



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Easter

25th April, 2021

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**Happy Easter tide, everyone.
Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!**

Sunday, 25 th April Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Marissa Fereira da Costa - RIP The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 26 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.15 am	<i>Special Intention</i>
Tuesday, 27 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	12.00 noon <i>Requiem Mass</i>	<i>James Kinyanjui</i>
Wednesday, 28 th April <i>Op. Memorial of St. Peter Chanel, or of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 29 th April <i>Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Europe</i>	<i>6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Bridie Hamill (1st Anniversary)</i>
Friday, 30 th April <i>Optional Memorial of St. Pius V, Pope</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 1 st May <i>Op. Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 2 nd May Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Paddy McCartney (1st Anniversary) Luciano Da Silva and Rosa Da Silva</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today. If you have recently moved into this parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please say hello to me. Thank you.



The Easter Season

The Easter Season began on Easter Sunday, and ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday. These fifty days are a very special time and, as St. Athanasius wrote, they “are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday.” The joyful sound of “Alleluia!” is heard many times throughout this season.

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **James Kinyanjui, Kathleen Mullan, Aileen Young, Laurie De Bono** and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Joseph Bernard Hickson, Peter Cooney, Peter Heath, Thomas William O’Connor, Deacon James Fantham and also Ellen Monks, Vincent Murray, Bridie Hamill, Mary Whelan, Keiran Braiden and L. F. Peter. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Prayer at the end of Mass:

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

**O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

Mass at Home. You are welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass, but if you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we can Zoom the Mass to you. Alternatively, you could watch the Mass on Saturday, 5.30 pm, and/or Sunday, 11.00 am from Our Lady's where we are now live and can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

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."

First Holy Communions and Confirmations. I have received a few enquiries about what is happening about the children who are still awaiting these Sacraments from last year and also those who would like to prepare for them this year. The simple answer is that I still don't know. I am awaiting some guidance about what is or is not allowed in the way of preparation classes and celebrations. I hope that things may start moving again soon, so please keep watching for updates. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Day of Prayer. On Tuesday, 4th May, for the Church in England and Wales there will be a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse.

Pope's Prayer Intention for May: The World of Finance. Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

May is the Month of Our Lady. If you are coming to a parish weekday Mass, please come a little earlier and join me for the Rosary before Mass during the month.

Weddings and Baptisms. It is very good that restrictions are beginning to lift. At present, 15 people may attend a wedding, and from 17th May, 30 people may do so. For Baptisms, the Government covid roadmap permits the public celebration of Baptism after 17th May, when 30 people will be permitted to attend. I should therefore be grateful if couples who wish to get married here, or parents who wish to have their children baptised, could contact me (preferably by email or letter, please) to arrange some meetings and dates. Thank you.

However, please remember that COVID RESTRICTIONS STILL APPLY. Although covid restrictions are in the process of being lifted cautiously across society, restrictions in church remain unchanged. It is very important that we all continue to observe them for the safety of all who use our facilities. These include: sanitising your hands as you enter and leave the church, leaving contact details as you enter, wearing a face covering whilst in the building and maintaining at least one metre (+) distance from other people inside and outside the building. Thank you for your continued co-operation and consideration of others.

Vocations Sunday. Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray for an increase in Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese. There will be a collection at Masses this weekend for the Clergy Training Fund which helps to support our seminarians and diaconate students. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the hall as you leave today.

Take a gap year and volunteer with KYT. Young adults aged 18-25 are invited to consider spending a gap year with the Kenelm Youth Trust (KYT). Applications are now being taken for the Mission Team for the new academic year, starting in September 2021. This great opportunity is aimed at those who may be about to finish their studies at sixth form/college or university. Go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/brace-a-gap-year-and-volunteer-with-kyt for more information.

CAFOD "Reclaim our Common Home". This year, the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the 'COP26' climate talks. With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. You can sign Cafod's petition here <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/73304/petition/1>

If you have any questions, or would like to do more, please contact: rachel.breward@gmail.com

Tailpiece: Bloopers from church Bulletins:

- Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and meditation to follow.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptised at both ends.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married yesterday. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

May God bless you and all those you love.
Fr. Harry