



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

28th 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, 28 th December Feast Of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 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	The People of the Parish Private Intention Michael and Eileen White (Int.) Martin and Bridie Keane Yoona
Monday, 29 th December Feast of St. Thomas Becket	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Charles and Family
Tuesday, 30 th December <i>Sixth Day in the Christmas Octave</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bere and family
Wednesday, 31 st December <i>Seventh Day in the Christmas Octave</i> <i>Op. Comm. of St. Sylvester</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Mass (11.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	In Thanksgiving for Blessings in 2025 and for the Coming Year
Thursday, 1 st January Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (12.00 noon Mass at Our Lady's)	Jean Bradley Francesca Ward (Intentions)
Friday, 2 nd January <i>Memorial of St. Basil & St. Gregory</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)	The Boyle Family
Saturday, 3 rd January <i>Optional Memorial of the Holy Name of Jesus</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Melly Balbag The People of the Parish
Sunday, 4 th January Second Sunday after the Nativity	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 Jim McCann (Birthday) Winnie Gildea, Helen Towey and Anne Sinclair (Anniversary) Martin McDonagh (50 th B'day)

Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church today for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

*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	Kylla & Lilian	Deirdre Wallace & Anyu Elizebeth	Pat McGroaty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	Claire Fermin
Next Sunday	Rachel & Phil		Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan	

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, Mary Collins and all we know who are sick.

Please pray for Fr. David Keniry, Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Lorraine Gaughan, Catherine Webb and Justin Parker, who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Frs. Christopher Greaney, Patrick Lynch, Anthony De Vere, Deacons Paul Hender, Peter Mason, Sr. Ann Hoskison FMA and also Patrick Martin Fitzgerald, Michael Brennan, John (Johnie) Kennedy, Anacletus Prosper, Catherine Carpenter, Deidre Nolan, Ann Tobin and Melly Balbag. May they rest in peace.

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

Upcoming Feasts:

Thursday, 1st January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Tuesday, 6th January, Feast of 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. Thank you to everyone who supported our Bottle Raffle last week. There were three winners (ticket nos. 52, 74 and 24) and it raised £154. Well done to Chris for arranging it.

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.

First Friday. This Friday is the First Friday of the month, and the Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said during the morning Mass on Thursday. (N.B. Please note that there will be no evening Mass with Confessions this Thursday. There will be an opportunity for Confession on Saturday morning).

My Day By Day booklets for January are available at the back of the church, price £1.

Tailpiece: My New Year's Resolutions over the last years:

2021: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.

2022: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2023: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2024: I will work out 3 days a week.

2025: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

2026: ???

I wish you every blessing in the New Year. The church looked wonderful at Christmas and our celebrations went very well. Thank you very much to all who helped in any way: those who cleaned and prepared the church, arranged the flowers, helped to assemble the crib, polished the metalwork, read, sang or played, served at the altar, and all the many other jobs. Above all, thanks to you and your families for coming and joining in these celebrations.

I should also like to thank you all for your Christmas offerings and for the many individual gifts and cards that I received. May God bless you all.

Fr. Harry

Goodbye to 2025

As this Jubilee Year of Hope draws to an end and we look back, I thought you might be interested to see some of the things that took place in this parish. During 2025:

- ❖ There were two Parish Pilgrimages. The first, a walking Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Blessed Dominic Barberi in Littlemore, and the second, a flying Pilgrimage to Rome.
- ❖ 5 Baptisms were celebrated in the church: Josie Salter-Griffiths, Christopher-Jack and Bridiemae, Maya Hoxha, Clara Lewis.
- ❖ 7 candidates received Holy Communion for the first time: Floriano Sacramento, Jemy Zimelni, Shayne Mwasa, Neliao Borges Luy, Angelica Goncalves, Noi-Ria Eleina Silva Guterres, Roselyn Desia Soares Rangel.
- ❖ 9 candidates were confirmed: Joshua Elorme Afanu, Kaylah Buwule, Ramona Buwule, Shanel Buwule, Shelby Buwule, Alvin Jomy, Constantine Renato, Fabiana Rodrigues De Goes, Johnnell Tiempo.
- ❖ 8 Funerals were celebrated: William ("Bill") Gardner, Melly Balbag, Maria Gomes, Paul Dolton, Saulius Alminauskas, Michael O'Donoghue, Gabriel Drumm, James Thompson. May they rest in peace.

Hello to 2026. Bring it on!