



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

2nd 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, 2nd March <i>Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>	<i>(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	Mary Ann Paddon Paul Dolton Gregorius Yoseph Bon and Family The People of the Parish
Monday, 3rd March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Lawrence Paul
Tuesday, 4th March <i>Optional Memorial of St. Casimir</i>	No Public Mass Today	Carlo, Aola and Massimiliana
Wednesday, 5th March Ash Wednesday THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 7.00 pm Mass	George Rhodes (Anniversary) Julieta Dos Anjos
Thursday, 6th March	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	Florrie Murphy
Friday, 7th March <i>Optional Commemoration of St. Perpetua & St. Felicity, Martyrs</i> <i>First Friday</i> <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>	Margaret Brookes
Saturday, 8th March <i>Op. Com. of St. John of God, Religious</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 10.00 am Mass <i>(12.00 noon Swahili Mass for the Kenyan Community at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	Mary Doyle Private Intention Sean Jennings Senior (Birthday)
Sunday, 9th March First Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments</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>(1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	Private Intention Cecilia Michael Ruth Joshi (Birthday) Patrick Francis McDonagh The People of the Parish
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.00 am <i>(At Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)</i>		

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



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday. Lent starts this Wednesday. Mass at Sacred Heart will be at 7.00 pm. At Our Lady's it will be at 9.15 am. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses as a mark of sorrow for our sins and a reminder of our mortality. **It is a day of fasting and abstinence** (everyone over the age of 14 should abstain from meat, and those between 18-60 should also fast, taking only one meal and two lighter snacks).

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	Chris and Edwin	J. Esteban and R. Galinda	Philomena Doherty	Anne Marie Sonan	Jacqui
Next Sunday	Sally and Phil	A.Elizebeth and V. Robbins	Chris Donovan	Rolly Esteban	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, Ian Thompson, John Doherty and Ella Dawson and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for Sr. Mary Cecilia, Ian Thompson, John Doherty, Alrie Fernandes, Robin Parris, Paul Dolton, Michael Moloney and Mary Paddon who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canons Peter Taylor and Anthony Allport, Frs. Douglas Carter, John Pinkman, Robert Wright, Terence Luxon, and also Baby Sidney Francis Hunt, Elizabeth Perry, Basil (Les) Winter, Catherine (Kathleen) Quirke, Stephen (Steve) Fontaine, George Rhodes and Amelia Lisa Francis. May they rest in peace.

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

Lent 2025. There are many things you can join in with to make this a fruitful season:

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. **"My Day by Day"** booklets are available (£1). They contain the Mass readings for each day of Lent.
4. **Walk With Me** booklets are also available, with Lent calendars. They are an aid to prayer and reflection.
5. **CAFOD Lent Fast Day** will be Friday, 14th March.
6. **Penance Service.** Thursday, 3rd April, 6.00 pm.
7. **Early morning Mass** in Our Lady's on Mondays (7.00 am), followed by breakfast in the parish hall.
8. **A walking pilgrimage** to Blessed Dominic Barberi, our nearest Jubilee church, with a Lenten Retreat Day/reflection. Saturday, 28th March. Leave Sacred Heart at 10.30 am. There will be Mass, prayer, a talk and a tour of the College. Bring a packed lunch. The Day finishes at 3.30 pm.
9. **We Dare to Hope.** In Our Lady's parish hall on Monday evenings, at 7.00 pm., starting on 17th March. We can explore the jubilee theme of Christian Hope through scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. Everyone is welcome to join in.

A joint Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome. 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). See me for more information. Bookings must close next weekend.

Situations Vacant. The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions, which will all be closing for applications shortly: Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. Full details and closing dates at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs. If you think you have the skills, please do apply.

Kenyan Catholic Community Swahili Mass. Next Saturday we welcome the Kenyan Catholic community to Our Lady's for Mass at 12.00 noon, followed by refreshments. If you are coming by car, please note that the car park will not be available for parking because it is being used for the refreshments after Mass.

St. Chad's Cathedral. Today, the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. Chad, the Patron Saint of the Diocese, there will be a second collection for the maintenance of St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

A Prayer for Pope Francis. As the Holy Father remains in hospital we keep him close in prayer.

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.

Tailpiece: A husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the tea. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said decidedly, "You have to do it; it's in the Bible!" Her husband was shocked. "It is not! Show me!" Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here — HEBREWS!"

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