



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Advent

14th December, 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, 14 th December Third 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) 6.00 pm Mass	Doris White (Anniversary) Private Intention The People of the Parish Marian Boggis (Intentions) Mr. M.E.Connolly (JA)
Monday, 15 th December	(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Sr. Breda (Get Well)
Tuesday, 16 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Dec'd Hedgecox Family (JA)
Wednesday, 17 th December O Sapientia	No Public Mass Today	Special Intention
Thursday, 18 th December O Adonai	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (5.00 pm Reception of Kathleen Mullagh at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Emily Mary Andrews (JA)
Friday, 19 th December O Radix Iesse	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Kathleen Mullagh Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 20 th December O Clavis David	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Carlos Agostinho, Maria Sekoro, Nelia Da Silva The People of the Parish
Sunday, 21 st December Fourth Sunday of Advent O Oriens Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	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 Cecilia Michael Danny Lyons (Birthday) Brown and Taylor Families (JA)
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm, and Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am. (Also at Our Lady's, Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today, the Third Sunday of Advent, especially if you are visiting our parish for the holidays or if you are new to our community.

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.

Christmas Flowers. There will be a retiring collection after Masses this weekend to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church.

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	Chris & Edwin	Anyu Elizebeth & Blossom	Philomena Doherty	Pawel Drozd
Next week	Sally & Phil	Priya Chacka & Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas

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

Please pray for Mgr. Vaughan Morgan, Fr. David Keniry, James Thompson, Kathleen Mullagh, Justin Parker, Becky Finnerty who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Fergus O'Connell, John Dewis, Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara and Edmund Motherway, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and also Joseph William Hutchinson, Bernie O'Neill, Winifred McGrath, Robert Gleeson, Keith Baker, Myles Quirke, Sean McMahon, Kevin McGrath, Patricia Rothery and Sarah Craig. 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.

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. This weekend we shall light the third of these, the rose-coloured one which represents joy.



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. We shall put prayers on it 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.

Times of Mass at Christmas: Fr. Martin Flatman will be here at Sacred Heart to celebrate the first Mass of Christmas at 5.00 pm on Christmas Eve. The Midnight Mass will start with a period of Carols and Readings from 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve. Then Mass on Christmas Day will be at 9.00 am. (There will also be 11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's on Christmas Day).

Christmas Cards. Please take one of our parish Christmas cards for your family, and one for your neighbours.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". The second part of Advent starts this Wednesday, and is marked by the "O Antiphons" which highlight a different title each day for the Messiah and invite Him into our hearts: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and finally, *O Emmanuel*.

The Sacred Heart Christmas Bazaar. Thank you to Mr Pill and Son for their very kind donation to our Parish Bazaar, and thanks to everyone who came to support it.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes available if you want. Thank you.

The Christmas Crib Offerings. There is a custom for people, when they say a prayer before the Crib in church, to make a small offering of money. This year's offerings will go to The Friends of the Holy Land who support Christians in the Holy Land, who are largely dependent on pilgrims to the Holy Land and are finding life very difficult at present.

Tailpiece: A woman went into a Post Office to buy some stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination do you want?" asked the lady at the counter. "Good grief!" she replied, "Has it come to that? I suppose you'd better give me twenty Catholic and twenty Presbyterian."

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