



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th 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

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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, 25 th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	(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) (1.00 pm Baptism at Our Lady's) 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Bernadette Edwards (Intentions)</i> <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Cecilia Michael</i> <i>Jean and Bob (Intentions)</i> <i>Eliza Franuszka Blewaska</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 26 th January <i>Memorial of St. Timothy & St. Titus</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.30 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Sr. Esther Murphy FMA</i>
Tuesday, 27 th January <i>Op. Mem. of Bl. Edward Oldcorne, or of St. Angela Merici</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Jenny Parker (Intentions)</i>
Wednesday, 28 th January <i>Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Sr. Teresa Bergadana FMA</i>
Thursday, 29 th January	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Tomas de Aquino Castro de Araujo & Rosa Bonaparte Soares</i>
Friday, 30 th January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School) (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)	<i>Dermot and Josephine McMahon</i> <i>The Souls in Purgatory</i>
Saturday, 31 st January <i>Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest</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>Donstephen</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Sunday, 1 st February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Racial Justice Day</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) 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Comseeta Peter</i> <i>Pat Atherton (Intentions)</i> <i>Antonio Pereira</i>
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; and Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am (And also at Our Lady's, Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church today.

Sunday of the Word of God. Today, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, is a special day devoted to “the celebration, study and spread of the Word of God”.

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.*

	Readers (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers		Flowers
This Sunday	Deirdre Wallace	Pat McGroarty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	Ghie & Rocelle
Next Sunday	Rocelle Galinda & Jocelyn Esteban	Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan	Ghie & Rocelle

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, John Hudgell, Mary Collins and all we know who are sick.

Please pray for Fr. David Manson, Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Nicky Clarke, Agustinus Bura, Sarah McCabe and Catherine Webb who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Thomas Copsey, Kevin James Good and Giles Goward, Frs. Vincent Joseph Royles, Charles Smith, Mortimer Loftus, John Berry and David Patrick Joseph Condron, Deacon Michael Ainsworth, and also Maria Victoria (Vicky) Martinez Blanco Styles, Joseph Hughes, Iris Morton, Thomas Penders, Anna Barlow, Wayne St. Clair, Sarah McVeigh and Anne Marie Kelly. May they rest in peace.

Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Sister of Elmthorpe. Funeral Mass at Our Lady's, 10.30 am, this Monday, 26th January.

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

Ash Wednesday. Christmas is barely over and yet Lent starts three weeks on Wednesday (18th February)! As usual, I should like to appeal for your help: if you have any old palms that you no longer want, please bring them so that we can burn them on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday to make our ashes.

Fundraising ideas for 2026. We should like to hear your ideas for events this year that would raise some money for the parish and also help to bring us together as a family. Please share your ideas with Jacqui or me.

Bishop Richard's Visitation. You may remember from before Christmas that the Archbishop and our area Bishop, Bishop Richard Walker, are carrying out a pastoral visitation of each of the parishes in the North Oxford Deanery at this time. That means that one of them will come to each parish in turn for a weekend, to meet parishioners, to listen to their concerns and to speak to them about the plans of the Diocese, to celebrate Mass, and to visit some sick parishioners at home. Bishop Richard will be coming to visit Our Lady's Parish and Sacred Heart Parish on the weekend of 21st/22nd February. There will be a meeting in the hall here on Sunday, 22nd February, at 4.30 pm. Please try to come to one of them if you possibly can.

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 soon.

Dates for Sacred Heart in 2026.

First Holy Communions: 9.00 am, Sunday, 7th June.
Confirmations: 10.00 am, Saturday, 31st October.

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 Our Lady's on Thursday afternoons (after school) at the end of February.

Altar Servers. It would be lovely to have some new altar servers in time for the Bishop's visit. If you have made your First Holy Communion then you can be a server. If you would like to be a server, please let me know. We shall have a couple of training sessions on Saturday mornings, starting at 11.00 am on Saturday, 7th February.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith will continue this week on Friday, 23rd January at 4.30 pm at Our Lady's, in the Don Bosco Centre, with "Holy Communion".

Candlemas. On Monday, 2nd February we shall celebrate the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple (Candlemas). There will be Mass here at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm.

Tailpiece: "I hope you didn't take it personally, Father, when my husband walked out during your sermon," said an embarrassed woman to her parish priest after Mass one Sunday. "I must admit I did find it rather disconcerting," the priest replied. "It's not a reflection on you, Father," insisted the churchgoer. "He has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

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