



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Advent

8th 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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.*

Sunday, 8 th December Second Sunday of Advent	(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) 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (2.00 Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Sean Og Jennings (1 st Anniversary) Private Intention Janice Modest & Christina Treavajo Kathleen Murphy (2 nd Anniversary) Adetomisola Diane Aladejana Thomas Duff
Monday, 9 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School) 7.00 pm Mass	Albert Daniel The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 10 th December Op. Mem. of St. Edmund Gennings, Martyr, or of Our Lady of Loreto	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Lucy de Souza
Wednesday, 11 th December Op. Mem. of St. Damasus I, Pope	No Public Mass Today	Mary Barrett
Thursday, 12 th December Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Private Intention
Friday, 13 th December Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Domingas Pinto
Saturday, 14 th December Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	McGarry and McVeigh Families In Thanksgiving
Sunday, 15 th December Third Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's with Baptism) 6.00 pm Mass	Private Intention Sally McNally The People of the Parish Joao Paulo Liu Goncalves
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.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund is to help those parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

*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.*

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, Inna, Claudino Serra Vaz, Beatrice Upham, Eileen McGarry, Mely Balbag, Keelin Trahearn, Cheryl Jones, Josie Griffiths, Mary Cross, Nuala McNally, Billy Gardner, Rosa Fernandes, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davies and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for Matthew Perks, Winifred Rodney, Desmond Hopwood, Kathleen Boyle, Mary Barrett, Pascal Kalasi, who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Harold Drinkwater, Frs. Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorro, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Molloy, Vincent Lucas, William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland and Denis Ryan, Sr. Eileen McGarry FMA, and also Elizabeth McGavigan, Sean Og Jennings, Joseph Patrick Cahill, Joan Kelly, Mary Batten, E.F. Brunnrius and Lucy Lynch. 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.

	Counting rota	Readers' Rota (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers' Rota		Flowers rota
This week	Chris & Edwin	V. Robbins & A. Elizebeth	Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan	N/A
Next Week					N/A

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, tomorrow, Monday, 9th December. The Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Archdiocese. There will be Mass in Our Lady's School at 9.15 am and everyone is welcome. There will also be Mass here in Sacred Heart in the evening at 7.00 pm.

The Advent Walk With Me booklet, with daily reflections for the Season, is now available. Free, or if you wish to make a donation, thank you. There are also copies of the **Advent Day by Day booklets** (£1) which have the readings used at Mass for each day of Advent.

Keyholders. In accordance with the diocesan policy to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk, we are asking all parishioners who have a one or more keys to the church, carpark or hall to sign for them, please.

Carol Singing Outreach in Cornmarket Street in Oxford City Centre on Saturday 14th December, 11.45 am to 2.00 pm. There will be a practice on Sunday 8th December after the 11.00 am Mass at Blessed Dominic, Littlemore, in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please take one from the porch for you and/or your neighbours.

Welcome. This weekend we welcome members of the Friends of the Holy Land. Our Crib Offerings this year will go to supporting FHL, and I have invited them to tell us how they help our Christian brothers and sisters there.

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.

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, 15th June, at 11.00 am. here at Sacred Heart.

Tailpiece: I was very amused to overhear a mother saying in a slightly stunned voice to her very young son as they walked along, "You want to tidy your room when you get home? That's a very good boy". I couldn't help thinking there was a lad who wants to get into Santa's good books.

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