



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th August, 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, 17 th August Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(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	Neil Murphy (3 rd Anniversary) Private Intention John Joe McGroarty Paul Watts (Anniversary) Iza Alves Joao Bosco Maria Do Rego Soriano
Monday, 18 th August <i>Diocesan Novena begins today</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Dec'd Hedgecox Family (JA)
Tuesday, 19 th August <i>Op. Mem. of St. John Eudes</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Fr. Jacob Lewis (JA)
Wednesday, 20 th August <i>Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 21 st August <i>Memorial of St. Pius X, Pope</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sally McVeigh (Get Well)
Friday, 22 nd August <i>Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Peace in areas of conflict
Saturday, 23 rd August <i>Feast of St. John Wall, Priest, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (12.00 noon Nuptial Mass at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	In Thanksgiving (Angela) Luiz Da Silva Soares and Beatriz Lizete Da Costa Cruz Hugh Allan
Sunday, 24 th August Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 9.00 am Mass with Baptism of Maya Hoxha (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) (2.00 pm Baptisms at Our Lady's) (3.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Private Intention Cecilia Michael The People of the Parish Shiloh Soares Jaxon Kabwebwe and Demi Stephenson-Cox Faye Fleur Fernandes Rosa Clara Soriano Da Silva and Antonio Maria Da Silva

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today, especially if you are visiting for the 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	Rachel and Phil	P. Chacka and Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas	Claire & family
Next week	Chris and Edwin	D. Silva and V. Robbins	Rolly Esteban	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	Priya & Family

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Sally McVeigh, Keith Dolton, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Claudino Serra Vaz, Inna, Beatrice Upham, Eileen McGarry, Cheryl Jones, Josie Griffiths, Mary Cross, Nuala McNally, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, Cathleen Kennedy, Jim Kennedy, Ella Dawson, Mary Barry and all we know who are sick.

Please pray for Fr. Paul Johnson, Hugh Allan, John Mulvenna and Dr Marie Rowlands who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bernard William Cardinal Griffin, Frs. Terence Smith and Alan Smith, and Dcn. Douglas Taylor, and also Michael (Stephen) Keane, Joe Barrett, Annie Ryan, Gabrielle Crawforth, John Kenny, Ezra Moore and Seamus Whelan. May they rest in peace.

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

Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Richard will be coming to Sacred Heart at 10.00 am on Saturday, 18th October to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for members of our parish. If you are aged 11 upwards and have not been Confirmed then please apply using one of the forms at the back of church. Preparations will start in after school on Thursday afternoons in September.

The Annual Novena of Prayer for the Cause of Blessed Dominic Barberi begins on Monday, 18th August, and lasts for nine days up to his feast day on Tuesday, 26th August. We offer our prayers and good wishes to our neighbours in the parish of Blessed Dominic in Littlemore. The Novena Prayer can be prayed in parishes or at home.

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal and made him a powerful minister of your mercy, listen to our humble request. We pray that You will, in your goodness, grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, so that the Church may further honour him on earth and that many more people will come to know and invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope, pray for us.

Saint John Henry Newman, pray for us.

Blessed Dominic Barberi, pray for us.

Jubilee Walk, 13th September. Join the Youth Group for a Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk from St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham to the Shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis at St Michael's Church, Penn, (about 14 miles, and mostly flat). Families, clergy, youth groups and young adults can register to join. Refreshments will be available in the hall. (The parish Mass is at 5.30 pm). Please speak to Joyce for info.

CAFOD. Rachel Breward is running her first marathon to raise money for CAFOD! The Marathon is the Abingdon Marathon on 19th October. If you would like to sponsor her, she has a sponsorship form, or to give online go to: https://www.justgiving.com/page/rachel-breward-3?utm_source=EmailShare_SFMC&utm_medium=email_social&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_Day5_Full_Std

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith: I am planning a series of meetings on Friday afternoons, starting in September, for anyone who wants to find out more about our Faith, either with a view to becoming a Catholic or returning to the Faith. If you know someone who may come if invited, please pass on an invitation.

Altar Servers: It would be great to have more children (or adults) involved in serving, so parents, please encourage your children in this. You can start serving if you have made your First Holy Communion. In the autumn there will be some training sessions.

The Season of Creation. Pope Francis established 1st September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. He didn't hold back in his language: *'The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.'* In the Season of Creation (1st September to 4th October) we recognise our role in Creation. This year's theme is "Peace with Justice".

- **Live Simply And Sustainably:** For simple and sustainable school holiday activities, consider nature-based adventures like visiting local parks, observing nature around your home, or having a garden campout. Get creative with crafts using recycled materials.
- **Live In Solidarity:** Refugees seeking asylum, migrants seeking a better life, have a right to do so. Our responsibility is to welcome such people, listen to their stories, and if they do have a claim to stay here, then we accept them. If not, then we help them to return to their homeland. At all times, we must treat them with respect and dignity.

For more information or to get involved in climate action in the Archdiocese, contact climateaction@rcaob.org.uk

Tailpiece: A mother was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake so she said to them "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" The elder boy turned to his brother and said, "You can be Jesus."

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