



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Advent

19th December, 2021

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| Sunday, 19 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i> | 7.45 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass | <i>Fernando Weves Lui & Luzia Pereira Loba</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i> |
| Monday, 20 th December | 8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.15 am Mass | <i>Mary Quigley</i> |
| Tuesday, 21 st December <i>Op. Comm. of St. Peter Canisius</i> | 8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) | <i>Margaret Upham (Birthday)</i> |
| Wednesday, 22 nd December | No Public Mass Today | <i>In Thanksgiving for Marriage</i> |
| Thursday, 23 rd December <i>Op. Comm. of St. John of Kenty</i> | (4.00 pm <i>Reception of Sabina Hennigan</i>) 7.00 pm Mass | <i>Juvensio Cham and Family</i> |
| Friday, 24 th December Christmas Eve | 8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> (9.30 am <i>Requiem Mass at Our Lady's</i>) 6.00 pm <i>Crib Service</i> 6.30 pm <i>First Mass of Christmas</i> 11.30 pm <i>Carols and Readings</i> 12.00 <i>Midnight Mass</i> | <i>Sabina Hennigan</i> <i>John Flanagan</i> <i>Private Intention</i> |
| Saturday, 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | 7.45 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (THERE IS NO EVENING MASS) | <i>Michael Cullen</i> <i>Sr. Monica (Intentions)</i> |
| Sunday, 26 th December Feast of the Holy Family | 7.45 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (THERE IS NO EVENING MASS) | <i>Francisco Gomes Ximenes</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i> |

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church, especially if you are visiting our parish for the Christmas holiday.

If you are here with us for the first time today, welcome. If you are returning to Mass after a period of time away because of the pandemic, welcome back! It is lovely to see you again today.

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.

Mass at Home. We are no longer streaming the Sunday morning Mass from Sacred Heart on Zoom. 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.'

Congratulations to Sr. Monica who celebrates her 100th birthday this week. A very happy birthday, Sister.

Please pray for Betty Duff, Eileen McGarry, and Daniel Holdsworth and all those we know who are sick. If you are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, please let me know.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia King, Sabina Hennigan and Sr. Patricia Millinson and all those who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr. Canons William Flint and Thomas Gavin, Canon Gerald Patrick Breen, Frs. Edmund Motherway, Brian Doolan, Patrick Wall, Anthony Ireland and Thomas N. Meagher and also Robert Craig. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Christmas Stars



As last year, instead of our Christmas tree being just a decoration, we are trying 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.

So I invite you to write, on one of the paper stars, the name(s) of anyone who has shown you love and who holds a special place in your hearts. The star will then be hung on the tree. The many stars 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.

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

Please note that there will be no evening Mass here next Saturday or Sunday.

"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.

Grand Christmas Draw.
Thank you to everyone who organised and supported it.

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at the Christmas Midnight Mass and then will burn by Our Lord in the tabernacle 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.



Synodal Pathway. As you know, Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to reflect and report on their experience of what it means to be the Church today. We are supposed to have a series of parish meetings to discuss aspects of our life. However, at present having meetings does not seem like a good idea and so in the New Year I shall give out a list of open-ended questions and I shall invite you to send in your thoughts.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of Church to use if you wish. Thank you.

COVID Regulations. Please note that the wearing of face coverings in church is now compulsory, unless you are exempt. We should continue to maintain safe practices in church. VENTILATION – windows and doors will remain open, so please dress warmly, HANDS – sanitise, SPACE – stay a metre apart whenever possible. Thank you to all our volunteer stewards and cleaners. Please don't forget that they have kept us open!

Christmas Crib. Crib Offerings this year will be divided between Friends of the Holy Land and a local charity.

Tailpiece. One year, a wife said to her husband, "Darling! Last night I had a dream that you gave me a beautiful golden necklace for Christmas. What do you think it could mean?" Her husband just smiled and said, "Wait and see." A few days later she said, "I had that dream again last night that you gave me a golden necklace. What could it possibly mean?" Again, her husband smiled and said, "Wait and see." Finally, Christmas Day arrived, and the wife saw her Christmas

present under the tree. Excited that for once her hints had paid off, she opened it to find a book entitled: "The Meaning Of Dreams".

If you were left scratching your head about the tailpiece last week, the answers are in the porch. I especially liked "The Quadruped with the Vermillion Proboscis", which was of course, "Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer".

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Thank you for your friendship and help this year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.

Fr. Harry