



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

*15<sup>th</sup> December, 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 **Onyi Anyanwu**. She can be contacted at: [sg.sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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.*

Sunday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's) 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass with Baptism at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	In Thanksgiving  Private Intention Sally McNally The People of the Parish Joao Paulo Liu Goncalves
Monday, 16 <sup>th</sup> December	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Private Intention
Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	Josephine Mary Whiston
Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December	(10.30 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)	Winifred Rodney
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December	(1.45 pm Carol Service at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Michael and Ellen White (Intentions)
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.30 am Marriage Service at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Melissa and Robin Mary and Patrick Bailey
Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December Commemoration of St. Peter Canisius, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b> (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Gerard Murphy The People of the Parish
Sunday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's with Baptism) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Private Intention Cecilia Michael Danny Lyons (Birthday) Armandina F. Conceda & Coltilda Montalcar
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am. (At Our Lady's on Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

**Welcome to Sacred Heart today, especially if you are new to our parish.**

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. In Latin, the word Gaudete means "rejoice". St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians tells us why we should rejoice: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! The Lord is at hand!"

*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.*

### **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.*

## Christmas Stars



*As we prepare for Christmas we probably can't help but think of stars and in particular the Star of Bethlehem that led the Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. This Advent I invite you to decorate our Christmas tree by writing your prayer for Christmas – for yourself, your family and friends, for the poor, for peace, and so on - on one of the paper stars that have been specially made for us, and hanging it on the tree. The stars can help us with our prayers to God. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas.*

**Prayers for the Sick.** Please pray for Keith Dolton, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Claudino Serra Vaz, Inna, Beatrice Upham, Eileen McGarry, Mely Balbag, Keelin Trahearn, Cheryl Jones, Josie Griffiths, Mary Cross, Nuala McNally, Rosa Fernandes, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davies and all those we know who are sick.

**Please pray for Winifred Rodney, Desmond Hopwood, Mary Barrett, Billy Gardner,** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. Michael McKiernan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O'Connell, John Dewis, Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara and Edmund Motherway, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, Sr. Veronica Lindsay FMA, and also Bernie O'Neill, Winifred McGrath, Robert Mervyn Gleeson, Keith Baker, Myles Quirke, Sean McMahon, Kevin McGrath, Patricia (Pat) Rothery, Mary Quigley and Sarah Craig. May they rest in peace.

	Counting rota	Readers' Rota (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers' Rota		Flowers rota
This week	Sally & Phil	P. Chacka & Lizette	Josh Peter	Rolly Esteban	N/A
Next Week	Kylla & Lilian	Dom & Blossom	Pat McGroarty	John Thomas	N/A

**Remember: refreshments are available in the hall after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays.**

**Thank You.** A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the parish Christmas Bazaar two weeks ago. I haven't yet got a final figure of how much money was raised, but I know there was a lot of hard work and effort put in by several members of our parish. Well done. And thank you to everyone who supported it, by donating prizes, selling raffle tickets or simply coming along. Finally, thank you to Barry at Mr. Pill's for his donation.

**Crib Offerings.** Some people, when they stop to say a prayer at the Crib, like to make a little payment (you don't have to do it). We shall be donating any crib offerings this year to Friends of the Holy Land to help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing.

**Christmas Cards.** If you missed collecting a card last week, please take one from the porch for yourself and/or for your neighbours.

**Christmas Masses.** I shall be here to celebrate the Crib Service, (5.00 pm) followed by the First Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve. A visiting priest (yet to be identified) will be here for the Carols and Readings (11.30 pm) and the Midnight Mass (at midnight!). I shall be back (God willing) for Mass at Dawn on Christmas Day at 9.00 am.

**Oxford's New Cardinal.** It is not every Deanery in the country that can boast of having a Cardinal, but we can! Congratulations to Fr. Timothy Radcliffe of Blackfriars who received his "Red Hat" from the Pope last Sunday.

**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 church. Preparation lessons will start in early February. The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, at 11.00 am. here at Sacred Heart.

### FLAME 2025.

#### Fan The Flame of Hope, Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March

Flame is a Catholic Congress (for those 14 and over) held in London at the Wembley Arena. The event will consist of a concert with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer and adoration. Catholics from all over the country head to Flame every year. Flame Passes (exclusive of travel) - £31pp. Let me know if you are interested. There are limited spaces so do it quickly.

**Year Of Jubilee:** Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It will run from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

**Tailpiece:** A visitor to a church was curious when he saw a verse from the Bible (1 Corinthians 15:51) on one of the doors: "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."

It all became clear when the visitor realised that it was the door to the nursery.

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