



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

24th 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, 24 th August Twenty-first 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 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	Hugh Allan Private Intention Cecilia Michael Joana Maia Shiloh Soares Jaxon Kabwebwe and Demi Stephenson-Cox Faye Fleur Fernandes Rosa Clara Soriano Da Silva and Antonio Maria Da Silva
Monday, 25 th August <i>Optional Memorials of St. Louis or St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 26 th August Feast of Bl. Dominic Barberi	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Special Intention</i>
Wednesday, 27 th August <i>Memorial of St. Monica</i>	No Public Mass Today	Patrick and Sarah Davey
Thursday, 28 th August <i>Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Betty Duff
Friday, 29 th August <i>Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Souls in Purgatory</i>
Saturday, 30 th August <i>Optional Memorial of Ss. Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward, Martyrs</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Felix Saulong, Jnr. Mick Mullagh
Sunday, 31 st August Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (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	Private Intention Jim McCann Fr. Charlie Timoney <i>The People of the Parish</i>

Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm, and Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am. (Also at Our Lady's on Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.)

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.

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)

	Counting rota	Readers' Rota (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers' Rota		Flowers rota
This week	Chris and Edwin	D. Silva and V. Robbins	Rolly Esteban	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	Priya & Family
Next week	Sally and Phil	D. Wallace and Blossom	Pat McGroarty	Rolly Esteban	Priya & Family

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Sally McVeigh, Keith Dolton, Barry Holland, Rosalind Ingrams, Claudio 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 and Mary Harrigan who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon Laurence Emery, Mgr. Richard J Foster, Canon Laurence Hogarty, Frs. Patrick Branagan, Francis Rowe, James Downey, Isaac William Savin, Francis Toole and Brendan O'Malley, Deacons Peter Kilgallon and David McCarroll, and also Betty Piercy, Adam Dennis Quelch, Peter King, Catherine Rita Sheridan, Michael McManus, Pietro Lindo and James Turnbull. 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 for the Sacrament of Confirmation at 10.00 am on Saturday, 18th October. If you are aged 11 upwards and have not yet been Confirmed please apply using one of the forms at the back of church. Preparations will be after school on Thursday afternoons in September.

The Annual Novena of Prayer for the Cause of Blessed Dominic Barberi ends this Tuesday, 26th August. We offer our good wishes to our neighbours in the parish of Blessed Dominic in Littlemore. The Novena Prayer:

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 Beward 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-beward-3?utm_source=EmailShare_SFMC&utm_medium=email_socia&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_Day5_Full_Std

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith: There will be a series of meetings at Our Lady's parish hall on Friday afternoons, at 4.30, starting on 13th September. Please pass this on to anyone who may be interested.

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. When the schools restart there will be some training sessions.

Baptism. Please pray for Maya Hoxha whom we welcome into the family of the Church at the 9.00 am Mass today. May God bless her and her family.

'40 Days for Life' (24th September-2nd November) is an international campaign to end abortion and to offer an alternative to women seeking it. You are invited to attend the opening event, at the Cafe Neri of the Oxford Oratory, on the 20th September at 7:30 pm, featuring the personal testimony of Amrita and the perspective of Robert Calquhon, who is at the forefront of prolife work.

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".

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

Tailpiece: Some years ago a group of electricians were installing new lighting in the roof of Liverpool Cathedral. One of them accidentally left the lift doors open at the top. This made it impossible for anyone at the bottom to call it down again. As a result, visitors to the Cathedral were somewhat startled to hear the Clerk of Works yelling heavenward, "Peter, close the gates."

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