



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## Second Sunday after the Nativity

3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2021

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 776903 • [sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) • [www.sacredheartoxford.com](http://www.sacredheartoxford.com)

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

Email: [fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.harry.curtis@rcaob.org.uk)

Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January <b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY</b>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Mary Doyle-Thanksgiving John &amp; Family-Thanksgiving</i>
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January	9.15 am Mass	<i>Christo-Thanksgiving</i>
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	9.00 am Mass	<i>Priests Around the World</i>
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Raymond of Peñafort</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Sally McVeigh - Thanksgiving The People of the Parish</i>

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today,

especially if you are visiting our parish for the holidays.

Christmastide ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Please pray for all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Martin Power, Frs. Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, Francis Dwyer, Philip Smith, John P. Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley and Charles Becker, and also Jane Scott and Marsella Doherty. 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.

**Tier 4.** As you know, because of the rapid spread of the Coronavirus we have now been moved into Tier 4 where we are encouraged not to leave home if it can be avoided. So far, Places of Worship are still allowed to open for public services – and we shall continue to do so here at Sacred Heart until we are told otherwise.

**Sunday Mass at home:** If you can't come to church yet please watch Mass as it is streamed live, if that is possible for you. If you wish to join me at Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass from your home. We are now live and all the action (24/7) can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

### 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.

I shall be away from Wednesday afternoon until Friday evening this week. That means there will be no Holy Hour and Mass here on Thursday evening this week. Normal service will resume next week.

**The Solemnity of the Epiphany.** After many years when this feast was celebrated on the nearest Sunday, it has now been reinstated on its proper date, 6<sup>th</sup> January. In a normal year it would be a Holyday of Obligation when we are obliged to attend Mass. This year, because of the pandemic, the obligation is removed and if, because of your health, you are in any doubt whether to come, then please do not. If you are able to access our livestreaming you can take part in the Mass in that way. Mass here that day will be at 9.00 am.

**Sacramental Preparation.** It has been a very difficult and frustrating period of preparation for the children who were hoping to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time last Summer. I am grateful to the teachers at Our Lady's School and St John Fisher School for making it possible for them to complete the preparation in their "bubbles" at school. That has been a great blessing. It is impossible to make firm plans under the COVID-19 dominated circumstances, but I am hoping that they will be able to make their First Holy Communion, either here or at Our Lady Help of Christians in Cowley, on one of two Sundays: 17<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> January. The reason for a choice of Sundays is to try to limit the numbers of people attending without restricting the number of family members. I regret, but we cannot have a party after Mass.



**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?

**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>

**Where's Duck???** A game for children. Duck wanted to come to church for Christmas and now he's hiding somewhere in the church with a small friend. There will be a small prize for the first child who can tell me where they are.



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

**Christmas Decorations.** Christmastide in the Church's calendar doesn't end until next Sunday. So, although it is traditional to take down the Christmas decorations by "twelfth night" our decorations in Sacred Heart church will be left in place until next Sunday evening when we shall take the Tree down and put the decorations into storage for another year. 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.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.** The traditional time for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January, the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. This year it has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. They chose a theme based on ***John 15:1-17: Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.***

**Tailpiece:** A prayer as we enter the new year.

Dear Lord, so far this year I've done well.  
I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I  
haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or  
overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that.  
But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to have to get  
out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to  
need a lot more help, please. Amen.

***Thank you all again for your Christmas offerings and for the many individual gifts and cards that I received. I hope you had as happy a Christmas as I did, and that God may bless you in 2021. Fr. Harry***