



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

## First Sunday of Lent

22<sup>nd</sup> February, 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, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's) <b>7.45 am</b> 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>	Mary Clarke RIP (Birthday))  Private Intention Ansel Netto Winnie De Souza (Get Well) Miguel da Silva Carvalho
Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February Commemoration of St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's) (6.30 pm Reception of Nicky Clarke at Our Lady's)	Clara Fernandes (Birthday)
Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (11.00 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)	Nicolette ("Nicky") Clarke
Wednesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Lucia Josephat
Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> February CAFOD Lent Fast Day	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, with Stations)	The Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February Commemoration of St. Oswald, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass, followed by Stations</b> (3.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)	Onyi's Mother Mary Maurice McDonagh Genellov Madeira Martins (B'day)
Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup> March <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>7.45 am</b> 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 Antonio Rondon Marquez The People of the Parish Domingos Doutel Sarmento
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; and Saturday, 10.45 – 11.30 am (And also at Our Lady's, Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)		

### Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church today.

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
<b>This Sunday</b>	<b>Deirdre Wallace</b>	<b>Pat McGroaty</b>	<b>Lilian Tatenda Mwawa</b>	<i>No flowers during Lent</i>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Kylla Abrigo and Rocelle Galinda</b>	<b>Chris Donovan</b>	<b>Anne Marie Sonan</b>	<i>No flowers during Lent</i>

**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, Tony Davis, Cathleen Kennedy, Jim Kennedy, Ella Dawson, Mary Barry, Lisa Birch, Julio Madeira Cabral Soares, Mary Cairns, John Hudgell, Mary Collins and all we know who are sick.

**Please pray for Nicky Clarke and John Durkin** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Joseph Cleary, Frs. Michael McCabe, Martin Meagher, John Collins, Oliver Kemp, George Brewster, George Tarrant and John Flynn, Sr. Mary Cecilia Treacy FMA, and also John Joseph Quigley, Francesca Ivanczak, Lisa Marie O'Brien, Eddie Kelly, Joseph Roddy, John Gerard Flanagan, George Simpson, John A. Duffy, Lucia Zawadi Josephat and Johanna Berg. May they rest in peace.

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

### Welcome.

This weekend we welcome Bishop Richard Walker, one of the three bishops who assist Archbishop Bernard in this Archdiocese. Bishop Richard has special pastoral responsibility for this part of the Archdiocese, and he is here to meet us for a Pastoral Visitation.

There will be a meeting in the hall here this afternoon at 4.30 pm. Please try to come to it if you possibly can.

### Lent 2026.

1. During Lent we do not pray the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "A\*\*\*\*\*A!".
2. **Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament**, Thursdays, 6.00–7.00 pm, with the opportunity for Confession.
3. **Stations of the Cross**. Each Saturday morning, after the Mass.
4. **"My Day by Day"** booklets are available (£1). They contain the Mass readings for each day of Lent.
5. **Walk With Me** booklets for Lent are also available, with Lent calendars. They are an aid to daily prayer and reflection.
6. **The statues in the church** will be veiled from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.
7. **CAFOD Lent Fast Day, this Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February**. Rachel, our CAFOD rep, will tell us about this during Mass this weekend. CAFOD works to help people in need around the world. Fast Days are our opportunity to support that work. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. There will be a second collection at Masses next weekend. Fast Day envelopes are available at the back of church this week and you can bring them back next week. Thank you.
8. **Penance Service**. Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 6.00 pm.

**Easter Duties.** All Catholics who have made their First Holy Communion should receive the Holy Eucharist sometime between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter Communion.

**First Holy Communion Lessons.** Lessons will start at 3.30 pm this Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, at Our Lady's church, Hollow Way, in the Don Bosco Centre, the parish hall next to the church.

**Enquiries about the Catholic Faith.** We shall restart this Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February, at Our Lady's when (appropriately for Lent) the subject will be "Right and Wrong; Confession".

**Annual Diocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage.** Married couples who are celebrating a milestone anniversary, and couples preparing to marry this year are invited to the Diocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, at 12.00 noon, followed by light refreshments. For info, and to register please visit [www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass](http://www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass)

**Oxford Pro-Life Drinks.** Next Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, at 7.30 pm at The Royal Oak, (Woodstock Rd, OX2 6HT). Come along to relax with like-minded people and keep connected with the pro-life community in Oxford. New comers are especially welcome! Just turn up, and bring a friend. Visit <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk/> for more info.

**Informal café-style discussions exploring aspects of prayer.** On four Thursday evenings in Lent: (26<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March), starting at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall at Corpus Christi RC Church, Margaret Road, Headington, OX3 8AJ, for just over an hour. Refreshments beforehand from 7.15 pm. No need to sign up, just drop in - as and when you can. For more information email John at [johnkirwan1a@gmail.com](mailto:johnkirwan1a@gmail.com)

**Eucharistic Ministers.** Thank you to those who have let me know they would like to be Eucharistic Ministers. I am thinking of having two training sessions on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March, at 5.00 pm. Please let me know if these times and dates are good for you. If anyone else feels that God is calling you to serve in this way, please see me.

**Tailpiece:** A speeding motorist was caught by radar by a police helicopter in the sky. An officer pulled him over and began to issue a traffic ticket. "How did you know I was speeding?" the frustrated driver asked. The police officer pointed sombrely toward the sky. "You mean," asked the awestruck motorist, "Even He's against me?"

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