



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

12th January, 2025

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, 12 th January <i>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i>	(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 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Andrew and Ellen Gaughan Private Intention Jim McCann Maria Amelia Rodrigues do Rêgo Oliver Gonzales Amancio Soares and Teresa Cortendal
Monday, 13 th January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Hilary, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 14 th January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Miss O'Brien (Intentions)
Wednesday, 15 th January	No Public Mass Today	Beatrice Upham (Intentions)
Thursday, 16 th January	No Public Mass Today	The Boyle Family
Friday, 17 th January <i>Mem. of St. Anthony, Abbot</i>	No Public Mass Today	Meryl Jennings (4 th Anniversary)
Saturday, 18 th January <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	No Morning Mass Today (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Mary and Jimmy Doyle
Sunday, 19 th January <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Peace Sunday</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	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 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Private Intention Brian McCann In Thanksgiving (Shaheen Joshi) Ruairi Wilson Armandina Roseta

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

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, after which Christmastide ends.

From tomorrow we return to "Ordinary Time" in the Church's Year.

Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle C, and Weekday readings are from Year I.

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.

	Counting rota	Readers' Rota (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers' Rota		Flowers rota
This week	Sally and Phil	V. Robbins and A. Elizebeth	Chris Donovan	Rolly Esteban	Claire and Family
Next Sunday	Kylla and Lilian	P. Chacka and Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas	Claire and Family

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Keith Dolton, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Claudino Serra Vaz, Inna, Beatrice Upham, Eileen McGarry, 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 Fr. Fred Sheldon, Deacon Paul Hender, Patrick Fitzgerald, Margaret Brookes, Melly Balbag, Alice Phippen, Pamela Langford, Billy Gardner and Joseph Hutchinson who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Matthias Corrigan, Frs. Patrick McSwiney, Patrick Joyce, Benedict O’Gorman, Gerard Peuleve, Cyril Bennett, Archibald (Archie) John Snell, Timothy Dinan, Cecil Keane and Bernard Robertson, Dens Brian Dockerty and Thomas Mark Carter, and also Veronica Khan, James O’Brien, Colleen Surman, Peter Mullagh, Mary McNamee, Sean Dominic Smith, Jimmy Doyle, Mary Cleary, Mary Doyle and Sally Roberts. May they rest in peace.

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

Year Of Jubilee.

Pope Francis has declared that Tuesday, 24th December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026 will be a Year of Jubilee. The theme is ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. It is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

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 be here in Sacred Heart on Saturday, 14th June.

We need new catechists to help prepare the children for the Sacraments. Please come and speak to me if you feel that you could do this.

Christmas Decorations.

The time has come once again to take down our Christmas decorations and put them into storage for another year. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the tree with stars carrying your prayers. It helped us to appreciate the coming of Jesus. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make the church so beautiful and prayerful this Christmas.

The Christmas Crib Offerings.

Because the crib is being put away, today is your last chance to make an offering. We shall be donating any crib offerings this year to Friends of the Holy Land to help the poorest Christian families there with education, employment, health and housing.

Booking is now open for this year’s Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage and you are warmly invited.

The pilgrimage runs from Saturday 24th - Friday 30th May 2025 with the theme: "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope". If you would like to go but you need assistance, help is available. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office to discuss assistance requirements: 01212306288 admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk As well as applications from assisted pilgrims, the Office are also keen to hear from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience Lourdes. If Our Lady is calling you please answer and give to others. Go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

Dates for Sacred Heart in 2025.

First Holy Communions: Saturday, 14th June

Confirmations: Saturday, 18th October

Next Sunday is Peace Sunday.

It is a day of special prayer for peace throughout the world. There will be a second collection for the work of Pax Christi.

A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? How will the Church be celebrating it? How can I get involved? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD’s Simon Giarchi will be hosting an online chat show for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18th January, 10:30 am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This is traditionally observed from the 18th - 25th January. The theme this year is taken from John 11:26; “Do you believe this?”

Altar Servers.

On St. Stephen’s Day there were some altar servers who could not be here to be enrolled in the Altar Servers’ Guild. I propose that this should take place on the weekend of 26th January. Servers: please let me know if you wish to be enrolled in the Guild and will be available that weekend.

Au Revoir and Thank You.

I am sorry to say that we are losing a good friend this week. Fr. Fanzwa, the Priest for the Syro-Malabar community, who has been living with us here at Sacred Heart for two years, has been appointed to a parish in Birmingham. He moves this week, but because his successor here will not arrive until February, Fr Fanzwa will continue to commute to celebrate Sunday morning Mass for his community. May God bless him.

Tailpiece: A priest fell out with his parish finance committee over how the finances were handled. After bitter arguments and many nights of lost sleep, he decided to leave the parish to take a job as a prison chaplain. He preached his last sermon at the church on John 14:1: “I go to prepare a place for you.”

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