



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

First Sunday of Advent

30th November, 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, 30 th November First Sunday of Advent	(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) 9.00 am Mass (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) (4.30 pm Mass at Our Lady's for the Goan Community) 6.00 pm Mass	Kathleen Murphy (3 rd Anniv.) Private Intention Thomas Duff Sheila Jennings (Intentions) Private Intention The People of the Parish
Monday, 1 st December Feast of St. Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Julio Madeira Cabral Soares (Get Well)
Tuesday, 2 nd December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Mary Cairns (Get Well)
Wednesday, 3 rd December <i>Mem. of St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	Peter Hans
Thursday, 4 th December <i>Optional Memorial of St. John Damascene, Priest</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	John Cullen
Friday, 5 th December Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop <i>First Friday of the Month</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Requiem Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	James Thompson RIP Bernadette Edwards (Intentions)
Saturday, 6 th December <i>Op. Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	No Morning Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Sean Og Jennings (2 nd Anniv.)
Sunday, 7 th December Second Sunday of Advent	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 Joseph McGarry Thomas White (Birthday) John and Michelle Julia McCann

Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. Also at Our Lady's, Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.

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

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	Readers (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers	
This week	Kylla & Lilian		Pat McGroarty	Rolly Esteban
Next week	Rachel & Phil		Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Bridie Barry, 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, Mary Cairns, Lisa Birch, Julio Madeira Cabral Soares, Fatima Jong, John Hudgell and all we know who are sick.

Please pray for James Thompson, Keith (Fredek) Reading and all who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishops Joseph Masterson and Edward Ilsley, Frs. Reginald Anwyl, Norman Millard, Peter Rogers, Liam MacFarlane, and also Mrs Higgins, Cecilia Harris, Susan Keane, Ronald Rowles, Patrick (PJ) Finnerty, Sabina Hennigan, Kathleen Duffy and William Gardner. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

James Thompson's funeral will be here at Sacred Heart on Friday, 10.00 am.



This is a real treat in the lead-up to Christmas. On the evening of Saturday, 20th December (7.00-8.30 pm) the boys' choir from Worcester College will sing carols and Christmas songs in Our Lady's church, Cowley. Tickets, £15 per person, available next week from me after Mass.

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

First Friday. This Friday is the First Friday of the month. Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said before Mass on Thursday evening.

Advent. Today we enter into the Church's new year. The Sunday Mass Lectionary Cycle is Year A, and the Weekday Cycle when we get back to Ordinary Time will be Year 2. If you use the Daily Office of the Church, we start at Sunday, Week 1 of Advent today.

The Advent Wreath. As a sign of our preparation for Christmas we have our wreath. It has three purple candles, reminding us that we need to turn away from wrong and turn to Jesus. It also has a rose-coloured candle, representing the joy of this season, and a white candle, the "Christ Candle" which will be lit at Christmas.



The Christmas Tree. As you can see, we have a Christmas tree on the sanctuary area of the church. Our tree is not just a decoration. My idea is that we use it to put prayers on as we prepare to welcome Jesus at Christmas.

I invite you to decorate the tree with stars and for every star you hang you can also write a prayer for someone who you think needs to have some hope, peace, joy or love in their lives this Christmas.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses next Sunday to support the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Poor Parishes Fund was put in place to help those smaller parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

Advent Walk With Me Booklets. Advent begins next Sunday, and to help us to enter into this time of grace there are *Walk With Me* booklets on the church benches. There are also Advent calendars available in the porch.

My Day By Day Booklets for Advent are also available at the back of the church, price £1. These give us the readings at Mass every day during Advent. Please leave your money in the basket where you find the booklets.

Mass Intentions. The 2026 Mass Intentions diary is open. If you would like Mass offered for an intention, please see Joyce or me after Mass. It would help if you give your request in writing. If you want Mass said on a date that is already booked, I shall do it on the nearest available day.



The Sacred Heart Christmas Bazaar.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make sure our Christmas Bazaar happened, and thanks to everyone who came to support it. I haven't had the final figures yet, but it is all a great help to our parish.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith. We shall meet again at Our Lady's this Friday at 4.30-5.15 pm when the subject will be the Liturgical Year. All welcome.

Mass for the Goan Community. Fr Noel DCunha will be celebrating Mass for the Goan community of Oxford this afternoon at 4.30 in Our Lady's church. All welcome.

Tailpiece: Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house, not long before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs, "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...I PRAY FOR A NEW ...". His older brother interrupted him, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." The boy replied simply, "No, but Grandma is!"

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