



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Advent

5th December, 2021

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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Sunday, 5 th December Second Sunday of Advent	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Joseph McGarry</i> <i>John Cullen</i>
Monday, 6 th December <i>Op. Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.15 am Mass	<i>Sean Delaney</i>
Tuesday, 7 th December <i>Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>	<i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>John White</i>
Wednesday, 8 th December <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.00 am Mass in Our Lady's School)</i> <i>(12.00 noon Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>5.00 pm Reception of Patricia King</i> 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Emily Witherick (25th Anniv.)</i> <i>Fr. Hancock</i>
Thursday, 9 th December <i>Op. Memorial of St. John Diego Cuahtlatoatzin</i>	<i>7.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Requiem Mass <i>6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Patricia King</i> <i>John PM</i>
Friday, 10 th December <i>Mem. of St. Edmund Gennings, Martyr</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Agustinha Das Santos</i>
Saturday, 11 th December <i>Opt. Memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 12 th December Third Sunday of Advent	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Cecilia Michael</i> <i>Vimala (Thanksgiving)</i>

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

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.'

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia King and all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishops Joseph Masterson and Edward Illesley, Frs. Edward Neary, Joseph du Moulin Browne CO, Reginald Anwyl, Norman Millard and Peter John Rogers, and also Mary Batten. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

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.

Christmas Stars



I want to draw your attention to our Christmas tree. As last year, instead of it 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.

All members of the parish are invited to write, on one of the paper stars the name(s) of anyone who has shown them love and who holds a special place in their 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.



Grand Christmas Draw. Yes, Christmas is coming!! The DRAW will be made NEXT SUNDAY, 12th DECEMBER. If you can and would like to donate a prize for the raffle it will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Honouring Sunday.

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have not yet reimposed the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, but if you have not been attending Mass since the pandemic began they ask you strongly to reflect on your Sunday practices and, if you can, to return to Mass on Sundays. The full statement is available at the back of the church.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The phrase "Immaculate Conception" does not refer to the conception of Jesus, as some people think, but rather to the conception of Mary. It means that through the merits of her Son, she was totally free from sin from the first moment of her life, her conception. Because the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Archdiocese, this Feast, which falls on Wednesday, is a big day for us. There will be Mass here in Our Lady's church at 12.00 noon that day. There will also be Mass at Sacred Heart at 6.00 in the evening.

The Sower. The latest edition of the Diocesan magazine, The Sower, is available (free) as you leave church today.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund is to help those smaller parishes where they have difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus
The prayer for our path to the Synod 2021-2023

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

The Advent *Walk With Me* booklet is now available for £1, with daily and Sunday reflections. *Walk With Me* can be a wonderful resource to give to relatives, friends and work colleagues who are interested in discovering the true meaning of Christmas. There are also copies of the *Advent Day by Day* booklets (also £1) which have the readings used at Mass for each day of Advent.

Wanted!!

After Christmas we shall be starting the lessons to prepare children for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. But we need people who are willing to help them. If you would like to try this ministry, please talk to me about it. Training will be provided.

Commemorative 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; or why not give one as a Christmas present?



Tailpiece: A bishop was once visiting a parish and when he was introducing him the parish priest asked the children if they knew what a bishop does. There was silence for a while and then one boy said gravely, "He's the one you can move diagonally."

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