



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 26<sup>th</sup> 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

(01865) 455182 • [sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) • [www.sacredheartoxford.com](http://www.sacredheartoxford.com)

*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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Sunday of the Word of God</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) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Mariquita De Fatima  Private Intention Ena Maguire Josie Coughlan Little Angel, Camilo Grillo, Jose Malibere
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Op. Mem. of Bl. Edward Oldcorne, or of St. Angela Merici</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Hazel Murphy (Get Well)
Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Special Intention
Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	Ethna Davies
Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	<i>In Thanksgiving to the Virgin Mary</i>
Friday, 31 <sup>st</sup> January <i>Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) <b>5.00 pm Reception of Melly Balbag</b>	The People of the Parish
Saturday, 1 <sup>st</sup> February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Requiem Mass</b> (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)	Melly Balbag The Salesian Sisters
Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> February <b>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</b> <i>World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</i>	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) (2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Private Intention Cecilia Michael Jean and Bob Hinchen Joshua Batra Felipo Maxanches Bintaldays

**Confessions:** Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today.

**Sunday of the Word of God.** Six years ago Pope Francis wrote: *I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.* That is why today, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, is a special day devoted to “the celebration, study and spread of the Word of God”.

**Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), next Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February.** Mass will start at the back of the church and we shall process from there to the altar with our candles.  
It is also a World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

**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
<b>This week</b>	<b>Rachel and Phil</b>	<b>D. Wallace and Blossom</b>	<b>Pat McGroarty</b>	<b>Lilian Mwawa</b>	<b>Priya &amp; Family</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Chris and Edwin</b>	<b>R. Galinda and K. Abrigo</b>	<b>Philomena Doherty</b>	<b>Anne Marie Sonan</b>	<b>Priya &amp; Family</b>

**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 Aileen Kavanagh, Patrick Fitzgerald, Margaret Brookes, Melly Balbag, Alice Phippen and Pamela Langford,** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Michael Williams, Canons Kevin James Good and Giles Goward, Frs. Charles Smith, Mortimer Loftus, John Berry and David Condron, and also Sarah McVeigh, Anne Marie Kelly, Maria Victoria (Vicky) Martinez Blanco Styles, Joseph Hughes, Iris Morton, Thomas (Tom) Penders, Anna (Anne) Barlow, Wayne St Clair and Patrick Tuttle. May they rest in peace. Melly Balbag will be received into the church next Friday evening at 5.00 pm. Her Requiem Mass will be here on Saturday morning at 10.00 am.

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

#### **First Confession and Holy Communion Lessons.**

Parents, there is still time. If your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next June, please register them, using the form at the back of church.

Next Thursday there will be a meeting at 3.30 pm for parents at Our Lady's church hall (next to the church) to introduce the programme for the year.

Next Sunday at each Mass there will be a short rite of enrolment to welcome the children to the programme of preparation for Confession and First Holy Communion. The lessons for the children will start on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, at 3.30-4.30 pm in Our Lady's.

**Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.** £799.00 pps. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement. Contact 01268 762 278 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**A new Young Adults Group (18 plus) is starting at Corpus Christi Church.** First Meeting next Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, after the 6:30pm Mass - an opportunity to meet for a bit of discussion about faith and learn from one another how we can deepen it. Afterwards there will be a social activity together. Come along and see!

**Booking is now open for this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to go but need assistance, help is available. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office to discuss your requirements: 01212306288 [admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk) The Office are also keen to hear from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience Lourdes. For more, go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

**Altar Servers.** This weekend I invite those of our altar servers who are not already members to enrol as members of the Guild of St. Stephen. Altar servers take Saint Stephen - one of the first seven deacons chosen to assist the apostles in service (Acts 6) and the first martyr of the Church - as their patron.

**Jubilee Year Regional School Mass.** To start the Jubilee Year there will be Mass next Thursday at 10.30 am in Blessed Dominic Church, Littlemore, with pupils and teachers from the Catholic schools. All welcome.

**Invitation from the Diocesan Vocations Office.** Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2025? Are you engaged to be married this year? Or would you simply like to give thanks to God for your marriage, and ask for His ongoing blessings? If so, we would like to invite you to attend this year's Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 12.00 noon, at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Led by Bishop Richard Walker. Followed by light refreshments. Register at [www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass](http://www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass)

#### **Holocaust Memorial Day, Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

Many UK communities of different identities are feeling vulnerable, with hostility and suspicion of others rising. We hope that HMD 2025 can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past, and take actions to make a better future for all.

**Tailpiece:** A priest wanted to buy some organic lettuce for the parish picnic. He went to the shop and asked the assistant where he might find some. The young assistant seemed confused by the request, so the priest said: "Look, this lettuce is for my parishioners. All I need to know is whether it's been sprayed with any poisonous chemicals." The visibly horrified assistant replied, "No, Father, you will have to do that yourself."

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