



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th February, 2022

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Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

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Sunday, 27 th February <i>Eighth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>	7.45 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Lucia Josephat (Anniversary)</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 28 th February <i>Memorial of St. Oswald, Bishop</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.15 am Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 1 st March <i>Feast of St. David, Bishop</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>George Rhodes (Anniversary)</i>
Wednesday, 2 nd March <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>LENT BEGINS</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Emmi Egbuonu</i> <i>David Overton</i>
Thursday, 3 rd March	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 6.00 pm <i>Exposition & Benediction</i> 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	<i>Leonor Ximenes</i>
Friday, 4 th March <i>Op. Com. of St. Casimir</i> <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Dec'd Looney & Beausang families</i>
Saturday, 5 th March	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 6 th March <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	7.45 am <i>Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Carlos Esteban</i> <i>Francisco Gomes Ximenes</i>

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 - 6.45 pm

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

Mass at Home. We are no longer streaming the Sunday morning Mass from Sacred Heart on Zoom. But as an alternative you could watch the Mass on Saturday, 5.30 pm, and/or Sunday, 11.00 am from Our Lady's where it is livestreamed 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 Mgr. John Heslin, Fr. David Lloyd, Michael McCarthy, Kath Kavanagh, Noreen Hayes, Luciano Magnasgo and all those who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Kevin Dunn, Frs. Vincent Kennedy, George Brewster, George Henry Tarrant, John Flynn, William Diver, Denis McGuinness, Denis Murphy, Douglas Carter, John Pinkman and Robert Wright and also Lucia Zawadi Josephat. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Please pray for Betty Duff and Eileen McGarry, and all those we know who are sick.

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.

The war in Ukraine.

The Holy Father has asked us to fast for peace on Ash Wednesday and to pray that *the Queen of Peace will preserve the world from the madness of war.*

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, has called for an immediate cessation of the Russian attacks in Ukraine and for the protection of innocent civilians. "In this precarious moment for the people of Ukraine and further across Europe, I pray for the victims of this conflict and their families. I will be celebrating Mass in Westminster Cathedral at 10am on Sunday, 27 February, for these intentions."



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday. Lent starts this Wednesday! Mass at Sacred Heart will be at 7.00 pm. Ashes will be distributed as a mark of sorrow for our sins and a reminder of our mortality.

It is a day of fasting and abstinence when everyone over the age of 14 should abstain from meat and those between 18-60 should also fast, taking only one meal and two lighter snacks.

A Liturgical Note: During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "Alleluia!" There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled from the fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday. We shall save it all up and let rip with sound, light and colour at the Easter Vigil when we celebrate the Resurrection.

Weather permitting, I shall burn palms after Mass today to make the ashes. **I invite you to write down your Lenten resolution and add it to the palms.** That way, when you receive your ashes on Wednesday you will be "sealed" with your own intentions.

Here are some things we can do as a parish during Lent:

1. **Prayer petitions.** You can write out any petition that you would like the rest of us to pray for and post it up on a board in the church.
2. **My Day By Day and the Walk With Me Booklets** for Lent are available (£1).
3. **Stations of the Cross.** We shall meditate on the Stations together after Mass each Thursday, 7.30 pm.
4. **Lectio Divina.** For half an hour, following the 9.15 am Mass on Mondays. All welcome.
5. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection,** Saturday, 2nd April, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm. There will be a talk and a time of prayer. It will be open to all, but it will be especially for Eucharistic Ministers, in preparation for renewal of their ministry on Maundy Thursday.
6. **Parish Penance Service.** On Thursday, 31st March at 5.00 pm, before the evening Mass.

There is a very useful guide on the diocesan website of activities, prayer, courses, resources and retreats, suitable for individual, family, parish and school use. See www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lent-and-easter

First Holy Communion Preparation. Children aged 8 or over may receive their first Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi (18th/19th June). Children who are in St. John Fisher school will receive instructions in school. There will be lessons for children who do not attend St. John Fisher School here at Sacred Heart on a weekday after school. Classes will be at 4.30 on Thursday afternoons, starting next Thursday, 3rd March. We shall have a little service of enrolment during the Masses next weekend.

Confirmation. The Bishop will come to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 29th May. Anyone who is aged 11 or over may receive this Sacrament. If you would like to do so this year, please let me know in the next few weeks, if you have not already done so. Thank you.

A Message from Marriage Encounter. "Do you want to give your marriage a boost? Treat yourselves to a life changing Marriage Encounter Experience. Our next experiences are 4-6th March, 14th & 21st May, 11-12th June. Visit WWME.org.uk for more details and booking. A great marriage, lifts your family, Parish and personal happiness."

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, Sunday 29th May - Friday 3rd June. The leadership team for the Lourdes Pilgrimage is now actively planning for the pilgrimage. Lourdes has always been an important part of Diocesan life and therefore after two years' absence it would be good to make every effort to be present in Lourdes in 2022. For more information see www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage

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Deputy Headteacher post at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School. Commencing in September 2022, they are seeking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher. Contract: Permanent, Full Time. Leadership Range L4 – L8. Responsibilities: Religious Education Subject Lead The closing date is Friday, 4th March at 12pm. Please contact Mr Matthew White for more information at: office@stjohnfisher.co.uk Tel No: 01865 779676.

Tailpiece. Preachers can sometimes get carried away by enthusiasm for their subject. For example, I enjoyed the report of a priest who once solemnly told his bemused congregation, "You will often come face to face with people who have lost their heads".

Refreshments are available after the 9.00 Mass in the Parish Hall. Come and have a chat with friends.

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