



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9th 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.

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| Sunday, 9 th February Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time | (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) (1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass | Stephen Motherway Private Intention Germana Borges Mabel Avaya Taylor The People of the Parish |
| Monday, 10 th February <i>Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin</i> | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) | Sr. Maria Debono (Get Well) |
| Tuesday, 11 th February <i>Op. Mem. of Our Lady of Lourdes</i> <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i> | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's, followed by the Rosary) | Josephine Mary Whiston (JA) |
| Wednesday, 12 th February | No Public Mass Today | Winnie De Souza |
| Thursday, 13 th February | 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass | Deacon John Higgins (JA) |
| Friday, 14 th February <i>Feast of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Patrons of Europe.</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Europe</i> | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (11.00 Funeral Service at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's) | Margaret Brookes Angus Barrett (Get Well) |
| Saturday, 15 th February | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (3.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday) | Felix Saulong Jr. (Anniversary) Christy O'Leary Bob Hinchen (Birthday) |
| Sunday, 16 th February Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Racial Justice Sunday</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 The People of the Parish Maria and Fletcher (10 th Wedding Anniversary) Thomas Conroy The People of the Parish (JA) |
| 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.

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 D. Silva | Chris Donovan | Rolly Esteban | Ghie & Rocelle |
| Next Sunday | Kylla and Lilian | P. Chacka and Dom | Josh Peter | John Thomas | Ghie & Rocelle |

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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, Cathleen Kennedy, Jim Kennedy and Ella Dawson and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for Paul Dolton, Michael Moloney, Aileen Kavanagh, Margaret Brookes, Alice Phippen and Mary Paddon who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Joseph Vincent Healey, Mgr. Canon Peter Lawler, Frs. John Watkins, Frederick E. James, John Gibb, Matthias Brady (Pioneer Priest of Sacred Heart), John Paul O'Sullivan, William Connick, James McGloin and Charles Joseph O'Reilly, and also Billy Flynn, Nancy McGrath, Bridget (Bridie) Willoughby, Francis (Tom) Billington, Reece Knott, Mary Thompson, Felix Saulong Jr.. 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.

- 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.

First Holy Communion lessons. Parents, please note that this week's First Holy Communion lesson at Our Lady's will need to be moved from Thursday to Wednesday, 12th February. It is just for this week and I apologise for any inconvenience it may cause. The timings of the class will remain the same, 3.30 – 4.30 pm, but on Wednesday 12th February instead.

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, after the evening Mass on Thursday, 20th February and Thursday, 27th February, followed by a Retreat Day during Lent that will be open to all. If you want to know more, please come and ask me.

Celebrating Marriage Week, 7th – 14th February. Bishop MacDonald, the Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, said:

'We can offer our contribution towards a culture that respects and values marriage, knowing that it's the foundation for a happy and healthy society. National Marriage Week is a time for all of us to think about this special sacrament and how it can change lives. It's a chance for married couples to strengthen their bond by being kind to each other, talking openly, and sharing experiences. And for all of us, as we celebrate the beauty of marriage this week, let's make sure that we support and encourage couples in their journey.'

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.

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.'* If you are in this age range and would like to find out more, please come and ask me for details.

Tailpiece: Wearing microphones can be a problem at times, and I apologise if I have sometimes been broadcasting without meaning it. It reminds me of a Bishop who went into the sacristy after Mass and, not realising that he was still on air, announced, "I need a gin!"

I suppose it could have been worse.

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