



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14<sup>th</sup> September, 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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> September <b>Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b> <i>Education Sunday</i>	(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's) 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Patrick Mullins (Month Mind)  Private Intention Tony Donovan Pat Atherton (Birthday) Jenelcia AnnaMaria Andrade Babo (In Thanksgiving)
Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Eric and Family
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Memorial of St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bere, Angel Maxanches Bintaldays
Wednesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Op. Mem. of St. Robert Bellarmine, or of St. Hildegard of Bingen</i>	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Andrew Antonio Sr.
Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Optional Memorial of St. Theodore of Canterbury, or of St. Januarius</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Mem. of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Comps.</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b> (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Breege Nunnely The People of the Parish
Sunday, 21 <sup>st</sup> September <b>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Evangelii Gaudium Day</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (2.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Private Intention Annie O'Neil Thanksgiving (Joshi Family) Bella-Virginija D'Ferraro Mejias The Cuddy Family (Intentions)
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.)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today, especially if you are new to this Parish.

Today is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a Feast of the Lord which takes precedence over the ordinary Sunday. It is also Education Sunday, and there will be a second collection during Mass for the Catholic Education Service.

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.

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	Rachel and Phil	V. Robbins and D. Silva	Phil Doherty	Pawel Drozdz	Ghie & Rocelle
Next week	Chris and Edwin	P. Chacko and Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas	

**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 Barbara Holland** and all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop George Patrick Dwyer, Canons David Mellor and Peter McKenna, Frs. Patrick Meagher, Richard Dinnis, William Oddie, Alan Leslie Holtham, John David Steward and Peter Lees, and also Baby Oliver Michael Knott, Antonio Abreu, Daniel Lyons, Archie McKenzie Allen, Brian Peter Harper, Mary Manning, Andrew McGregor and Thomas Bolger. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

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

**Music at the 9.00 am Sunday Mass.** Can you sing? Can you play any musical instrument? Would you like to be more involved in our weekly worship of God as a community? If the answer to any these questions is "yes!" then please feel welcome to come and join in. Just come up to the corner by the organ.



**Sacrament of Confirmation.** Bishop Richard will be coming to Sacred Heart for the Sacrament of Confirmation at 10.00 am on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October. The preparation classes began last Thursday, unfortunately without several of those who had applied to receive the Sacrament. We only have a few lessons and it is important to attend them all. Would those who missed last Thursday let me know whether they still wish to be confirmed, please.

**Mass for the Sick.** There will be a special Mass for the sick on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> October, here in Sacred Heart Church, at 11.00 am. It will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All welcome.

**Enquiries about the Catholic Faith:** The series of meetings started at Our Lady's, Cowley, last week in the Don Bosco Centre (the Parish hall). If you missed the first meeting but would like to attend other meetings you are welcome, at 4.30 pm each Friday. If you know someone who may be interested, please let them know. This week we shall ask "How can we know God and about God?" (Spoiler alert! It's because He tells us).

**CAFOD.** Rachel Breward is running her first marathon to raise money for CAFOD on 19<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.justgiving.com/page/rachel-breward-3?utm_source>EmailShare_SFMC&utm_medium=email_social&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_Day5_Full_Std)

**Oxford Pro-Life Community Launch, this Saturday,** 20<sup>th</sup> September , 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, St Anthony of Padua Church Hall (next to the JR, OX3 7SS). Email Ed ox.prolife@gmail.com or visit <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk>

### Education Sunday.

#### *An Invitation from Archbishop Bernard Longley*

Today we give thanks for the gift of Catholic education. Our schools have a mission to form *Christ-centred pilgrims of hope*, with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice. We urgently need more Foundation Directors and Governors to help guide our schools and keep Christ at the heart of their mission. This is not simply an administrative role, it is a true vocation and a way to serve Christ and His Church. If you are a practising Catholic, committed to our mission, and willing to share your time, skills, and faith, you can make a lasting difference for thousands of children and young people. No prior experience is required as full training and support are given. The Holy Cross teaches us that service is not always easy, but it is always fruitful when rooted in love.

Please speak to your Parish Priest or visit the Diocesan Education Service's website for further details: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/could-you-be-a-foundation-governor-or-director-at-your-local-catholic-school> and <https://www.bdes.org.uk/governor-online-application-forms.html> for an online application.

**'40 Days for Life'** (24<sup>th</sup> September-2<sup>nd</sup> November) is an international campaign to end abortion and to offer an alternative to women seeking it. Opening at the Cafe Neri of the Oxford Oratory, on 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm.

**Pilgrimage for the Planet,** Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September. Starts 11.15 am from Blackfriars Priory, and ends at 2.00 pm at St. Frideswide Church, Botley Road. Bring a picnic lunch.

**Tailpiece:** One night a lady came home from her weekly Bible Study meeting and discovered a burglar in her house. Fresh from her prayers she cried out, "Acts 2:38: 'Repent and be baptized and your sins will be forgiven.'" To her great surprise and relief, the robber promptly put his hands in the air and waited quietly while she rang the police. While handcuffing the criminal, a policeman said, "You gave up very easily, didn't you. Why didn't you try to get away?" The robber replied, "Are you joking? She said she had an axe and two 38s! I'm not going to risk those odds."

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