



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

5th 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, 5 th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	(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) 6.00 pm Mass	Martin McDonagh Private Intention Tusin Tchung Vila-Nova & Cancio Da Costa Winnie Gildea, Helen Towey & Ann Sinclair (Anniversary) Lucia F. Espiritu Santo & Firmino Soares
Monday, 6 th January <i>Christmas Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 7 th January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Raymond of Penyafort</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Eileen Joyce (Intentions)
Wednesday, 8 th January <i>Christmas Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	Josie McCrave (Intentions)
Thursday, 9 th January <i>Christmas Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Bill Gardner and Larry Gardner
Friday, 10 th January <i>Christmas Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Special Intention
Saturday, 11 th January <i>Christmas Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Fernando Neves Liu, Lucia P. Lobato, Margarida Turquel, Pedro Goncalves Jude Andrew and Ellen Gaughan
Sunday, 12 th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	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 Jim McCann <i>The People of the Parish</i> Olly Amancio Soares and Teresa Cortendal

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

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Christmastide ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

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.

It is good that people feel welcome when they come to church, but the noise levels in the church before Mass have been increasing again recently as people chat to one another, which is distracting for people who are trying to say their prayers and prepare for Mass.

Please remember: before Mass we talk to God; during Mass God talks to us; after Mass we talk to one another.

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Keith Dolton, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Claudino Serra Vaz, Inna, Beatrice Upham, Eileen McGarry, Keelin Trahern, 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 Melly Balbag, Alice Phippen, Pamela Langford, Billy Gardner and Joseph Hutchinson who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Martin Power, Frs. Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, Francis Dwyer, Philip Smith, John Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley, Charles Becker, Alexander (Sandy) Brown, Philip Wyles and Patrick Farrelly, Dcns Joseph Patterson and William Murphy, and Bridget McDermott, Suzanne White, John Crome, Albina Carolina (Albina) Rossetto-Riem, Brian McCurry, Winifred (Winnie) Gildea, Barbara Maria Harrold, Veronica Khan, James O'Brien, Colleen Surman, Jane Scott, Marsella Doherty, John Shanahan, Graciana Zgamo and Columb Whelan. May they rest in peace.

	Counting rota	Readers' Rota (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers' Rota		Flowers rota
This week	Chris & Edwin	K. Abrigo & J. Esteban	Philomena Doherty	Anne Marie Sonan	Jocelyn & Family
Next Sunday	Sally & Phil	V. Robbins & A. Elizabeth	Chris Doherty	Rolly Esteban	Claire & Family

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

Christmas Decorations.

Although it is traditional to take down the Christmas decorations at Twelfth Night, Christmastide in the Church's calendar doesn't end until next Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord. That being the case, we shall take the Christmas Crib and the Tree down after Mass next Sunday and put the decorations into storage for another year.

The Christmas Crib Offerings.

Because the crib is being put away next weekend, there is not long to make a donation. 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.

Table of Moveable Feasts for 2025

Ash Wednesday	5 th March
Palm Sunday	13 th April
Good Friday	18 th April
Easter Sunday	20 th April
Ascension Thursday	29 th May
Pentecost Sunday	8 th June
Trinity Sunday	15 th June
Corpus Christi	Sunday, 22 nd June
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Friday, 27 th June

Dates for Sacred Heart in 2025.

First Holy Communions: Saturday, 14th June

Confirmations: Saturday, 18th October

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.

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?"

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.

FLAME 2025, Saturday, 15th March.

Flame is a Catholic Congress (for those 14 and over) held in London at the Wembley Arena. Catholics from all over the country head to Flame every year. Flame Passes (exclusive of travel) - £31pp. Let me know quickly if you are interested in attending.

Altar Servers.

Congratulations to Deon who received his medal as a member of the Guild of St. Stephen, the altar servers' guild, on Boxing Day, the Feast of St. Stephen. Other servers who could not be here on that day will receive their medals soon. I should like to start a series of training sessions for new servers shortly. Please let me know if you would like to become an altar server.

Congratulations.

Congratulations and best wishes to Tara and Frank Dillon who were married last Monday at Our Lady's.

Tailpiece: A woman with a very strong faith but a rather weak memory once managed to lock her keys inside her car. Undeterred, she prayed to God for assistance. Just then a man walking by saw the situation, came over, and got her car door opened in no time flat. "Thank you, God, for sending me this nice man to help," she exclaimed. The man replied, "Well, I am glad I could help, but I'm not really a very nice man. I just got released from prison for stealing cars." "Praise you, God!" the woman shouted to the sky, "You even sent me a professional!"

Thank you again for your very generous Christmas offerings and for the gifts and cards that I received.

May God bless you all in 2025.

Fr. Harry.