



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Remembrance Sunday

8th November, 2020

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Sunday, 8 th November Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	9.00 am (<i>Zoom live</i>)	<i>Cecile - Thanksgiving</i>
Monday, 9 th November <i>Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Tuesday, 10 th November <i>Memorial of St. Leo the Great, Pope</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 11 th November <i>Memorial of St. Martin of Tours, Bishop</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 12 th November <i>Memorial of St. Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr</i>	7.00 pm Mass (<i>Zoom live</i>)	<i>Eugenia L Pereira</i>
Friday, 13 th November	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 14 th November	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 15 th November Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>World Day of the Poor</i>	9.00 am (<i>Zoom live</i>)	<i>Patrick and Mary McGroarty</i>

I would love to be able to say “Welcome to Sacred Heart Church”, but once again Covid-19 has prevented us from meeting ‘live’. But to each I say, “God bless you. Let’s pray for one another.”

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 Kathleen Hill, Noleen (Bernie) Keenan and Fr. Thomas Williams who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Frs. Francis Stanbridge, Francis Dawson, Derek Edwards, John Drinkwater, Cyril Duck, Michael O’Keefe, Petroc Howell, Deacon John Burton, and also Joseph Mgungwe, Frederick Gardner, Arthur Bliss. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Remembrance Sunday. My father, who served in the Royal Artillery throughout the Second World War, never spoke much about his experiences. He was normally a very calm man, but he used to get a bit twitchy round this time of year, and one time, when someone had said the normal phrase that these people gave their lives for their country he burst out, “Most of them didn’t give their lives, they had them taken away.” Of course, I was very young and filled with a lot of romantic ideas of war, fed by avid reading of comic books, and I said to him eagerly, “Did you kill anyone during the War, Dad?” I could not understand why he looked so sad as he replied, “Yes, I suppose I did.” Today is Remembrance Sunday and we remember and honour those who died in conflicts, especially in the 20th and 21st Centuries, and we pray for them. But we also pray for peace. We pray for leaders of countries and states that they may work for justice and try to avoid the horrors of war. War can sometimes seem impersonal to us, almost a spectator sport or something to enjoy in comics, but we must never tire of working for peace. As the Vatican II document Gaudium et Spes (78) says: “Peace is not merely the absence of war; nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; ... Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called an enterprise of justice. Peace results from that order structured into human society by its divine Founder.” I once did a Google search of my name (O, vanity!) and the hairs on the back of my neck rose as I read about Lieutenant Harry Curtis of the US Army. He was killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 on Christmas Day. That felt very personal indeed! May he, and all who have died in conflicts, rest in peace. Amen.



Lockdown, Mark 2

Well, here we go again! As you will have heard, the Government has announced a new period of national lockdown to try to control the coronavirus, and unfortunately, this includes places of worship.

From the morning of Thursday, 5th November, onwards I shall not be allowed to celebrate Mass with a congregation. Our church of the Sacred Heart will be closed until this lockdown is ended. This means that our planned celebrations for this coming weekend, when some of our children would have been receiving their First Holy Communion, will have to be postponed, and our Parish Memorial Mass for those who have died will be cancelled for this year.

However, I shall continue to celebrate Mass privately throughout the lockdown, and these celebrations will be livestreamed on Sunday mornings at 9.00 and on Thursday evenings at 7.00. I am very grateful to our technicians who are going to make this possible, and I invite you to join me from the comfort of your homes. The names of those who have died will remain below the altar and will be prayed for throughout this month. If you would like further names to be added, please let me know.

For many people the thought of a further period of lockdown is very worrying. If you or someone you know in the parish would like any support, such as help with shopping or a chat on the phone, please get in touch with me. For the time being it would be best to contact me at fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk, or phone 01865 770910.

There will be an end to this, and I shall look forward to seeing you all at the end of it. May God bless you all and keep you safe.

May I suggest that each day, at 6.00 in the evening, you pause and pray for the people that you normally would see at Mass on Sundays. That way we can be united in prayer in a very real way.

The Sunday obligation to attend Mass has, of course, been lifted for the time being. Nevertheless, you can still join in by watching a live Mass via the wonders of modern technology. Live streaming of the Mass each day is available at: <http://www.stanthonyofpadua.org.uk/>; <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk> <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>. 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.*

November is traditionally the month when we pray for those who have died:

- **November Prayers for the Dead.** The names of those for whom you wish to pray during November are in the box under the altar and they will be remembered at Mass during the month.
- **As things stand we shall not be able to celebrate a Parish Memorial Mass together for those in the parish and our family/friends who have died.** Nevertheless, I hope that it may be possible to Zoom the Mass on Saturday, 28th November, at 11.00 am. If you would like anyone's name to be included in this special commemoration please let me know (in writing).

- **Remembrance Sunday.** At the end of Mass today we shall have a short ceremony to pray for those who died in wars and for peace.

Tailpiece: An update for Christmas: There will be absentees from the Crib this year because the Three Wise Men face a travel ban and the shepherds have been furloughed. The innkeeper has shut under Tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings. Santa will not be allowed to work this year as he would be breaking the Rule of Six with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolf, with that red nose he should be isolating and taking a test."

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