



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

10th January, 2021

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley, 01865 770910)

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Sunday, 10 th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Sally McVeigh - Thanksgiving The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 11 th January	9.15 am Mass	<i>Annie McHugh & Matthew McHugh</i>
Tuesday, 12 th January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 13 th January <i>Optional Memorial of St. Hilary, Bishop</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 14 th January	<i>6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass	<i>May Staunton</i>
Friday, 15 th January	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 16 th January	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 17 th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Peace Day	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Patsy O'Neill The People of the Parish</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today,

especially if you are visiting our parish for the holidays.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and Christmastide ends this evening.

Tomorrow we return to "Ordinary Time" in the Church's Year.

Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle B, and Weekday readings are from Year 1.

Please pray for **Helen Towey, Winnie Gildea, Jean Bradley** and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. John Clegg, Canon Matt Corrigan, Frs. Philip Wyles, Patrick Farrelly, Peter Tuite, James Bromley, Patrick McSwiney, Robert Kirby, Benedict O'Gorman, Gerard Peuleve, Cyril Bennett, Deacons William Murphy, Thomas Mark Carter, and Brian Dockerty and also John Shanahan, Graciana Zgambo and Columb Whelan. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

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.

Peace Sunday. Next Sunday is a day of prayer for peace on earth.

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."

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.





Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can buy a candle and which 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?

The assisted suicide lobby are currently running a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. Thankfully, the Government has so far resisted these attempts and emphasised their commitment to neutrality on this issue. The Church holds that it is important that the Government continues to hold strong against pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and rejects their demands. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool to enable you to email your MP asking the Government not to give in to the demands. It only takes about half a minute to email your MP. Go to <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

Sacramental Preparation. Once again, the coronavirus COVID-19 has forced us to change our plans for your child's First Holy Communion. As you know, I had hoped that it would be possible for your child to make his/her First Confession over the next two weeks and then receive Holy Communion for the first time, either on 17th or 24th January. I am very sorry to say that this will no longer be possible. Going on the latest announcements from the Prime Minister I think we must now look to dates after Easter, late April or early May, for the children to make their First Holy Communion. Hopefully, the situation will have improved by then and, who knows, perhaps by then we shall even be able to have a party for the children afterwards and do the celebrations properly.

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

Well, here we are in lockdown again. I think we saw it coming, but it is still hard to take. However, there are two key differences this time. The first is, as we have all heard several times already, this time we have hope that the new vaccines will help to bring an end to the worst of the pandemic. Our exile will come to an end in the foreseeable future. The second is that so far churches have not been closed. Although we are told to stay at home, we can come out for communal worship. If we take the precautions that we have become used to – masks, sanitising and social distancing – we can gather in church for Mass.

If you are unable to come to church – and if you are in any doubt, then please stay away – you can still join in with the Mass through our livestreaming service. Here at Sacred Heart you can watch the Mass through Zoom, or at Our Lady's in Cowley the camera is live and can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians> If you haven't tried it yet then I recommend it.

if you want to have a chat with me – and it doesn't have to be about religious matters – then please call me on 01865 770910.

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Baptism. In our Diocese today we pray for parents and grandparents as they witness to the love and mercy of God in their families and teach their children the faith. I invite families to repeat this action described by Pope Francis.

'What can be more beautiful than for a father and mother (grandfather, grandmother) to bless their children at the beginning and end of each day, to trace on their forehead the sign of the cross, as they did on the day of their baptism? Is this not the simplest prayer which parents can offer for their children? To bless them, that is, to entrust them to the Lord.'

Tailpiece: A mother was watching her two little boys through her kitchen window as they played outside. Suddenly the elder of the two grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and pushed his face into a puddle in a pothole. She ran into the yard in a panic. "What on earth were you doing?" she demanded as she dried the younger child. "We were just playing Church, Mummy," the offender explained. "I was baptising him ... in the name of the Father, and of the Son and in the hole-e-goes."

May God bless you and all those dear to you.
Fr. Harry

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.

Christmas Decorations. Christmastide in the Church's calendar finishes this evening. I had meant to take the crib and decorations down by now, but as you can see they remain in place for today. Thank you to everyone who put a prayer bubble on the tree as a symbol of love. It helped us to appreciate the coming of Jesus, the love of God made visible. And thank you to everyone who helped to make the church so beautiful and prayerful for us this Christmastide.

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.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Jesus. It is a good day to reflect on our own