



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Lent

23rd 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, 23 rd March Third Sunday of Lent	<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>	<i>Regina Mihailova (Anniversary) Private Intention Sarah McVeigh Winnie Gildea (Birthday) The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 24 th March	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Fr Graham (Intentions)</i>
Tuesday, 25 th March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Mick McCarthy</i>
Wednesday, 26 th March	No Public Mass Today	<i>Mary Doyle</i>
Thursday, 27 th March	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	<i>Ellen McGarry</i>
Friday, 28 th March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>	<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
Saturday, 29 th March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (11.30 am Mass at Blessed Dominic Barberi) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>John Cullen Joaquim Miranda</i>
Sunday, 30 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent	<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) 6.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>Private Intention John Doherty May Devereux The People of the Parish</i>
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. (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)

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	Rachel & Phil	D. Silva & A Elizabeth	Pat McGroarty	Lilian Mwawa	N/A
Next Sunday	Chris & Edwin	D. Wallace & Blossom	Rolly Esteban	Anne Marie	N/A

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Keith Dolton, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Betty Duff, Claudio 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 Sr. Mary Cecilia Treacy, Maria Salome Coelho Gomes, Paul Dolton, Frederick Reading who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishops Humphrey Bright and David McGough, Mgr. Canon John Joseph Welch, Mgr. Francis Davis, Frs. John Donnelly and John McManus, Deacons John Higgins and Louis Joseph Livesey, and also Regina Mihailova, Coleman (Colm) Keady, Catherine Regan, Josie Bates, John Steele, Sarah McVeigh and Paddy McLoughlin. May they rest in peace.

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

Lent 2025 in Sacred Heart.

1. **Stations of the Cross.** Each Thursday, after Mass.
2. **Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament,** Thursdays, 6.00–7.00 pm, with the opportunity for Confession.
3. **Walk With Me** booklets are available, with Lent calendars. They are an aid to prayer and reflection.
4. **Parish Penance Service with Confessions.** Thursday, 3rd April, 6.00 pm.
5. **Early morning Mass** at Our Lady's on Mondays (7.00 am), followed by breakfast in the parish hall.
6. **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
7. The statues in the church will be veiled from the 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.
8. 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

Gift Aid Envelopes. If you gift aid your weekly offerings in the collection (thank you), please collect your new box of envelopes from the back of church today.

July 5th! July 5th! July 5th! This Jubilee Day for Young People gives all young people the opportunity to come together and celebrate the great joy of being Pilgrims of Hope! Parish youth groups, families and Young Adults can register to join the 14m Pilgrimage Walk from 08.30 at the Shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis to St. Chad's Cathedral where we will celebrate Mass with Bishop Tim at 4.30 pm.

Alternatively, parish youth groups can join us from 11.30 am at St. Chad's Cathedral for games, workshops, tours, social time, reconciliation and our Mass together with walkers at 4.30 pm.

Holy Year Pilgrimage. This Saturday we shall make a pilgrimage to Blessed Dominic Barberi church in Littlemore, which is our nearest Jubilee church. We shall also visit the College where St John Henry Newman was received into the Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi.

10.30 am Meet in the car park at Sacred Heart and walk to Blessed Dominic Barberi

11.30 am Mass at Blessed Dominic Barberi

12.30 pm Lunch at Blessed Dominic Barberi parish hall

1.15 pm Talk from Fr. Harry in the hall

2.00 pm Walk to the College for an intro and tour

2.45 pm Return to Blessed Dominic Barberi for Evening Prayer and Benediction at 3.00

3.30 pm Leave to walk back to Sacred Heart

If would like to come with us, please email Geraldine (olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

Young Discerners' Group Event. The Diocesan Vocations Office is hosting an event on Saturday, 5th April, at Oscott seminary in Birmingham where priests are trained. It is for young men in school years 9 - 13 (ages 13 to 17) who wish to explore a Vocation to the Catholic priesthood. Booking is essential, so please email Deacon Owen at deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk

Flame 2025. Last Saturday more than 10,000 young people from every part of England and Wales, including our parish, joined chaplains, teachers, priests, bishops, and youth leaders, at the OVO Arena Wembley in a huge explosion of faith and hope. Next time (in two years) perhaps we can fill a coach to go.

Tailpiece: There is a monastery in Europe perched high on a cliff. The only way to reach it is to get into a basket and be pulled to the top. One visitor got exceedingly nervous about half-way up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed. He asked the monk who was riding with him in the basket how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a bit and then answered simply, “Whenever it breaks.”

May God bless you and all your loved ones.
Fr. Harry



P.S. Don't forget to put your clocks forward an hour next Saturday night as British Summer Time begins.