



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fifth Sunday of Lent

22nd 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

(01865) 455182 • sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk • 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 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.*

Sunday, 22 nd March <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	<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	Daniel Azavedo (<i>Birthday</i>) Private Intention Aidan Carey The People of the Parish Joao Cardoso Soares
Monday, 23 rd March <i>Com. of St. Turibius of Mongrovejo</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Elena Monteiro (<i>Anniversary</i>)
Tuesday, 24 th March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(10.00 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Anne Rhodes
Wednesday, 25 th March <i>Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(6.30 pm Reception of Sheila Jennings at Our Lady's)</i>	Frank and Veronica Madden (<i>JA</i>)
Thursday, 26 th March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(11.00 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sheila Jennings Sarah McVeigh (<i>Anniversary</i>)
Friday, 27 th March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, with Stations)</i>	Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 28 th March	<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>	Helen McGarry Winnie Gildea (<i>Birthday</i>)
Sunday, 29 th March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</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	Private Intention John Cullen (<i>Anniversary</i>) John Kelly (<i>30th Anniversary</i>) Teresa Do Rego Soriano and Manuel Lobato Soriano
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; and Saturday, 11.00 – 11.30 am <i>(And also at Our Lady's, Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)</i>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Catholic Church on the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Veiling the Statues in the church. From today, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, until the Easter Vigil the statues and crucifixes in the church will be veiled. We should see this as a final form of our Lenten fast. Those signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion and death. Then at Easter, when the statues are once again revealed, we can appreciate anew the victory of Jesus for us all over sin and death.

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)

	Readers (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers		Flowers
This Sunday	Deirdre Wallace	Pat McGroaty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	<i>No flowers during Lent</i>
Next Sunday	<i>(See the separate list for Palm Sunday)</i>			<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 Fr. Des McMahan, Mabel Eghaghe, Sheila Jennings, Anne Rhodes, Julia Scully, John Lillis, Gladys (“Bonnie”) Trowell and all who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop Francis Joseph Grimshaw, Bishops David McGough and Humphrey Bright, Mgr. Canon John Welch, Mgr. Francis Davis, Frs. Laurence Crowe, John Joseph Donnelly and John McManus, Deacons John Higgins and Louis Livesey, and also Regina Mihailova, Colm Keady, Catherine Regan, Josie Bates, John Steele, Sarah McVeigh and Paddy McLoughlin. May they rest in peace.

The Requiem Mass for Anne Rhodes will be at Our Lady's on Tuesday, 24th March, at 10.00 am.

Sheila Jennings will be brought into Our Lady's on Wednesday, 25th March, at 6.30 pm, and her Requiem Mass will be at 11.00 am on Thursday, 26th March.

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

Wednesday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. This not a Holyday of Obligation, but it is a very important feast. There will be Mass in the morning at Our Lady's at 9.15 am.

Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church's year. We shall start Mass at the back of church (or outside if weather allows) and process into the church.

Easter Triduum. There is a list at the back of church inviting you to sign up for various roles at the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We need 12 volunteers (men and women) for the Ceremony of the Washing of the Feet during the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00 pm. After Mass, you can stay for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.30 pm. It recalls how Jesus invited his apostles to stay with him while he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Again, if you can give some of your time for this, please sign the list.

Littleway Healing Ministries is holding a Day of Healing at Our Lady's on Saturday, 18th April, 10.30 am – 4.00 pm, led by Fr. Kevin Dixon, Mrs Helen Callaghan and the Littleway Team. Join us for praise, prayer and testimonies. All are welcome, come for the day, bring a packed lunch, or just pop in. For more: info@littlewayhealingministries.com

Eucharistic Ministers. There will be the second training session for new Eucharistic Ministers this Thursday, 26th March, at 5.00 pm. Existing Ministers are also welcome.

Readers for Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to all who have agreed to do readings during the most important week of the Church's year. If you can, please come to a practice this Saturday, 28th March at 12.00 noon



Missio Red Box. If you have a Missio collecting box at home, please bring it in over the next two weeks so that Jacqui can empty it and return it to you. Thank you.

Sponsored Walk. You have the chance to do a sponsored walk to raise funds for our parish. It will be on Easter Monday. There are sponsorship forms in the church porch for you to take away and get people to sponsor you.

Altar Servers. There will be a rehearsal tomorrow, Monday, 23rd March, at 5.00 pm for all altar servers who will be serving at the Holy Week and Easter services.

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes will soon be available to collect from the back of the church. **We do need more people to be involved in the Gift Aid scheme, please.** If you don't already gift aid your donations to Sacred Heart could we ask you to consider doing so? Please talk to our Gift Aid officer, Lilian Mwawa, after Mass for further information or if you are already a gift-aider and your circumstances (e.g. your address) have changed. If you can't find Lilian, please speak to me.

Tailpiece: Young Ernie and his family were invited to have lunch at his grandmother's house. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away. "Ernie, wait until we say Grace," instructed his father. "But I don't need to," the lad replied. "Of course you do, Ernest," his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house." "That's at our house," Ernie explained. "But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook."

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

P.S. Don't forget to put your clocks forward an hour next Saturday night as British Summer Time begins!

