



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

16th February, 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, 16th February <i>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	<i>(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Bob Hinchon (Birthday)</i> <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Gerald McDonnell</i> <i>Maria and Fletcher (10th Wedding Anniversary)</i> <i>Thomas Conroy</i> <i>The People of the Parish (JA)</i>
Monday, 17th February <i>Op. Mem. of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servants of the BVM</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Luis Norberto Bosco Belo</i>
Tuesday, 18th February	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Special Intention (Jeff)</i>
Wednesday, 19th February	No Public Mass Today	<i>The Souls in Purgatory</i>
Thursday, 20th February	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Michael Moloney</i>
Friday, 21st February <i>Op. Mem. of St. Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Dermot McMahon</i>
Saturday, 22nd February <i>Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 10.00 am Mass <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>Mary Lillis and Bernie Gavin</i> <i>Peter Kennedy</i>
Sunday, 23rd February <i>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</i>	<i>7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Ian Thompson (Get Well)</i> <i>Jackie Murdoch (Intentions)</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am <i>(At Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)</i>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today.

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	Kylla and Lilian	P. Chacka and Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas	Ghie & Rocelle
Next Sunday	Rachel and Phil	D. Wallace and Blossom	Pat McGroarty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	Jacqui

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, Cathleen Kennedy, Jim Kennedy, Ian Thompson, John Doherty and Ella Dawson and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for Deacon Pat Flanagan, Robin Parris, Paul Dolton, Michael Moloney, Aveen Kavanagh, Margaret Brookes, and Mary Paddon who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canons William Roughan, Sean McTernan, Frs. William Conefrey, Joseph McEvilly, Timothy Healy, Terence McDonnell, Francis Jordan, Alexander McGavin, Francis Coyle, Sean Farrell and James Wharton, Dcn Hugh Robinson, and also Reece Knott, Margaret (Peggy) Stone, David Barnes, Paddy Griffin, José Ribeiro, Dermot Francis McMahon, Jack McGrath, John Joseph (Joseph) Quigley, Francesca Iwanczak, Lisa Marie O'Brien William Tobin, Henrique Mgungwe, Felix Saulong, Jim McNally and Thomas Dermot Moran. May they rest in peace.

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

Lent 2025. Yes, I know it feels that we have only just celebrated Christmas, but Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, 5th March. That's only a few weeks away. It's time to start thinking how we can make this season of grace fruitful.

- If you have any palms from last Palm Sunday that you do not need, please bring them along by Sunday, 2nd March at the latest, so that we can burn them to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.
- During Lent we shall re-start our early morning Mass at Our Lady's on Mondays (7.00 am), followed by breakfast together in the hall. All welcome; it's a good way to start the working week.
- For the Jubilee Year I am planning a walking pilgrimage to Blessed Dominic Barberi, with a Lenten Retreat Day/reflection while we are there. More details to follow.
- There is a new resource available for this Jubilee Year. ***We Dare to Hope*** has been developed by the Bishops' Conference. It is for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the jubilee theme of Christian Hope. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. I should like to run this in Our Lady's parish hall on Monday evenings in Lent, at 7.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in. Please put this in your diaries.

Invitation from the Diocesan Vocations Office. Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2025? Are you engaged to be married this year? If so, we invite you to attend this year's Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage on Saturday, 3rd May, 12.00 noon, at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Led by Bishop Richard Walker. Followed by light refreshments. Registration is open at: www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass

Booking is now open for this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. Saturday 24th - Friday 30th May. If you would like to go but need assistance, help is available. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 01212306288 admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk The Office are also keen to hear from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience.

Eucharistic Ministers. It would be good to have some new Eucharistic Ministers to join our team. I am planning to have two short training sessions at 7.30 pm, after the evening Mass this Thursday, 20th February, and the following Thursday, 27th February. There will also be a Retreat Day during Lent that will be open to all. If you want to know more, please come and ask me.



Parish Pilgrimage to Rome. I am hoping that for the Jubilee Year we can go on a joint parish pilgrimage to Rome with Corpus Christi parish later this year (Monday, 17th – Friday, 21st November. BA Flights from Heathrow, half board in Hotel Emmaus near St. Peter's, full daily programmes including Wednesday Papal Audience and Mass in St. Peter's. Cost roughly £1,200 sharing, £215 single supplement). Please let me know if you are interested.

A message from Fr. Craig, the Diocesan Vocations Director. *"In recent months a number of young men under the age of 18 have been in touch with me to ask about how they can discern a vocation to the priesthood. When this was only one or two, it was easy to meet with them and their parents for a look around Oscott. However, I sense that number is now large enough to warrant trying a new discernment group for boys in Years 9 to 13. The first of these discernment events will take place on Saturday 5th April at St Mary's College, Oscott."* Please come and ask me if you want to learn more about this.

Tailpiece: One Sunday a lady in the congregation was joining in the hymns during Mass with great enthusiasm, unfortunately not matched by her tunefulness. A child standing nearby whispered to her mother, "She can't sing very well can she, Mummy." Her mother, knowing the deep faith of the lady, replied, "She sings from her heart, dear, and so it's good." The child thought about this, and then on the journey home she said to her mother, "Mummy, you sing from your heart too, don't you!"

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