



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Second Sunday of Lent

1st March, 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, 1st March Second Sunday of Lent	<i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Jenellov F. Madeira Martins</i> <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Antonio Rondon Marquez</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>Domingos Doutel Sarmento</i>
Monday, 2nd March Feast of St. Chad, Patron of the Diocese	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Brigid Donoghue (Get Well)</i>
Tuesday, 3rd March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Lawrence Paul (Anniversary)</i>
Wednesday, 4th March Commemoration of St. Casimir	No Public Mass Today	<i>Dec'd Hedgecox Family (JA)</i>
Thursday, 5th March	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Margaret Stevens (2nd Anniv.)</i>
Friday, 6th March First Friday Women's World Day of Prayer	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 12.30 pm Requiem Mass <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, with Stations)</i>	<i>John Durkin</i> <i>Sr. Esther Murphy</i>
Saturday, 7th March Optional Commemoration of St. Perpetua & St. Felicity	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 10.00 am Mass, followed by Stations <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Agustinus Bura</i> <i>Sean Jennings Snr. (Birthday)</i>
Sunday, 8th March Third Sunday of Lent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <i>(8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Hilda and Martin Salmon</i> <i>Flora Abes</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; and Saturday, 10.45 – 11.30 am <i>(And also at Our Lady's, Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)</i>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church today.

Today is the second Sunday of Lent and we are reminded of the glory of God, revealed in Jesus.

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>

	Readers (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers		Flowers
This Sunday	Kylla Abrigo and Rocelle Galinda	Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan	<i>No flowers during Lent</i>
Next Sunday	Blossom and Daiva Silva	Philomena Doherty	Pawel Drozd	<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 and all we know who are sick.

Please pray for Nicky Clarke, John Durkin, Enriquetta, Mary Collins and Anne Rhodes, who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Kevin Dunne, Canons Peter Taylor and Anthony Allport, Frs. Douglas Carter, John Pinkman, Robert Wright and Terence Luxon, and also Bridget Salter, Mary Benadel, George Rhodes, Baby Sidney Hunt, Elizabeth Perry, Basil (Les) Winter, Catherine (Kathleen) Quirke, Stephen Fontaine and Amelia Lisa Jane Francis. May they rest in peace.

The Requiem Mass for John Durkin will be here at Sacred Heart Church this Friday at 12.30 pm.

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

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 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.
7. **Penance Service.** Thursday, 19th 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.

Eucharistic Ministers. Thank you to those who have let me know they would like to be Eucharistic Ministers. There will be two training sessions on Thursday, 19th and 26th March, at 5.00 pm. If anyone else feels that God is calling you to serve in this way, please see me.

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, 2nd May, at 12.00 noon, followed by light refreshments. For info, and to register please visit www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass

Informal café-style discussions exploring aspects of prayer. On Thursday evenings in Lent: (5th, 12th and 26th 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 info, email John at johnkirwan1a@gmail.com

First Holy Communion Mass of Enrolment. Lessons began last Thursday. This weekend the children will be officially enrolled during Mass as candidates for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith. We are rapidly approaching the end of this series of talks about our Faith, but newcomers are always welcome. We shall meet in the parish hall at Our Lady's at 4.30 pm this Friday, when the subject will be "The Kingdom of God".

Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting with Bishop Richard last weekend. He has written to say how much he enjoyed his visit and meeting you all.

Situation Vacant. The Trustees of The Birmingham Diocesan Trust are looking to recruit a skilled and committed Catholic volunteer with professional experience of safeguarding to join the *Board of Trustees and Chair the Safeguarding Sub-Committee.*

We are looking for a Chair to lead and inspire who brings:

- Extensive experience of safeguarding in a professional capacity.
- Experience of operating at strategic leadership level.
- A solid understanding of good governance practices.
- A commitment to supporting the Church's mission and who shares our values and vision as well as our passion and commitment to those we support.

Oxford Pro-Life Community are working to build a living and lively community of people in Oxford that has a real impact in promoting the respect for the inviolable right to life of all human beings. If you can spare an hour or so a week, visit oxfordprolife.org.uk/volunteer.

Tailpiece: A teacher was telling her class that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My Mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced. "And she turned into a telephone pole."

Another teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a Higher Power than kings and queens. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "Please Miss, I know. ... Aces."

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