



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

2nd 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, 2 nd February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life	(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	The Salesian Sisters Private Intention Cecilia Michael Jean and Bob Hinchin Joshua Batra Felipo Maxanches Bintaldays
Monday, 3 rd February <i>Op. Memorials of St. Werburg, or St. Blaise, or St. Ansgar</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's, followed by the Blessing of Throats.)	Azad Joshi (Birthday))
Tuesday, 4 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Sr. Maria (Get Well)
Wednesday, 5 th February <i>Memorial of St. Agatha, Martyr</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 6 th February <i>Mem. of St. Paul Miki & Comps.</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Comseeta Peter
Friday, 7 th February <i>First Friday</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (12.00 noon Funeral Service at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Alice Phippen Private Intention
Saturday, 8 th February <i>Op. Mems. of St. Jerome Emiliani or of St. Josephine Bakhita</i> <i>Day of Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)	Paulina De Araujo Alves Stephen Motherway
Sunday, 9 th February Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	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) (1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Private Intention Germana Borges Mabel Avaya Taylor The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am (At Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple, formerly known as the Purification or Candlemas. Please collect a candle (and a drip tray) as you arrive in the church.

Mass will start at the back of the church where I shall bless your candles. Then the altar servers and I shall process from there to the altar.

First Friday. This Friday is the First Friday of the month. The Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said during the Holy Hour before Mass on Thursday evening.

*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	Chris and Edwin	R. Galinda and K. Abrigo	Philomena Doherty	Anne Marie Sonan	Priya & Family
Next Sunday	Sally and Phil	V. Robbins and D. Silva	Chris Donovan	Rolly Esteban	Ghie & Rocelle

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 Michael Moloney, Aven Kavanagh, Margaret Brookes, Melly Balbag, Alice Phippen, Mary Paddon and Pamela Langford, who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishop Frederick Keating, Mgr. John Heslin, Frs. Denis Clancy, Joseph Connelly and Thomas O'Carroll, and also Sheila Evans, Christopher Graham, Carlos Da Costa, Speranza Mirto, Rose (Kath) Kavanagh, Philomena Surman, Dolores Connolly, Nora Esther (Noreen) Hayes, Anne Marie McCarthy, Norman Gurl, Luciano Giovanni Magnasco, Maria Giduch, Florrie Murphy and Bridget Culhane. May they rest in peace.

There will be a Funeral Service for Alice Phippen at Our Lady's this Friday at 12.00 noon.

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

First Confession and Holy Communion Lessons.

At each Mass this weekend there will be a short rite of enrolment to welcome the children to the programme of preparation for Confession and First Holy Communion. Lessons will start next Thursday, 6th February, in the Don Bosco Centre (next to Our Lady's church on Hollow Way, Cowley), 3.30-4.30 pm.

A new Young Adults Group (18 plus) is starting at Corpus Christi Church. First Meeting this Sunday, 2nd February, after the 6:30 pm Mass – it is an opportunity to meet for a discussion about faith. Afterwards there will be a social activity together. Why not try it and see!

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. For more: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th 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.

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

This Monday is the Memorial of St. Blaise and the traditional Blessing of Throats will be offered at Our Lady's at the end of the 9.15 am Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers. The usual time for commissioning or re-commissioning Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is Maundy Thursday at the Mass of the Last Supper. It would be good to welcome new ministers. I am planning to have a series of short training sessions, followed by a Retreat Day during Lent that will be open to all. If you would like to train as a Minister for our Parish, please come and talk to me.

Today is a World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Since 1997 across the world the weekend closest to Candlemas has been a day of celebration and prayer for our religious and those living a consecrated life. Like Simeon and Anna they give quiet but essential witness to the presence of Christ.

Did you know???? There is a patron saint of the internet – St. Isidore. (Isidore wrote a collection of books called *Etymologiae*, which gathered, systematised, and condensed all the learning possessed by his time. Throughout the greater part of the Middle Ages it was the “search engine” most in use in educational circles.) So, whenever you start to use the internet, with its blessings and dangers, ask for the help of St. Isidore.

Tailpiece: After attending a wedding, a little boy asked his father, “How many brides can the groom marry?” “One,” his father said. “Why do you ask?” “That’s what I thought,” the boy said, puzzled, “But the priest said he could marry sixteen”.

“How did you come up with that?” his father asked. “Well,” the boy replied. “All you have to do is add it up like the priest said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.”

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