



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Lent

30th 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, 30 th March Fourth Sunday in Lent	(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	Joaquim Miranda Private Intention John Doherty May Devereux The People of the Parish
Monday, 31 st March	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Kath and John Fagan (Golden Wedding)
Tuesday, 1 st April	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Alegrina Pereira (Birthday)
Wednesday, 2 nd April <i>Op. Com. of St. Francis of Paola</i>	No Public Mass Today	Nossa Senhora de Fatima
Thursday, 3 rd April	6.00 pm Penance Service, Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	James and Hilda Ross
Friday, 4 th April <i>Op. Commemoration of St. Isidore First Friday</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, followed by Stations of the Cross)	Paul Barry (Get Well)
Saturday, 5 th April <i>Optional Commemoration of St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (12.00 Marriage Service at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)	Maisie Moran Matthew and Rebecca Maria Libania Gama & Judit Gama
Sunday, 6 th April Fifth 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) (2.00 pm Baptisms at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Private Intention Angel and Josefa Antonio The People of the Parish Ava and Aidan Chandler Felix Fatima Ximenes
The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.00 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)

Laetare Sunday. As well as being Mothering Sunday, today is also "Laetare Sunday" – "Be Glad Sunday" – when we relax the disciplines of Lent slightly and think of the joy of Easter.

Happy Mothering Sunday to all Mums

*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 & Edwin	D. Wallace & Blossom	Rolly Esteban	Anne Marie	N/A
Next Sunday					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, Paul Dolton and Rosemary Griffiths who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop Thomas Williams, Bishop Anthony Emery, Mgr. Canon Daniel Leonard, Canon Brian Withers, Frs. Thomas Cockburn, Matthew Sheridan, John Callaghan, Philip O'Reilly, Lawrence King, Michael Clive Glynn, Timothy Burke and Deacon Raymond Zacaroli, and also Bridget (Breda) Keenan, Patricia Conway, Elizabeth Conry, Collette McNarry, Mick Mullagh, Maureen Gannon, Martyn John Spackman, Charlie O'Connor, Betty Kellet, James Craig, Julia Moran and Mary Batten. 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. **Early morning Mass** at Our Lady's on Mondays (7.00 am), followed by breakfast in the parish hall.
5. **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
6. Next Sunday is the 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday). The statues in the church will be veiled from then until Holy Saturday.
7. During Lent we do not have flowers in church (except today), 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.

Easter Duties. Because of the central importance of Easter to the Christian faith, the Church says that all Catholics who have made their First Holy Communion should receive the Holy Eucharist sometime between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter Communion.

Lent Parish Penance Service. Don't forget that there will be a Penance Service here in Sacred Heart this Thursday evening, 3rd April, at 6.00 pm before the evening Mass. It will be a short reflection on the love of God who offers us forgiveness if we seek it, and it will include the opportunity for Confession.

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.

Young Discerners' Group Event. The Diocesan Vocations Office is hosting an event this 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

Tailpiece: Especially for Mothering Sunday: an elderly mother was giving directions to her son about his visit: "Come to the front door of the apartment complex. There is a big panel at the front door. With your elbow push button 14T. I will buzz you in. Come inside, the lift is on the right. Get in, and hit 14 with your elbow. When you get out my room is on the left. With your elbow, hit my doorbell."

"Mum, that sounds easy enough, but why am I hitting all those buttons with my elbow?"
"You're not coming empty handed, are you?"

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