



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Advent

11th December, 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, 11 th December Third Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) (4.30 pm Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Dorothy Gardner (Intentions) Mary Florence Joshi Amelia-Rose Nirmala Singh Cecilia Michael
Monday, 12 th December <i>Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Madaline Dandrews (Get Well)
Tuesday, 13 th December <i>Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Patrick & Ellen Grealish (Anniv.)
Wednesday, 14 th December <i>Memorial of St. John of the Cross</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 15 th December	(1.00 pm Baptisms at Our Lady's) 5.30 pm Penance Service, followed by Confessions. Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Nariella, Nicaleah and Nicandro Thomas Gaughan (Get Well)
Friday, 16 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) (6.00 pm Advent Carol Service at Our Lady's)	Laurindo Madeira and Guilhermina Sarmento
Saturday, 17 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Penance Service, followed by Confessions until 12.00 noon at Our Lady's) (Evening Vigil Mass: 5.30 pm at Our Lady's)	Danny Lyons (Birthday)
Sunday, 18 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Edith Brunnarius Sean McMahon (Anniversary) Rolly & Jocelyn (Thanksgiving)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 5.30 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

Today is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which means, “Rejoice, Sunday”. It is a slightly different day of Advent, when we set aside the penitential aspect and remember that the birth of Jesus is news of great joy.

Our Parish Prayer: Help us, Lord, to receive you with an open heart this day.

May our community receive your grace and deepen its faith in you.

Make us lights to shine forth with your love, giving life and hope to those who have fallen away or who have never known you. Amen.

Please pray for Lukasz and Malgorzata Dabrowski who were married here yesterday. May God bless them with joy and love in their life together.

Please pray for the soul of Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira, and the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Drinkwater, Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O'Connell and John Dewis and Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and also E. F. Brunnarius, Joan Kelly and Bernie O'Neill. May they rest in peace.

Christmas Stars



Our Christmas tree has arrived, but it is as yet almost bare. 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 and our visitors 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.

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Felix Saulong, Jr., Jean Carpenter, Brenda O'Meara, Claudino Serra Vaz, Bridie Barry, Pat Mazonowicz, David, Thomas Gaughan, Ella Dawson and all those we know who are sick.

Mass at Home. If you are not able to come to Mass you could watch it on Saturday, 5.30 pm, and/or Sunday, 11.00 am from Our Lady's where it is livestreamed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>. Here is a prayer that you can say when you watch the 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 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.*

Sacred Heart Christmas Bazaar.

Now that we are recovering (I hope!) from the Bazaar, I should like to express thanks to the shops who donated things for us:

- Mr Pill the Butchers were generous with their £15 voucher.
- Best One, the shop across the road, gave us two bottles of wine.
- Tesco gave us a bottle of something fizzy and various items for the stalls.

THANK YOU to them all.

Remember: refreshments are available in the hall after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays.
Come and have a chat with friends.

Crib Offerings. Our Crib will be assembled in front of the altar this week. As usual, your crib offerings will be divided between a local charity and an international charity. This year we are supporting Emmaus (Oxford) and Bethlehem University.

Advent Penance Service. To help us prepare for Christmas there will be a short penance service before the evening Mass at 5.30 pm on Thursday evening, 15th December, followed by the opportunity for Confessions. All welcome.



Christmas Flowers. There will be a retiring collection after Masses next Sunday to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year in memory of someone or for a special occasion please speak to me.

First Holy Communion Lessons. Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next June, please register them with me, using the form at the back of the church.

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please take one from the back of the church, and take a few and drop them off to your neighbours. Thank you.

Times of Mass at Christmas: The times of our Christmas services are on the parish Christmas cards.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT 6.00pm ON CHRISTMAS DAY

News from St. John Fisher School:

1. Commencing in January 2023, St John Fisher Catholic Primary school, are seeking to appoint an experienced teacher to provide cover across KS1 and lower KS2. Closing date: Thursday, 15th December. For details: <https://st-john-fisher.oxon.sch.uk/cover-teacher-closing-date-15th-december-2022/>
2. "We are required by our Diocese to publicly consult on our Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2024-2025. Please access the document on our school website at <https://st-john-fisher.oxon.sch.uk/school-info/key-information/admission-arrangements> If you have any objections, then please email the school office at office@stjohnfisher.co.uk"

Tailpiece: From a parish newsletter: "As Mr Hywel Morgan is indisposed and at present in hospital, all his singing engagements will be cancelled for the present. We are pleased to say that he is progressing slowly."

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