



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Advent

7th 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, 7 th December Second 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) (1.00 pm Baptisms at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	Sean Og Jennings (2 nd Anniv.) Private Intention Joseph McGarry Thomas White (Birthday) John and Michelle Julia McCann
Monday, 8 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School) 7.00 pm Mass	Alberta Daniel The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 9 th December Optional Memorial of St. John Diego Cuahltlatotzin	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Eric Edwards (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 10 th December Optional Memorial of St. Edmund Gennings, Martyr, or of Our Lady of Loreto	No Public Mass Today	Marjorie Chungtuyco (Anniv.)
Thursday, 11 th December Optional Memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Eva Smithson (Birthday)
Friday, 12 th December Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	Karen Charles (Get Well)
Saturday, 13 th December Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass (3.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Julia, Alfredo, Suzie Dos Santos Larosa-Mae Doris White (Anniversary)
Sunday, 14 th December Third 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 The People of the Parish Marian Boggis (Intentions) Mr. M.E.Connolly (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, 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	Rachel & Phil		Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan
Next week	Chris & Edwin		Philomena Doherty	Pawel Drozd

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, James Thompson, Keith (Fredek) Reading, Kathleen Mullagh, Justin Parker, Becky Finnerty who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Drinkwater, Frs. Horace Relph, Michael Knight, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorrow, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Molloy, Vincent Lucas, George Gallacher, William Henry Browne, John Ellis and Cyril Barlow, Sr. Eileen McGarry FMA, and also Elizabeth McGavigan, Sean Michael Jennings, Joseph Patrick Cahill, Joan Kelly, Lucy Lynch, Mary Batten and E.F.Brunnrius. 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 second of these, representing peace. The wreath also has a rose-coloured candle, representing the joy of this season, and a white candle, the "Christ Candle", to 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.

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.

Christmas Flowers. There will be a retiring collection after Masses next Sunday to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year in memory of someone or for a special occasion please speak to me.

Eucharistic Ministers. There will be a meeting of Eucharistic Ministers for an Advent reflection and practice this Thursday, at 5.00 pm in the Parish hall. It will run into prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at 6.00 pm.

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School is seeking a reliable 15-hour Caretaker to help maintain our welcoming, safe and well-kept school environment. Duties include routine maintenance, site security and supporting daily operations. If you're practical and community-minded, we'd love to hear from you. For details or to apply, please contact office@stjohnfisher.co.uk

Tailpiece: A couple were walking in Moscow and they met a Communist Party official. "Excuse me, Comrade Rudi," said one, "but could you settle an argument. Is this rain that is falling, or is it snow?" The Official screwed up his eyes, looked into the sky, then considered the pavement, and eventually gave his verdict: "It is rain, Comrades!" and he walked on. The couple stood in silence for a moment and then one said, "He could be wrong, you know." "Oh, no," said the other, gently. "You see, (... wait for it ... all together now) Rudolf the Red knows rain, dear".

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