



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

The Feast of the Holy Family

31st December, 2023

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

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

Parish Secretary: Reena Bartrip

(01865) 455182 • sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk • www.sacredheartoxford.com

This Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. At present, our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Margaret Lawes. She can be contacted at: sg.sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Sunday, 31 st December Feast of the Holy Family	(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's) 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Michael Iagoe Jean Bradley (Anniversary) Josie Coughlan (Intentions) Dec'd McCann and Carey families
Monday, 1 st January Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	8.00 am Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (12.00 noon Mass at Our Lady's)	Blessings on the New Year David (Michelle's brother) RIP
Tuesday, 2 nd January Mem. of Sts. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	In Thanksgiving (Bridie Barry)
Wednesday, 3 rd January Op. Memorial Most Holy Name of Jesus	No Public Mass Today	Robert William Pill (24 th Anniversary)
Thursday, 4 th January Christmas Feria	6.00 pm Mass	Martin McDonagh
Friday, 5 th January Christmas Feria	No Public Mass Today	RK & MF Joshi (60 th Anniversary)
Saturday, 6 th January Christmas Feria	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (1.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	The People of the Parish Marcos de Assis Paul Concannon
Sunday, 7 th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Jim McCann Winnie Gildea & Helen Towey (Anniv.) The People of the Parish

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Happy New Year, everyone!

Please note:

- Next Sunday will be the (transferred) Solemnity of the Epiphany.
- The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will be on Monday, 8th January, after which Christmastide ends.
- This Friday is the First of the month.

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.

If you are unable to come to church and wish to watch the Mass at your home, go to
<https://www.mcn.live/Camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

Goodbye to 2023



If truth be told, many of us will not be sorry to see the back of 2023. It has been a year of wars and sad news, of Global Warming, strikes and fears for the future. But there have been some glad tidings: King Charles III was crowned; the World Health Organisation declared the end of the COVID-19 global emergency; the Ashes gave us an exciting series; we have managed to keep the same Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer for a whole year.

There have been many things going on here in Sacred Heart parish too, and thank you to everyone who helped our community in any way. I thought you might be interested to recall some of the highlights:

- ❖ There was a parish day out to Bournemouth;
- ❖ We had an International Mass at Our Lady's School;
- ❖ We celebrated the Diaconate Ordination of the son of a parishioner;
- ❖ There a summer fete and a Christmas Bazaar;
- ❖ 3 people were baptised, of whom 2 were children and one was an adults.
- ❖ 6 children and 1 adult received their First Confession and Holy Communion.
- ❖ 5 children and 2 adults were Confirmed.
- ❖ There was 1 Marriage celebrated here and 1 from this parish that was celebrated abroad;
- ❖ 8 Funerals were held, either here or at the Crematorium: Steven Motherway, Richard Hansen, Eufemia Mastroddi, Felix Saulong, Johanna Berg, Julia Moran, Pauline Ryan and Olivia Ludbrook. May they all rest in peace.

Welcome to 2024

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Keith Dolton, Iris O'Brien, Mary Doyle, Thomas Gaughan, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Inna, Beatrice Upham and Eileen McGarry and all those we know who are sick. If someone is sick and would like to be prayed for, please let me know.

Please pray for Anne Mullagh, Sean Jennings, Anita Allen, and Michael Knibbs who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Frs. Anthony De Vere, Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, and Francis Dwyer, and also Catherine Carpenter, Deirdre Nolan, Ann Tobin, Jane Scott and Marsella Doherty. May they rest in peace.

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.

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

Crib Offerings. As you can see, our Crib has been put up. As usual, your crib offerings will be divided between a local charity and an international charity. This year we are supporting Emmaus (Oxford) and the Friends of the Holy Land. From FHL: "Overall, the situation for our Christian family in the Holy Land has gone from very difficult to critical, and we face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever. Our office in Bethlehem and contacts in Gaza, Israel and Jordan are well-placed to get urgent, direct aid to the families across the Holy Land most in need. After such a disaster, we know that our aid is going to be needed well into next year."

My Day By Day Booklets, with the daily readings for Mass from now until Lent are available in the porch (£1).

Holiday. I shall be off for a few days this week, but there will be Mass as usual next Saturday.

Year of Prayer. In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the *Our Father*. Every Catholic is encouraged to reflect on their life of prayer: what they pray, how they pray and why they pray.

Tailpiece:

Small daughter: "Mummy, how many days is it until Christmas comes again?"

Mummy: "It's a long time yet; a whole year. Why?"

Daughter: "I just wondered if it's time for me to start being a good little girl again!"

Thank you very much to all who helped in any way to make our Christmas celebrations so beautiful: those who cleaned and prepared the church, arranged the flowers, read, sang or played, served at the altar, and all the many other jobs. Above all, thanks to you and your families for coming and joining in these celebrations.

I should also like to thank you all for your very generous Christmas offerings and for the many individual gifts and cards that I received. May God bless you all. Fr. Harry