



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Advent

20th December, 2020

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Sunday, 20 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Mary Quigley Elizabeth RIP</i>
Monday, 21 st December <i>Commemoration of St. Peter Canisius</i>	9.15 am Mass, followed by Confessions until 11.00 am 7.00 pm Carol Service (by Zoom)	<i>Jose & Family- Intention</i>
Tuesday, 22 nd December	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 23 rd December <i>Commemoration of St. John of Kenty, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 24 th December Christmas Eve	6.00 pm Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Friday, 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	9.00 am Mass	<i>Michael Cullen - RIP</i>
Saturday, 26 th December <i>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 27 th December FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>The People of the Parish The People of the Parish</i>

Confessions: Monday 10.00 – 11.00 am

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church on the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Please pray for **Ronald Rowles**, and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr. Patrick O'Mahoney, Mgr. Canons William Flint and Thomas Gavin, Frs. Patrick Wall, Edmund Motherway, Anthony Ireland, Thomas N Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe and Seamus McInerney, and also Robert Craig and Cherry Judith Smith. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Bubbles



Our Christmas tree is here. Instead of it being just a decoration I should like to use it symbolically to represent something of the message of Christmas. Christmas is all about God's love for us, demonstrated in the birth of Jesus. It is also demonstrated in the way we receive and pass on that love.

We have all become very "bubbles" this year, and would be nice to decorate (which look suspiciously like baubles!) The children at the school have decorations for us. A BIG THANK YOU TO all of the parish and our visitors are invited to bubbles, the name(s) of anyone who has shown them love and who holds a special place in their hearts – probably the people in your social bubble. The bubble will be hung on the tree. The many bubbles will then become a testament to the presence of love in the world – and the way in which, individually, our lives have been enriched by love.



conscious of being in therefore I thought it the tree with bubbles like baubles!) The made some beautiful THEM. All members write, on one of the

Our Christmas tree will then become a testimony to love in the world, and in our own local community.

Please pray for those we know who are sick. If you or family members are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank 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.

Sunday Mass at home: If you can't come to church yet please watch Mass as it is streamed live, if that is possible

An Act of Spiritual Communion:

"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."

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can

buy a candle that will be blessed at Christmas and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the statues of the Sacred Heart or Our Lady for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be for any reason you want: to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present?

Advent Carol Service. We shall be having a service of carols and readings in the church on Monday, 21st December at 7.00 pm. Unfortunately, it will have to be different this year because we can't gather indoors to sing, so what I propose to do is to livestream the service so that there will be just a few musicians in the church and everyone else can join in from the comfort of their own home.



Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church asks us to pray for all those who live and work at sea. Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. For an appeal talk, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. They need our support to continue their work. To donate, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. I am very conscious that I haven't been here long, but if you wish to make an offering there are envelopes available as you go out. Thank you.

Crib Offerings. We shall be donating crib offerings this year to Friends of the Holy Land to help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". The second part of Advent is marked by the "O Antiphons" which highlight a different title each day for the Messiah and invite Him into our hearts: **O Sapientia** (O Wisdom), **O Adonai** (O Lord), **O Radix Jesse** (O Root of Jesse), **O Clavis David** (O Key of David), **O Oriens** (O Rising Sun), **O Rex Gentium** (O King of the Nations), and **O Emmanuel**.

Christmas Mass times at Sacred Heart

Confessions: Monday, 21st December 10.00 - 11.00 am
CHRISTMAS EVE: 6.00 pm MASS
CHRISTMAS DAY 9.00 am MASS
WEEKEND MASS TIMES AS USUAL
NEW YEAR'S EVE: 11.15 pm MASS
NEW YEAR'S DAY: 10.00 am MASS

CAFOD World Gifts. World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

Safeguarding. If you need to contact the Archdiocese of Birmingham Safeguarding Team call 0121 230 6240 or by email: safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk.

Diocesan Directories. The new directories are now available. If you want to know anything about our diocese, then this is the book you need, £4.50.

Tailpiece: A thoughtful, rather than a funny one for the last Sunday before Christmas, told by Cardinal Heenan. There was once a sick old lady in Wapping, in the East End of London. Over her bed she had a picture of Our Lady. The doctor, probably meaning no harm but fairly young and ignorant, said, "Well, Granny, who is the film star over the bed?" "Film star?" said she. "That is the Virgin Mother." "Virgin Mother?" said the doctor, "Virgin Mother? Why, there never was such a Mother." "Ah, doctor," she replied, "There never was such a Son."

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your welcome to me in this very strange year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.

Fr. Harry