



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6th February, 2022

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 770910 • 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

Sunday, 6 th February <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Edwardo Esteban <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 7 th February <i>Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Carmel Quinn
Tuesday, 8 th February <i>Op. Mem. of St. Jerome Emiliani or of St. Josephine Bakhita Day of Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Michael McCarthy (ill)
Wednesday, 9 th February <i>Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	Sergio Abes
Thursday, 10 th February <i>Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	John and Family (Thanksgiving)
Friday, 11 th February <i>Op. Mem. Of Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Alvin Jomy (Special Intention)
Saturday, 12 th February <i>Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 13 th February <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Racial Justice Day</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass 6.00 pm Mass	Cecilia Michael Eamon Flanagan
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 - 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

Collection for 23rd January: £241.35; Gift Aid: £122.00. Thank you.

Racial Justice. There will be a second collection at Mass next weekend to help promote racial justice.

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 Fr. David Lloyd, Dolores Connolly, Carlos Esteban, Daniel Holdsworth and all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Fr. Matthias Brady (Pioneer Priest of Sacred Heart), Archbishop Frederick William Keating, Canon Patrick Cassidy, Frs. John Watkins, Frederick James, John Gibb, John Paul O'Sullivan, William McConnick, James McGloin, and also Bridget Culhane, Mary Thompson and Billy Flynn. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Synodal Pathway. The 'Synodal way' is an invitation for us to listen to the Holy Spirit as we journey together. There is a box at the back of church for you to post your reflections. Thank you if you have already done so.

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.*

Updated COVID Regulations. Following the new instructions from the Bishops' Conference we can start to make a few changes. Whilst infection rates remain high I ask that we all be as considerate as we can be in keeping each other safe.

- I would still like to ask everyone to wear a face covering in church, please, and to sanitise hands on entering the church.
- Seating Arrangements: we have moved some of the pews back into the church. There are more on the right-hand side of the church to allow people to sit closer to each other for those who feel comfortable to do so. On the left-hand side of the church a bit more distancing will remain in place for the benefit of parishioners who would prefer that.
- The holy water stoups will be re-filled so that we can bless ourselves and remind ourselves of our Baptism.
- We shall stop the special cleaning of the church after each Mass. Thank you to our wonderful team of stewards and cleaners who have made it possible for us to continue to celebrate Mass all this time.

Other changes will be introduced gradually.

Please pray for Betty Duff and Eileen McGarry, and all those we know who are sick. Next Friday, 11th February, is the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, a good day to pray for people who are sick – our fellow-parishioners, our family, our friends, and people who have no one to pray for them.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, Sunday 29 May - Friday 3 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 we feel that we must make every effort to be present in Lourdes in 2022. For more information see www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage

Lent 2022. Don't worry, it's still a few weeks away! But I wanted to alert you so that you can start thinking how you can best enter into this holy season of grace. It is a time that we mark especially with prayer, fasting and alms-giving (or works of charity). *Incidentally, the Ashes that we are marked with on Ash Wednesday (2nd March) are made from the palms from the previous Palm Sunday. So if you have palms that we could use to make this year's ashes, please let me have them during the next few weeks.*

1. **Prayer petitions.** When Lent begins I shall invite you to write out any petition that you would like the rest of us to pray for and post it up on a board at the front of the church.
2. **My Day By Day and the Walk With Me Booklets** will be available.
3. **Stations of the Cross.** We shall meditate on the Stations together after Mass each Thursday.
4. **Lectio Divina.** We tried this last year by Zoom. This year I hope we can meet properly for half an hour following the 9.15 am Mass on Mondays to reflect and pray about a passage of the Bible.
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, before the evening Mass at 5.00 pm.

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. I hope that classes will start on Thursday afternoons towards the end of February. If you haven't done so already, please register your children's names with me this week if you would like them to receive Our Lord (and also which school they go to). Thank you.

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.

40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration. From Friday 25th to Sunday 27th February there will be 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration during the daytime in St. John Henry Newman's chapel at Littlemore (9 College Lane, Littlemore OX4 4LQ) to pray for the synodal process. Each day will include Prayer of the Church and the possibility for Confession.

Tailpiece. Many priests would sympathise with a newly-ordained priest who rose to deliver his first sermon. Normally a non-drinker, he had taken "a few sips" to calm his nerves, with the result that he spoke with a surprising eloquence. After the Mass he asked the parish priest what he thought. "As a first sermon it was truly remarkable", replied the older man. "However, there are three things I ought to mention: first, it was the Philistines and not the Russians whom the Israelites defeated; second, it was David who killed Goliath, not vice versa; and third, you may recall that his chosen weapon was a pebble and not a b***** great boulder. In every other respect I could find no fault at all."

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