



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday of Lent

6th April, 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, 6 th April Fifth Sunday in 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) (2.00 pm Baptisms at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>Maria Libania Gama & Judit Gama Private Intention Angel and Josefa Antonio The People of the Parish Ava and Aidan Chandler Felix Fatima Ximenes</i>
Monday, 7 th April <i>Op. Commemoration of St. John Baptiste de la Salle</i>	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Mabel (Birthday)</i>
Tuesday, 8 th April	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Mary Bailey (Anniversary)</i>
Wednesday, 9 th April	No Public Mass Today	<i>Angela Keown (Birthday)</i>
Thursday, 10 th April	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	<i>Bishop Stephen Athipozhiyil RIP</i>
Friday, 11 th April <i>Op. Commemoration of St. Stanislaus</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (11.00 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>	<i>Sr Mary Cecilia Treacy Roland Allsworth (Anniversary)</i>
Saturday, 12 th April	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday)</i>	<i>Sally McVeigh (Get Well) Fr. Peter Dooley SDB (Anniversary)</i>
Sunday, 13 th April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	7.30 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(8.45 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 Larry Gardner Mercy Nash and Peter Nash The People of the Parish</i>
<p>The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am. <i>(At Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm).</i></p>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass today

especially if you are new to the parish or visiting for the Easter holidays.

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		Phil Doherty	Anne Marie	N/A
Next Sunday	Kylla & Lilian		Chris Donovan	Rolly Esteban	N/A

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Sally McVeigh, 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, Henry Nganga, Julian Derczynski, Rosemary Griffiths who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canons William Swift and Peter Jones, Frs. Kevin Preston, Eamon Clarke, Kenneth William Collins, Joseph Barr and Michael McManus, Deacon Jack Foxall, and also Mary Bailey, Bob McNarry, Gillian Phipps, Thomas (Tom) Gaughan, Jack and Kathleen Duffy, Aileen Margaret Young, Larry Gardner, Joan Ann Kelly and Doreen McNearney. May they rest in peace.

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

Veiling the Statues in the church. From today, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, until the Easter Vigil the statues and crucifixes in the church will be veiled. Those signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion, and then at Easter we can rejoice with the saints.

Readers. Please sign up for Holy Week next week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday morning). Sally asked that you just show when you can be here – she will allocate readings to you.

Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church's year. We shall begin outside the church (or at the back of the church if the weather is not good) and process into the church.

The Chrism Mass this year will be on Wednesday, 16th April, at 11.30 am in St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

Eucharistic Ministers: The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday evening is the time for commissioning new Eucharistic Ministers and for existing Ministers to renew their commitment. Please do your best to be here.

Easter Triduum. There is a list in the church porch inviting people to sign up for various roles at the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We need 12 volunteers (men and women) for the Ceremony of the Washing of the Feet during the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00 pm. If you can help, please put your name on the list. After the Mass on Maundy Thursday, you are invited to stay for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.00 pm in the church. It recalls how Jesus invited his apostles to stay with him while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Again, if you can give some of your time for this, please sign the list. Would servers let me know if they will be able to serve at the services, please.

Assisted Suicide Bill. Pastoral Letters from Bishops across England and Wales will be read out at Masses this weekend (5/6 April). The letters focus on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Catholics are asked to contact their MPs – even if they have done so already – and urge them to oppose the Bill.

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.

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.

If you are young (!) and interested in this day, please tell Joyce Kamugisha.

Gardening Morning. This Saturday there will be a gardening morning (8.00 am – 12.00 noon) to try to make the grounds here at Sacred Heart look ready for Easter. If you can help and bring some gardening tools that would be great! Thank you.

Second Collection for the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal. CAFOD is responding to support people affected by the devastating earthquake in Myanmar. Today's second collection at Masses will help to provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to this appeal, either in church today or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

Tailpiece: A parishioner asked, "Father, will you say a prayer for Annabel, please?" "Certainly," said the priest, and did so. The following week he asked, "How is Annabel? Would you like me to keep praying for her?" "No need, Father. She won at 6-to-4 on."

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