



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st 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, 21 st December Fourth Sunday of Advent	<i>(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>	<i>The People of the Parish Private Intention Cecilia Michael Danny Lyons (Birthday) Brown and Taylor Families (JA)</i>
Monday, 22 nd December O Rex Gentium	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>John Edwards (Get Well)</i>
Tuesday, 23 rd December <i>Commemoration of St. John of Kenty</i> O Emmanuel	No Public Mass Today	<i>M. E. Connolly (JA)</i>
Wednesday, 24 th December Christmas Eve	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 5.00 pm Crib Service followed by the First Mass of Christmas (5.00 pm Mass of Christmas at Our Lady's) (7.30 pm Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 11.30 pm Carols and Readings 12.00 Midnight Mass (12.00 Midnight Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Harvey Beesley Andres and Mary Ann (5th Wedding Anniversary) Private Intention In Thanksgiving McCann and Carey Families</i>
Thursday, 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	<i>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)</i>	<i>Private Intention John and Michael Cullen Nossa Senhora de Fatima</i>
Friday, 26 th December Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (12.00 noon Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>James Thompson Kathleen Mullagh</i>
Saturday, 27 th December Feast of St. John, Apostle	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Martinho Joao Soriano Jeronimo The People of the Parish</i>
Sunday, 28 th December Feast Of The Holy Family	<i>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>	<i>Private Intention Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bere and family Martin and Bridie Keane Yoono</i>

Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church today, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Happy Christmas, everyone!

*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		Flowers
This Sunday	Sally & Phil	Priya Chacka & Dom	Josh Peter	John Thomas	
5.00 pm Christmas Eve	X	Deirdre Wallace			Jocelyn Esteban
11.30 pm Midnight Mass	X	Jocelyn Esteban & Kylla Abrigo			X
9.00 am Christmas Day	X	Michele Afanu			X
Next Sunday	Kylla & Lilian	Deirdre Wallace & Anyu Elizebeth	Pat McGroarty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	Claire Fermin

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, Mary Collins and all we know who are sick.

Please pray for Fr. David Keniry, Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Kathleen Mullagh and Justin Parker, who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr. Patrick O'Mahoney, Mgr. Canons William Flint and Thomas Gavin, Canon Gerald Breen, Frs. Brian Doolan, Patrick Wall, Anthony Ireland, Thomas Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe, Seamus McInerney and David O'Callaghan, Sr. Veronica Lindsay FMA, and also Mary Quigley, James Kenny, Shean Scanlon, Bridie Barnes, Paul Foster, Pamela Langford, Alice Phippen, Robert Craig, Cherry Judith Smith and Stephen Motherway. May they rest in peace.

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



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 a prayer for someone who needs some help and comfort this Christmas.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at Christmas is your personal gift to your priest. Thank you.

Upcoming Feasts:

Next Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family;
 Thursday, 1st January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;
 Tuesday, 6th January, the Epiphany;
 Sunday, 11th January: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

New Year's Eve. Are you doing anything special for New Year's Eve? If not, why not come to Mass? I shall celebrate Mass here at Sacred Heart at 6.00 pm, giving thanks to God for His blessings over the last year and for blessings on the coming year. Then I shall do the same at 11.00 pm at Our Lady's, followed by a party there to "see in the New Year". You are all welcome to join me for either occasion.

Christmas Raffle. After Mass today you have the chance to buy a ticket (£2) for the hamper of Christmas drinks. The winner will be drawn after the evening Mass

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).

The Christmas Crib Offerings. This year the offerings left before the Crib will go to The Friends of the Holy Land who support Christians in the Holy Land.

First Holy Communion Lessons. People have been asking me about this so, parents, if your children are aged 8 or over they can receive their First Holy Communion next June. Don't worry! There is plenty of time. I shall put out registration forms in January and preparation lessons will start at the end of February.

Tailpiece: I think I am grateful to the parishioners who have sent me these early Christmas cracker jokes:

Q.: How does Good King Wenceslaus like his pizzas?
 A.: Deep pan, crisp and even.
 Q.: How do Mary and Joseph get their Christmas groceries?
 A.: On a Lidl donkey.

...ouch!

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your friendship and help this year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.

Fr. Harry