



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Easter ("Good Shepherd Sunday")
11th May, 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.

Happy Easter, everyone.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

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| Sunday, 11 th May Fourth Sunday of Easter | <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 Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass</i> | <i>Esperanca Alves Sarmento Private Intention Tommy Ray Nimmo (1st Birthday) R. K. Joshi (Anniversary) Kacper Gryze The People of the Parish</i> |
| Monday, 12 th May <i>Op. Memorials of St. Nereus & St. Achilleus, or St. Pancras, Martyrs</i> | <i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> | <i>R. K. Joshi</i> |
| Tuesday, 13 th May <i>Op. Mem. of Our Lady of Fatima</i> | <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | <i>Fr. Kieron Anderson (Intentions)</i> |
| Wednesday, 14 th May Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle | No Public Mass Today | <i>Dermot and Josephine McMahon</i> |
| Thursday, 15 th May | 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass | <i>Peter RIP</i> |
| Friday, 16 th May | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (11.00 am Baptism at Our Lady's) (3.00 pm Requiem Mass at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i> | <i>Gemayra Soares Maia Ann Marie Clark (nee Mulhern) Bridie Barry (Intentions)</i> |
| Saturday, 17 th May | <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i> | <i>Edward Carey Jose Manuel Alves Sarmento</i> |
| Sunday, 18 th May Fifth Sunday of Easter | <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 Cecilia Michael The People of the Parish Nossa Senhora de Penha</i> |
| <i>Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am. (Also at Our Lady's on Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.)</i> | | |

Welcome to Sacred Heart today especially if you are new to the parish.

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 | Kylla and Lilian | | Philomena Doherty | Pawel Drozd | Jocelyn & Family |
| Next week | Rachel and Phil | | Josh Peter | Lilian Mwawa | Claire & Family |

Lord of life, love and hope, we thank you for the election of our new Pope.

Watch over, protect and bless Pope Leo XIV. We pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, his faithful witness will be a beacon of hope in our fragile and often divided world. May the joy of the Gospel inspire him with compassionate understanding so that, together, we can be peacemakers and life-givers.

May Pope Leo XIV be a good and courageous shepherd, concerned for “the least, the last and the lost” of “every tribe and tongue and people and nation”. Guide him to be a leader after your own heart, which is more loving than we can imagine.

We ask you, Lord, to surround our new Pope with people of pastoral wisdom as he adjusts to his new role. Fill him with confidence in the power of prayer. Help us to help him. Amen.

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, Cheryl Jones, Josie Griffiths, Mary Cross, Nuala McNally, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, Cathleen Kennedy, Jim Kennedy, Dolores Steele, Ella Dawson and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for Pope Francis, Srs. Mary Louise Ballard and Teresa Frost FMA, Fr. Ron Cosslett, Ann Marie Clark, Keelin Trahearn, Denis O'Connor, Saulius Alminauskas, Mary Teresa Heavy, Maria Teotonia Fatima de Sa, Esperanca Costa, Armindo Borges and Michael O'Donoghue who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canon Francis Woodward, Frs. Cathal Cassidy and Denis Hickling, Sr. Georgina McPake FMA, and also Ivor Bridgewater, Gejjo Mash, Mary O'Hara, Monica Pope, Margaret Boyle, Jerzy Dybalski, Michael McLoughlin, John McAndrew, Tom Thompson. May they rest in peace.

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

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and the Consecrated Life. The Church invites us not merely to pray for, but actually to provide priests and religious brothers and sisters. Can you imagine if we had no priest, what would happen to the Church? We shouldn't think that it must be a member of someone else's family who will be called to be a priest; we need to be open to the possibility that God's call will come to one of ours, even to ourselves. Let us pray for all priests and religious and those in formation, and ask God to provide wise and caring pastors for his Church. **There will be a second collection at Masses today for the Clergy Training Fund to help pay for the students training to be priests and deacons.**

Next Sunday at the 6.00 evening Mass we shall celebrate with members of our community as they mark the Feast of Nossa Senhora da Penha. The first Reading and some of the hymns will be in Portuguese.

Beware – in some parishes parishioners have received emails purporting to be from their parish priest saying he “wants to ask a favor” (*sic*). These are scams. Please do not reply to them. Any emails that claim to be from this parish, or from any priest in this Diocese, or from the Diocese itself that do not end in @rcaob.org.uk are not genuine.

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.

Habemus Papam: We have a Pope!

Archbishop Bernard has issued the following statement about the election of Pope Leo XIV:

"I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world.

"It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate.

Diocesan Safeguarding Volunteer. The Trustees of the Birmingham Diocese want to recruit a skilled, Catholic volunteer with professional experience of safe-guarding. www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/safeguarding

A Plea. When you come to Mass, please remember to switch off your mobile phones so that they don't disturb you or the people around you. Thank you.

Tailpiece: A priest was once out visiting in his country parish and after a long trek he eventually arrived at the door of a farmhouse. “It's a long lane to your farm,” he complained to the farmer. “Aye, ‘tis,” was the reply. “But if it were any shorter it wouldn't reach.”

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