



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Lent

16th March, 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, 16 th March Second Sunday in Lent <i>Dementia Prayer Week</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) 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Bernadette Edwards and Family</i> <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Paul Dolton</i> <i>Susan Barnes</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 17 th March Feast of St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) 11.00 am Requiem Mass	<i>Josie Griffiths (Intentions)</i> <i>Maria Gomes</i>
Tuesday, 18 th March <i>Op. Com. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem</i> <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Nalini and Pawan (Wedding Anniv.)</i>
Wednesday, 19 th March Solemnity of St. Joseph <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Andrew and Patti Hyland (Ints.)</i>
Thursday, 20 th March	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	<i>John Doherty</i>
Friday, 21 st March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, followed by <i>Stations of the Cross</i>)	<i>For Peace</i>
Saturday, 22 nd March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)	<i>Laurentina Serra Perreira & Family</i> <i>Regina Mihailova (Anniversary)</i>
Sunday, 23 rd March Third Sunday in Lent	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	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Sarah McVeigh</i> <i>Winnie Gildea (Birthday)</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm, and Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am (At Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today, especially if you are new to the parish or visiting.

We are a parish with a clear identity and purpose: to be a Catholic community, formed by the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus, for the glory and praise of God the Father and the service of His Kingdom, and also for the mutual building up and support of its members. The core message that we feel called to live is contained in Jesus' words:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

CAFOD Lent Fast Day. The second collection today is for the money you saved last Friday by giving something up for the hungry and needy of this world. CAFOD is working with poor communities around the world on our behalf. Thank you for your generosity.

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 & Lilian	P. Chacka & Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas	N/A
Next Sunday	Rachel & Phil	D. Silva & A Elizabeth	Pat McGroarty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	N/A

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 and Ella Dawson and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for Sr. Mary Cecilia Treacy, Maria Salome Coelho Gomes and Paul Dolton who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishops Bernard Ullathorne OSB and Francis Joseph Grimshaw, Frs. William Madden, Patrick Maguire, Andrew Brennan and Laurence Crowe, Deacon Thomas Ashcroft, and also Bernard McAndrew, Edward and Eileen James, Mary McAndrew, Martin Conroy and Joseph Ahern.

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

Lent 2025 in Sacred Heart.

- Stations of the Cross.** Each Thursday, after Mass.
- Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament,** Thursdays, 6.00–7.00 pm, with the opportunity for Confession.
- Walk With Me** booklets are available, with Lent calendars. They are an aid to prayer and reflection.
- Parish Penance Service with Confessions.** Thursday, 3rd April, 6.00 pm.
- Early morning Mass** at Our Lady's on Mondays (7.00 am), followed by breakfast in the parish hall.
- A walking pilgrimage** to Blessed Dominic Barberi, our nearest Jubilee church, with a Lenten Retreat Day/reflection. Saturday, 29th March. Leave Sacred Heart at 10.30. There will be Mass, prayer, a talk and a tour of the College. Bring a packed lunch. The Day finishes at 3.30 pm. If interested, please email Geraldine (olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)
- We Dare to Hope.** In Our Lady's parish hall on Monday evenings, at 7.00 pm., starting this Monday. We can explore the jubilee theme of Christian Hope through scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. All welcome. There are five sessions:
 - 1 Christian Hope
 - 2 The Decision to Hope
 - 3 The Prayer of Hope
 - 4 Hope Against Hope
 - 5 Christ, Our Hope
- The statues in the church will be veiled from the 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.
- During Lent we do not have flowers in church, and we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "A*****A!" We shall save it all up and let rip at the Easter Vigil

Novena to St. Joseph. 10th-18th March. The Novena Masses and Evening Prayer services will be available to view on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

A Prayer for Pope Francis.

Almighty and Eternal God, you are the everlasting health of those who believe in you. Hear our prayers for your sick servant Francis for whom we implore the aid of your tender mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, pray for him.

Young Discerners Group event. The Diocesan Vocations Office is hosting an event on Saturday, 5th April for young men who wish to explore a Vocation to the Catholic priesthood. If you are in school years 9 - 13 (ages 13 to 17), or know someone who is, please share this invite. Come to St Mary's College, Oscott in Birmingham for a chance to meet Fr Craig Szmidt (the Vocation Director). The day will also include a tour of Oscott and an opportunity to speak with seminarians, joining them for Mass and lunch. Fr Craig is keen to emphasise that he will not be handing out application forms – it is just about 'testing the water' and an opportunity to ask questions. Booking is essential for this event, so please book by e-mailing Deacon Owen (deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk).

Dementia Prayer Week runs annually from 12 -19 March to raise awareness and a deeper understanding of the spiritual needs of people living with dementia.

Tailpiece: One Sunday the regular church organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. He asked the Parish Priest what he should play. The priest was a bit rushed and said, "Here's the order of Mass, but you'll have to think of something to play after I do the announcements." During the service, the priest paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need £4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge £100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the organist struck up the National Anthem. And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

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