



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## Second Sunday after the Nativity

4<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

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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](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.

Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday after the Nativity</b>	(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) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)  <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Ebin (Birthday)  Private Intention Jim McCann (Birthday) Winnie Gildea, Helen Towey and Anne Sinclair (Anniversary) Martin McDonagh (50 <sup>th</sup> B'day)
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January Optional Memorial of St. Charles of St. Andrew, Missionary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	In Thanksgiving (Joshi Family)
Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Solemnity Of The Epiphany Of The Lord Holyday of Obligation</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	The People of the Parish Jocelyn and Rolly (22 <sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary)
Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January Optional Memorial of St. Raymond of Peñafort, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)	Bernadette and John Edwards
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	Beatrice Upham (Intentions)
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	Winnie Gildea (Anniversary)
Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b> (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Melly Balbag Sr. Maureen Grigg (Intentions)
Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b>	Private Intention The People of the Parish Josie Coughlan (Intentions) Sr. Esther Murphy

Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church today for the Second Sunday after the Nativity of our Saviour, 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
<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Rachel &amp; Phil</b>	<b>Jocelyn Esteban &amp; Kylla Abrigo</b>	<b>Chris Donovan</b>	<b>Anne Marie Sonan</b>	<b>Claire Fermin</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Edwin</b>		<b>Phil Doherty</b>	<b>Pawel Drozdz</b>	<b>Priya &amp; Family</b>

**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 Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Sarah McCabe, Lorraine Gaughan, Fatima Jong, Catherine Webb and Justin Parker**, who died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Martin Power, Frs. Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, Francis Dwyer, Philip Smith, John P. Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley, Charles Becker, Alexander Brown and Philip Wyles, Deacon Joseph Patterson, and also Bridget McDermott, Suzanne White, John Cromey, Albina Rossetto-Riem, Brian McCurry, Winifred (Winnie) Gildea, Margaret Brookes, Barbara Harrold, Mary Ann Paddon, Jane Scott, Marsella Doherty, John Shanahan and Graciana Zgambo. 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.**

**Holyday of Obligation.** On Tuesday we shall celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a Holyday of Obligation when we are obliged to attend Mass if possible.

**Christmastide ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.**

**The Christmas Crib Offerings.** The Crib scene depicting the Nativity helps us to focus on the Incarnation of Jesus and his love for the whole of humanity. 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.

**Here is a list of the dates of moveable feasts in 2026.** (Holydays of Obligation are shown in **bold** print):

**Feast of the Epiphany, 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord., 11<sup>th</sup> January:  
Ash Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February.

Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ascension Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May.**

Pentecost, 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The Body and Blood of the Lord, 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**St. Peter and St. Paul, 28<sup>th</sup> June.**

**The Assumption of Our Lady, 16<sup>th</sup> August.**

**All Saints, 1<sup>st</sup> November.**

First Sunday of Advent, 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**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 me know.

**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.

**Enquiries about the Catholic Faith** will start again on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January (please note, *not* this Friday) at 4.30 pm at Our Lady's, in the Don Bosco Centre.

**A Pilgrimage with Dr. John Henry Newman is Ready to Walk!**

Phil McCarthy, of the Hearts in Search of God project, has developed a Pilgrim Way for the Archdiocese of Birmingham following St John Henry Newman's spiritual path. It is almost 40 miles long and follows St. John Henry Newman'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. The walk continues through *Oxford* where Newman was educated, ordained as an Anglican minister and led the Oxford Tractarian Movement. The route ends at *Littlemore* where Newman founded a High Anglican church. Here in 1845, he became a Catholic.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is traditionally observed from the 18th - 25th January. This year the chosen theme is:

*One Body, One Spirit*

The prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

**Tailpiece:** I rather liked a little notice that was in a parish magazine some time ago:

*"We shall next meet on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, when the subject will be 'Heaven. How do we get there?' Transport is available at 7.55 pm from the bus stop opposite the Harewood Arms."*

So now we know.

**Thank you all again for your Christmas offerings.**  
**May God bless you in 2026.**  
**Fr. Harry**