



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## Third Sunday of Lent

3<sup>rd</sup> March, 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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

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| Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March<br><b>Third Sunday of Lent</b><br><i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>                              | (5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)<br><b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>9.00 am Mass</b><br>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)<br><b>6.00 pm Mass</b> | <i>Special Intention (LP)</i><br><br><i>Joe Durkin</i><br><i>The People of the Parish</i><br><i>Martinho Amaral</i> |
| Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March<br><i>Op. Commemoration of St. Casimir</i>  | (7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)<br>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer  | <i>Pat O'Connell</i>  |
| Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March  | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)  | <i>Bernadette &amp; John Edwards (Ints)</i>   |
| Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March  | <b>No Public Mass Today</b>  | <i>Special Intentions (Exams)</i>   |
| Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March<br><i>Op. Comm. of Ss. Perpetua &amp; Felicity</i>  | <b>6.15 pm Stations of the Cross</b><br><b>7.00 pm Mass</b>  | <i>Mary Doyle</i>   |
| Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> March<br><i>Op. Comm. of St. John of God</i>  | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)<br>(7.30 pm Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's)   | <i>Madeline Dandridge</i>   |
| Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March<br><i>Op. Comm. of St. Frances of Rome</i>  | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>10.00 am Mass</b><br>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)  | <i>Mary Doyle</i><br><i>Ruth Joshi (Birthday)</i>   |
| Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March<br><b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b><br><i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i><br><b>Mothering Sunday</b> | <b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>9.00 am Mass</b><br>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)<br><b>6.00 pm Mass</b>  | <i>Dominic Durkin</i><br><i>The People of the Parish</i><br><i>Ansel Netto</i>                                      |
| <i>Confessions: Saturday, 10.30-11.30 am.<br/>(Confessions at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)</i>   |  |   |

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today.

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.

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>

*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.*

**Prayers for the Sick.** Please pray for Claudio Serra Vaz, 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 Pat Mazonowicz, Lisa O'Brien, Anne Dewdney, Anne McCarthy and Madeline Dandridge** who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Peter Taylor, Anthony Allport, Frs. Douglas Carter, John Pinkman, Robert Wright, Terence Luxon and Francis Johnson, Deacons James Rowe and Philip Prince, and also John and Jane Bartlett, Baby Sidney Francis Hunt, Elizabeth Perry, Basil (Les) Winter, Catherine (Kathleen) Quirke and Stephen (Steve) Fontaine. 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.**

**The Sacrament of Confirmation.**  
*Today we shall have a short service during Mass to enrol the candidates for Confirmation this year.*  
**The date of Confirmation is: Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, during the 7.00 pm Mass**  
*Lessons will be on Saturday mornings in the parish hall, following the 10.00 am Mass, 10.30 - 11.30 am.*

**Parish Lent Day of Recollection.** Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at Boar's Hill Carmelite Convent. £10 per person, and bring your own lunch. There will be Mass, a reflection, and a chance for quiet prayer. Please sign the sheet in the porch if you would like to take part.

**Mass on Monday mornings at 7.00 am at Our Lady's,** followed by breakfast. This could be a good Lenten practice to start each working week with Mass.

**Marriage Banns.** Kisu Dennis and Mutesi Miriam are getting married in Kampala, Uganda, on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. If anyone objects or knows any impediment why this should not take place please come and see me.

**Readers for Holy Week and Easter.** There is a list on the board next to St Joseph's statue. Would readers please sign up for what services they will be here from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Sally will prepare a list of readers from those who are available. Thank you.

**Gift Aiders.** First, a big thank you to everyone who gift aids their offerings. Anyone who pays income tax can do this. It means that if you give money to the Church we can get back the income tax you have paid to earn it. If you sign up as a gift aider, for every £1 you give we can claim back 25p from the Government. Second, it won't be long before Sally McVeigh will be putting out the new envelopes, so if any of your circumstances have changed (i.e. if you have stopped paying tax or your address has changed), or if you would like to start gift aiding, please let Sally know as soon as you can.

**Maintenance of St. Chad's Cathedral.** There will be a second collection at Masses today for St. Chad's in Birmingham, the mother church of our Diocese.

**Easter Duties.** All Catholics who have made their First Holy Communion should receive the Holy Eucharist sometime between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) before receiving this Easter Communion.

**Wanted: Minutes Secretary.** The St. Francis de Sales Charitable Trust, dedicated to financially supporting pro-life and Catholic causes, seeks a voluntary Minutes Secretary to start asap. Would suit someone seeking a flexible hybrid/remote role to fit around their schedule. Commitment: ~ 3 hours work per 6 weeks. For more info: <https://prolifecommunityoxford.org.uk/sfds/>

**Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land.** Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes: "I ask that on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, there is a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land. This could take the form of a dedicated time of prayer, perhaps before the Blessed Sacrament, for peace in the Holy Land." Please include this intention in your prayers.

**National Novena to St. Joseph, 10-18 March.** Join St. Joseph's Missionary Society (Mill Hill Missionaries). You are invited to send in your petitions to the Mill Hill Missionaries. Novena Masses will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Maidenhead, at 10.00 am weekdays and Saturday (16<sup>th</sup>), and 11.00 am Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>). Evening Prayer will be held at the Mill Hill Community Chapel at 6.00 pm daily during the Novena. These will be on Zoom, [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena)

**Tailpiece:** A priest was preaching a powerful sermon about Death and Judgement and he had just said, "To think that all of you living in this parish will one day die and face judgement", when he was interrupted by a man who started laughing. The priest said sternly, "My good man, why do you find such a subject so funny?" The man replied, with tears of joy rolling down his face, "I don't live in this parish!"

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