



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th February, 2024

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley)

Parish Secretary: Reena Bartrip

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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, 4 th February <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	(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) 1.00 pm Baptism (2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Azad Joshi (Birthday) Rosemary Birmingham Kath Kavanagh (Anniversary) Theo Hussain Elijah Clement The People of the Parish
Monday, 5 th February <i>Memorial of St. Agatha, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Dolores Connolly (Anniv.)
Tuesday, 6 th February <i>Mem. of St. Paul Miki & Comps.</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Thanksgiving, Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday, 7 th February	No Public Mass Today	Mary Charles (Anniversary)
Thursday, 8 th February <i>Op. Mem. of St. Josephine Bakhita</i> <i>Day of Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Mary Doyle
Friday, 9 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Special Intention (LP)
Saturday, 10 th February <i>Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)	Florrie Murphy Kathleen Mullagh (Intentions)
Sunday, 11 th February <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Day for the Unemployed</i> <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Briget Duncan & Roche Sebastian The People of the Parish John Flanagan
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30-11.30 am. (Confessions at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today.

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>

Year of prayer. The next Deanery talk about Prayer will be given by me at Our Lady's tomorrow evening, Monday, 5th February, 7.00-8.00 pm. All welcome.

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Keith Dolton, Iris O'Brien, Thomas Gaughan, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Inna, Beatrice Upham and Eileen McGarry, Rosa Fernandes, Miguel Balbag 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 Mary Doyle, Madeleine Watson and Maria Styles who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishop Frederick William Keating, Mgr. John Heslin, Frs. Thomas O'Carroll, John Watkins, John Gibb and **Matt Brady** (the Pioneer Priest of this Parish), and also Florrie Murphy. May they rest in peace. **Mary Doyle's funeral will be here on Thursday, 22nd February, at 10.30 am.**

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.

First Holy Communion Preparation.

- Preparation classes will be in the parish hall on Mondays, 4.30-5.30 pm, starting tomorrow, 5th Feb.
- The children will be enrolled during Mass today, 4th February, at 9.00 am or at 6.00 pm.
- The children will make their First Confession in March and receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 25th May.

Alert!!! If you are planning a romantic evening on St Valentine's Day, please note that this year it falls on Ash Wednesday - a day of fasting and abstinence. Why not go for Shrove Tuesday instead?

CAFOD School Volunteers needed. Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Do consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Debbie Purfield dpurfield@cafod.org.uk or call 07786 114 390.

Old Palm Crosses. If you have any old palm crosses at home that you don't want, please bring them to church to be burned after Mass next Sunday (weather permitting) to make ash for this year's Ash Wednesday services. Ash Wednesday is on 14th February, only just over a week away!

Altar Servers. It is nice to have new altar servers at Sunday Masses and it would be good to welcome more onto the team so that we can build up and develop over time. If you would like to join our servers and take up this important ministry in our community – age and experience don't matter, as long as you have received your First Holy Communion – please come and see me. Training can be provided.

40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in Saint John Henry Newman's Chapel at The College in Littlemore from Friday, 9th February at 9:00 am, until Sunday, 11th February 9:00 pm. All are welcome.

Community Kitchen Surplus Curry. Volunteers are needed to help cook and serve a free curry on Thursdays at the Corner House pub on Hollow Way. For more information please contact the organiser, Dr. Saman Jamshidifard, at cadrsaman@gmail.com. You can find a BBC report about the project at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-67949269>

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated here on Thursday 25th April. If you wish to receive this Sacrament, please fill in a form from the back of church and give it to me. Lessons will be in the parish hall on Saturday mornings, at 10.30 am, starting on 2nd March.

Lent 2024 begins on 14th February.

1. **Prayer petitions.** Please write out any petition that you would like the rest of us to pray for and post it up on the board by the statue of St. Joseph.
2. **My Day By Day** and the **Walk With Me Booklets** will be available to help your journey through Lent.
3. **Stations of the Cross** each Thursday, at 6.15 pm.
4. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection.** A day when we can prayer and reflect together. More to follow.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Walk, run, skip, or stroll, when and where you choose over 40 days, as a school or a parish group, alone or with friends. To sign up or for more info go to [The Big Lent Walk 2024 \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

Catenians are looking for Catholic men to join their Oxford Circle. They also have news of a Bursary Fund which makes awards to young Catholics aged between 16-24 who volunteer to work on development projects and as helpers on HCPT and Diocesan pilgrimages.

Tailpiece (a religious in-joke): A Franciscan and a Jesuit were walking and they noticed that there was an echo. Thinking to play a prank on his companion, the Jesuit shouted out in Latin: "*Quod est Franciscanorum regula?*" ("What is the Rule of the Franciscans?"). And the echo replied: "...*gula, gula, gula.*" ("Gluttony, gluttony, gluttony."). In a heartbeat the Franciscan shouted out: "*Fuiste Judas Jesuita?*" ("Was Judas a Jesuit?"). And the echo replied: "...*ita, ita, ita.*" ("Yes, yes, yes.").

May God bless you and all those who are dear to you.
Fr. Harry