



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

11<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

**Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD**

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

*(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley)*

Parish Secretary: Reena Bartrip

(01865) 455182 • [sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) • [www.sacredheartoxford.com](http://www.sacredheartoxford.com)

*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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

<b>Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	<i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i> <b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>9.00 am Mass</b> <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	<b>Sr. Maureen Grigg (Intentions)</b>  <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Ruben Alexandre Guimaraes</i> <i>Josie Coughlan (Intentions)</i> <b>Sr. Esther Murphy</b>
<b>Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Op. Memorial of St. Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<b>Gina (Birthday)</b>
<b>Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Op. Memorial of St. Hilary, Bishop</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<b>Anton and Family (Special Int.)</b>
<b>Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
<b>Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	<b>Kathleen Mullagh</b>
<b>Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>8.00 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<b>Nora and Paddy Griffin</b>
<b>Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Memorial of St. Antony, Abbot</i>	<b>No Public Mass This morning</b> <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i>	<b>Edmund Griffin (Intentions)</b>
<b>Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Peace Day</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	<b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>9.00 am Mass</b> <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	<i>Private Intention</i> <b>Brian McCann</b> <i>In Thanksgiving (Joshi Family)</i> <b>Charlie and Megan (Intentions)</b>
<b>Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm</b> <i>(And also at Our Lady's, Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)</i>		

### Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church today.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and Christmastide ends this evening.

Tomorrow we return to Week 1 in “Ordinary Time” in the Church’s Year. Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle A, and Weekday readings are from Year 2.

Please note that I shall be away on Saturday morning and there will be no Mass or Confessions here at Sacred Heart.

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)*

*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.*

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

	Counting	Readers (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers		Flowers
This Sunday	Chris & Edwin	Anyu Elizebeth & Blossom	Phil Doherty	Pawel Drozd	Priya & Family
Next Sunday		Priya Chacka & Dom	Josh Peter	Rolly Esteban	Priya & Family

**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 Manson, Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Agustinus Bura, Sarah McCabe, Fatima Jong and Catherine Webb** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canon Matthias (Matt) Corrigan, Frs. Patrick Farrelly, Patrick McSwiney, Patrick Joyce, Benedict O’Gorman, Gerard Peuleve, Cyril Bennett, Archie John Snell, Deacons Thomas Mark Carter, William Murphy and Brian Dockerty, and also Veronica Khan, James O’Brien, Colleen Surman, Peter Mullagh, Mary McNamee, Sean Dominic Smith, Sally Roberts and Columb Whelan. May they rest in peace.

Sarah McCabe’s funeral will be at Our Lady’s at 2.00 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Sr. Esther’s funeral will be Our Lady’s at 10.30 am on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

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

**Peace Sunday.** Next Sunday is a day of prayer for peace on earth, remembering the announcement of the angels at the birth of Christ, “peace to all people of goodwill”.

**World Leprosy Day.** Each day 475 people are diagnosed with leprosy, more than 25 of these are children. But it is curable! Lepra works to help. For over 100 years Lepra’s research has led to new approaches to healthcare programmes. Lepra seeks to provide better detection, treatment and support mechanisms, to advocate for those without a voice, to challenge prejudice wherever it exists, to strengthen local health systems and to help provide healthcare in partnership with local communities for a future free from the impact of leprosy. The second collection at Mass today will go to support their work.

**The Christmas Crib Offerings.** Today is the last opportunity if you wish to make an offering at the Crib. All crib offerings will go to Friends of the Holy Land, which supports Christians in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence there.

**The Great Awakening - A Catholic Healing and Evangelisation Service.** Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 9.00-4.30, at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich (B70 7JW). Awakening is a Catholic Evangelisation and Healing Convention organised by Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries UK. This event is to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit and renew our commitment to the mission of the Church. The day includes Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, powerful preaching, praise, worship, and healing service. Speakers include Bishop Timothy Menezes, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham. For more details, please see the leaflets in the porch. A coach will be going from Oxford (leaving 7.30 am). If you would like to go, let John Thomas know.

**Eucharistic Ministers.** There has been a request for us at Sacred Heart to re-introduce Communion under Both Kinds (i.e. the Precious Blood as well as the Body of Christ) by Easter. That would be good, but to do that we shall need several more Ministers of Holy Communion. If you feel that God is calling you to serve in this way, please come and see me. I shall arrange a training day when we have a few people to train.

**First Holy Communion Lessons.** Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over they can receive their First Holy Communion next June. Please complete one of the registration forms that you can find in the porch and return it to me. Lessons will start at the end of February.

**Enquiries about the Catholic Faith** will start again this week on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January at 4.30 pm at Our Lady’s, in the Don Bosco Centre. The subject is “The Sacraments”.

**A Pilgrimage with St. John Henry Newman!** This Pilgrim Way is almost 40 miles long and follows St. John Henry’s spiritual path, from Evangelicalism, through High Anglicanism and finally to Catholicism. The way starts at *Deddington* where Newman gave his first public address in 1825, via *Over Worton*, where he preached his first sermon as an Anglican priest, through *Oxford*, and ends at *Littlemore* where, in 1845, he became a Catholic. For more information about the route go to [Newman Pilgrimage Walk | Birmingham](#)

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is traditionally observed from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January. This year the chosen theme is: *One Body, One Spirit*. Please make sure that this intention is included in your daily prayers.

**Tailpiece:** People give all sorts of reasons why they don’t come to church, and I wondered if their reasoning might extend to other areas of life. .... So, here are TEN REASONS WHY I NEVER WASH:

1. I was forced to wash as a child.
  2. People who wash are hypocrites – they think they are cleaner than everybody else.
  3. There are so many kinds of soap; I can’t decide which is best.
  4. I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.
  5. I wash on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
  6. None of my friends wash.
  7. I’ll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
  8. I can’t spare the time.
  9. The bathroom is never warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer.
  10. People who make soap are only after your money.
- They don’t seem very good reasons for being dirty and smelly, do they?

**May God bless you and all those who are dear to you.**  
**Fr. Harry**