priest. He was recalled to Rome to act as secretary to Pope Damasus, but on the Pope’s death he returned to the East, to Bethlehem, where he founded a monastery, a hospice, and a school. He settled down there to the most important work of his life, the translation of the Bible into Latin, a translation which, with some revisions, is still in use today (the “Vulgate” Bible). His most famous phrase, urging people to study the Bible, was “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ”. Have you ever tried to copy out by hand just one chapter of the Bible? It’s a lot of work. Well, think of the work involved in copying out the whole Bible! Then think of the extra work that it took not just to copy it but to translate it! On top of that he wrote many works of his own, including letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture. He died in Bethlehem in 420. This last week marked the 16th centenary of his death, and for the occasion Pope Francis published an apostolic letter called “Scripturae Sacrae affectus” (“Devotion to Sacred Scripture”), reminding us of the importance of the revealed word of God. He told pilgrims in Rome, “May the example of this great doctor and father of the church, who placed the Bible at the centre of his life, awaken in us a renewed love for the Sacred Scripture and the desire to live in a personal dialogue with the word of God.”

If you cannot get to Mass – and the Sunday obligation to attend Mass has been lifted for the time being – you can still join in by watching a live Mass via the wonders of modern technology. Here is a prayer, an Act of Spiritual Communion, which you can say as you watch a Livestream Mass:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.”

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. Amen..

Updated Restrictions For Places Of Worship. Since Monday, 28th September, the following changes to government restrictions have come into effect:

- Weddings: attendance is now limited to 15 people.
- Baptisms: For baptisms outside of the context of a parish Mass, attendance is limited to 6 people. For baptisms in the context of a parish Mass, the capacity limit of the church applies.
- Funerals: no change i.e. attendance limited to 30 people.
- Mass: If you are attending Mass with others, then the group should not exceed 6 people. A group of six can be made up of people from outside your household, but social distancing must be maintained between members of different households. The only exception to this new rule is where a single household (or support bubble) contains more than six people, but the same rules on social interaction with others outside of the group apply.
- Confirmation & First Holy Communion: In the context of a parish Mass, the normal capacity limit of the church applies. If it is not within a Mass then only six may attend.

PLEASE REMAIN VIGILANT. Wear a face covering in the church and keep a safe distance from other people. If you or anyone with whom you have been in contact has symptoms of Covid-19 please do not come to church. Thank you for your co-operation with these measures to help stem the spread of Covid-19 and keep those attending our church safe. 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: sacredheartchurch.oxford@gmail.com Phone: 01865 776903. Live streaming of the Mass each day is available at: <http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/>; <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk> <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>

NHS Track and Trace System. Government guidance states that churches should assist NHS Track & Trace by keeping a record of those who come to church. So, I ask you each time you come to Mass to provide your contact details, please. You can do this in one of two ways: EITHER download the NHS Test & Trace app to your smartphone and scan the QR code for our church on the posters in the porch, OR give your name and phone number to the stewards as you arrive. Thank you.

Gift Aid. Gift Aid envelopes for the financial year 2020/21 are now available in the hall. If you haven't already done so, please take your box, avoiding touching the others.

If you are paying income tax in the UK and you are not currently Gift Aiding your offertory gifts, please consider doing so. Contact Sally McVeigh or Chris Beward) to complete gift aid forms.

Census. Please return your census form if you have not done so yet; if you have lost the form, email Chris Beward at sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk.

Rosary: October is the month of the Rosary, and you are welcome to join me to pray five Decades on Monday and Thursday after Mass during the month.

Holy Hour at the church of Blessed Dominic Barberi at Littlemore, Tuesday, 8th October, 8.30-9.30 pm.

Confessions available. This is commemorating the arrival of Blessed Dominic Barberi and the anniversary of St. John Henry Newman's reception into “the One Fold of the Redeemer”. Unfortunately, this year no organised Night Walk can take place, but you might like to do it privately.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. Last Friday we were asked to give up some food and give the money that we saved to help the work of CAFOD. Please put any donations (in a CAFOD envelope), with your offering to the Church, into the collection basket as you leave after Mass today. If you can Gift Aid your donation that would help CAFOD even more. Thank you.

Tailpiece: One day, a devout shepherd lost his Bible. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, “It's a miracle!” “Not really,” replied the sheep. “Your name is written inside the cover.”

May God bless you and all those whom you love, and keep you safe. Fr. Harry.