



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday of Easter

2nd May, 2021

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 776903 • sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk • 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

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

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>
Monday, 3 rd May <i>Feast of St. Philip & St. James, Apostles</i>	9.15 am	<i>Luciano Da Silva</i>
Tuesday, 4 th May <i>Feast of the English Martyrs</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 5 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 6 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	<i>6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Friday, 7 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 8 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 9 th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Sophia Soares, Dinis Medeira & Carlota Das Pinto (RIP) Tom Sebastian (Thanksgiving)</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.

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.

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.

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 those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Joseph Gray, Canon Bernard Hirrill, Frs. David Duggan, Michael Byrne, James Dutton, Donal O'Connor, Francis Carr and Walter Joseph Joret, and also Paddy McCartney. 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."

"Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God"

Pope Francis is asking that during this month of May the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and, in a special way, he is inviting all of us to pray fervently for those most closely affected by it.

During each day of May, guided by a calendar with specific intentions, all the Shrines around the world, united in a communion of supplication, will lift up their prayers, which, like the fragrance of incense, will rise up to heaven.

Thirty Marian Shrines will take turns leading this prayer throughout the Church and offering the faithful a series of prayer moments for them to participate throughout the entire day. The official Vatican website will broadcast the prayer said each day in each of these thirty Shrines at 5:00 pm, BST.

Please join in with this prayer as much as you can, in whatever way you can. There are booklets of prayer on the seats to take away and use at home.

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.

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.

First Holy Communions and Confirmations. Parents, if your child is still waiting to make his or her first Holy Communion and is not at either St. John Fisher School or Our Lady's School, please come and have a chat with me as soon as possible.

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. Go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/embrace-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: One day two boys collected a bucketful of nuts in a graveyard and then sat down to divide the spoils, out of sight behind the fence. Cycling down the road by the cemetery was a third boy, and as he passed, he heard the voice from inside the cemetery, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." That was enough for him and he sped off down the road as fast as he could until he found an old man with a cane, hobbling along. "Come quick!" said the boy. "Satan and St. Peter are at the cemetery dividing the souls." "Shoo!" said the old man, "Can't you see I'm finding it hard to walk as it is!" But he finally hobbled to the cemetery with the boy. Standing by the fence he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me..." The old man whispered, "Boy, you were right!" Shivering with fear, they peered through the fence. At last they heard, "And the last one for you. That's all. Now let's go and get those nuts by the fence, and we'll be done." They say the old man made it back to town five minutes before the boy!

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