



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

First Sunday of Lent

9th 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, 9 th March First 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) (1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Sean Jennings Senior (Birthday) Private Intention Cecilia Michael Ruth Joshi (Birthday) Patrick Francis McDonagh The People of the Parish
Monday, 10 th March	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Special Intention (Jennifer)
Tuesday, 11 th March	No Public Mass Today	May Devereux
Wednesday, 12 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	No Public Mass Today	Maureen Sheehan
Thursday, 13 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	No Public Mass Today	Methodear Method
Friday, 14 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i> Lent Fast Day	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, followed by Stations of the Cross)	Cecilia Michael
Saturday, 15 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)	John Doherty Bernadette Edwards and Family
Sunday, 16 th March Second 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	Private Intention Paul Dolton Susan Barnes The People of the Parish
Confessions: 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)

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 & Phil	A. Elizabeth & V. Robbins	Chris Donovan	Rolly Esteban
Next Sunday	Kylla & Lilian	P. Chacka & Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas

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 Sr. Mary Cecilia Treacy, Maria Salome Coelho Gomes, Paul Dolton, Luis Pires Borges, Frederick Reading who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop David Cashman, Canons Raymond Walsh and Gerard Hanlon, Frs. John McNally, Francis Johnson, Joseph Purcell, Ralph Sheppen-Greene, Christopher Thornton, Connell Harkin, Vaughan Lloyd, Anthony Sims and Michael Crumpton, and Deacons James Rowe and Patrick Duffy, Sister Imelda James and also Mary Kate McTague, Rosie Moore, Antonio Iorio, Sissie McManus, Agustinha Dos Santos, John and Jane Bartlett, and Matthew Murray. 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. There are many things you can join in with:

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. **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)
7. **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.
8. The statues in the church will be veiled from the 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.
9. 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

Young People! This Saturday, 15th March, sees the return of Flame 2025 at the Wembley arena. The event will consist of a concert with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer and adoration. Doors open at 11.00 and it ends at 5.30. Some of our young people will be attending and I look forward to hearing about it. You can join in on socials: @flamecongress #flame2025

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.

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.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day: this Friday 14th March. For some people, finding food is a daily struggle. CAFOD is working with poor communities around the world on our behalf, so those communities can put food on the table. Fast Days are our opportunity to support that vital work. Please collect your Fast Day envelope from the back of church, and don't forget to hold your fast on Lent Fast Day! Please give as much as you can in next week's collection. Thank you.

Parish Finance Committee. The Committee will meet in the hall this afternoon at 4.00. Thank you in advance to the members for their work for the parish. (**Gift Aid Envelopes.** The new tax year starts in a few weeks and the new envelopes will be available soon.)

Fr. Fanzwa, who has been living here in Sacred Heart for the last two years while he ministered to the Syro-Malabar community, has been appointed Priest in Charge at Our Lady of the Rosary and St Thérèse of Lisieux, Saltley, Birmingham. I should like to thank him for all the help he has given over the last two years and to wish him well in his new post. **We welcome Fr. Varghese** who has arrived to take up the mantle. May God bless him and all his community.

Joint Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome in November. Bookings must close this weekend, please.

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

Tailpiece: A man prayed, “Lord, what is it like to live for a million years?”

God: “To me, it's like a minute.”

Man: “Lord, what is it like to have a million pounds?”

God: “To me, it's like a penny.”

Man: “Lord, in that case would you give me a penny?”

God: “Yes. But you'll have to wait a minute.”

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