



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd 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, 3 rd August Eighteenth 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) 6.00 pm Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Brian Nolan</i> <i>Hugh Allan</i> <i>Teresa Dorego Soriano, Manuel Lobato Soriano, Tiborcio Soriano</i>
Monday, 4 th August <i>Memorial of St. John Mary Vianney, Priest</i>	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	<i>In Thanksgiving</i>
Tuesday, 5 th August <i>Op. Mem. of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Steve Walker (Birthday)</i>
Wednesday, 6 th August Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Abhimanyu Joshi</i> <i>(We also pray for Tiyara Miriam)</i>
Thursday, 7 th August <i>Optional Memorial of St. Sixtus II & Companions, or St. Cajetan, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Sabas and Lourdes Balbag</i>
Friday, 8 th August <i>Memorial of St. Dominic, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Tiyara Miriam (2nd Birthday)</i>
Saturday, 9 th August Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Martyr, Patron of Europe	No Morning Mass Today (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	<i>Sheila Jennings (Intentions)</i>
Sunday, 10 th August Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(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>Private Intention</i> <i>Michael Cullen</i> <i>Eric Williams</i> <i>Daiva and Gregorio (2nd Wedding Anniversary)</i>

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	Sally and Phil	R. Galinda and J. Esteban	Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan	Claire and family
Next week	Kylla and Lilian	D. Wallace and Blossom	Phil Doherty	Pawel Drozdz	Claire & 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. Tony Rohan, Dcns Brian Cox and Adrian Davies, Gabriel Drumm, Hugh Allan, Betty Duff and Dr. Marie Rowlands who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. David Ford, Cuthbert Brown and Francis Gwinnett, Dcn. John Lynch, and also Nora Griffin, John (Sean) O'Meara, Ursula Teresa Lillis, John Hennigan, Doreen Reilly, Tony Reilly, Brian Nolan and Jimmy Doyle. May they rest in peace.

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

St John Henry Newman is declared a “Doctor of the Church”.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham is rejoicing because St John Henry Newman has been declared a Doctor of the Church. Pope Leo made the official announcement – Conferral of the Title of Doctor of the Church – last Thursday, 31st July. The title of Doctor of the Church is given to Saints who have made a significant contribution to theology or doctrine through their research, study or writing. St John Henry is very much “one of our own”: In Littlemore there is ‘the college’ where he lived from 1842 to 1846 and was received into the Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi. In Birmingham, Maryvale House was his first home as a Catholic; he was confirmed in the Chapel at St Mary’s College, Oscott, and also preached his famous Second Spring sermon there. He was the founder of the Birmingham and Oxford Oratories, the Oratory School and The Oratory Preparatory School in South Oxfordshire.



Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Richard will be coming to Sacred Heart in 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. Preparation will start in September.

Called and Gifted. Each one of us is a unique creation and each is given unique gifts from God. “Called and Gifted” is a journey of discovering your spiritual gifts, and it is coming to Corpus Christi, Headington, starting on Saturday, 13th September 2025. It is a process which helps you discern more clearly the particular spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given you. Contact John Kirwan, johnkirwan1a@gmail.com or 07985098544 for more information and/or to register. **If you are interested in joining please contact John TODAY (the deadline).**

“Rosary, Roses and Miracles” for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, on Saturday, 16th August at 11.00 am at Eva’s house. Spaces limited; please contact Eva at evasmithson1112@gmail.com

Summer holidays. I shall be on holiday from Wednesday, 6th August until Friday, 15th August. I shall offer Mass for the intentions listed and I thank the Fathers at the Carmelite House in Boars Hill who have kindly agreed to come to celebrate next weekend’s Masses here at Sacred Heart. If you need a priest during this time, please contact Fr. Ziggy at Blessed Dominic Barberi, Littlemore. Tel: 01865 778454; Email: bdb.oxford@rcaob.org.uk.

Jubilee Walk, 13th September. Join the Youth Group for a Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk. We will be journeying from St Chad’s Cathedral in Birmingham to the Shrine of Blessed Carlo Acutis at St Michael’s Church, Penn. The walk will be 14 miles, and mostly flat. There is also the choice to join for a shorter walk from the halfway point at Tipton. Families, clergy, youth groups and young adults can register to join the Pilgrimage Walk. Bishop Timothy and Canon Mark Crisp will be leading a gathered time of prayer at the shrine and refreshments will be available in the hall. (The parish Mass is at 5.30 pm). Please speak to Joyce for info.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith: I am planning a series of meetings, starting in the Autumn, for anyone who wants to find out more about our Faith, either with a view to becoming a Catholic or returning to the practice of the Faith. If you know someone who has drifted away but who might return if invited, please pass on an invitation.

Tailpiece: A doctor and a priest were at a party when the doctor was approached by a man who asked advice on how to handle his ulcer. The doctor mumbled some medical advice, then turned to the priest and remarked, “I never know how to handle that sort of situation when I’m asked for medical advice during a social function. Is it morally acceptable to send a bill for such advice?” The priest replied that it was morally acceptable to do so. The next day, the doctor sent the ulcer-stricken man a bill. The priest also sent a bill to the doctor.

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