

Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

29th March, 2026

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

Parish Priest: Fr. Harry Curtis

(Also serving Our Lady Help of Christians, Cowley)

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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, 29 th March <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i>	<i>(5.30 pm Saturday Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 7.30 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 6.00 pm Mass	<i>Winnie Gildea (Birthday)</i> <i>Private Intention</i> <i>John Cullen</i> <i>John Kelly (30th Anniversary)</i> <i>Teresa do Rego Soriano and Manuel Lobato Soriano</i>
Monday, 30 th March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Filomena Da Cruz Martins (Anniv.)</i>
Tuesday, 31 st March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Trudy (Birthday)</i>
Wednesday, 1 st April	<i>(11.30 am Chrism Mass at St. Chad's Cathedral)</i>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Thursday, 2 nd April <i>THE Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer</i> <i>12.00 noon – 1.00 pm Confessions</i> <i>EASTER</i> 7.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper 8.00 pm – 9.30 pm Watch and Pray	<i>TRIDUUM</i> <i>Ruben Alexandre Guimaraes</i> <i>After Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be taken to the Altar of Repose where there will be watching.</i>
Friday, 3 rd April <i>Good Friday</i> Today is a day of fasting and abstinence	<i>10.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>12.00 noon Stations of the Cross</i> 3.00 pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion	This is not a Mass, but a solemn celebration held at the time of Our Lord's death on the Cross.
Saturday, 4 th April <i>Holy Saturday</i>	<i>10.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Confessions</i> 7.30 pm The Easter Vigil	The Sacraments of the Church are not celebrated today. We join Jesus in His "Sabbath Rest" in the tomb, until... <i>Larry Gardner</i>
Sunday, 5 th April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	7.45 am Morning Prayer <i>8.45 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass</i> 9.00 am Mass <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> NO EVENING MASS TODAY	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Sabas Balbag and Lourdes Balbag</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 12.00 noon – 1.00 pm.; Saturday, 12.30 – 1.30 pm. <i>(At Our Lady's: Thursday, 10.00 – 11.00 am; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am).</i>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart, especially if you are new to the parish or visiting for the Easter holidays.

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)

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

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Welcome to our celebration of Mass. Today we begin Holy Week.

Holy Week is the greatest week in the Church's year, so please take part as much as you can. *By taking part in the celebrations of the Liturgy we can enter into the events that happened about two thousand years ago. But we enter in, not as bystanders or casual observers but as believers, recognising our own part in what is unfolding, and also recognising the great things that God has done for us.* We can share with Jesus His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His special celebration of the Passover with His disciples at the Last Supper and then His agony and betrayal in the Garden on Maundy Thursday, all the horrible events of Good Friday, His "Sabbath Rest" on Holy Saturday, and thus we can truly share in His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

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' Rota (9.00 Mass)	Eucharistic Ministers' Rota	Flowers rota
This Sunday	J.Esteban & Blossom		N/A
Holy Thursday	D. Wallace & Jason Waine		N/A
Good Friday	Blossom, D. Silva, Jason, D. Wallace		N/A
Easter Vigil	J. Esteban, Cathy Wanja, Salome Busuulwa, D. Silva		Jacqui
Next Sunday	Blossom & J, Esteban		N/A

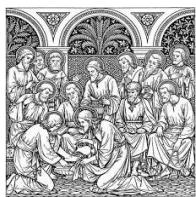
Remember: refreshments are available in the hall after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays.



Today is Palm Sunday.

We remember how Jesus was first welcomed into Jerusalem as a King. We shall begin with a procession, and I invite all the children to take part with me in that. Don't forget to get a palm to wave.

Wednesday: The Chrism Mass. The Archbishop will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 11.30 am on Wednesday morning in St. Chad's Cathedral. It is the occasion when the Holy Oils are blessed, and also when priests renew their commitment of service to God and the Church.



Maundy Thursday: The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00 pm on Maundy Thursday evening is the end of Lent and the start of the Easter Triduum. At this Mass we celebrate the institution of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and the Priesthood.

Watching at the Altar of Repose. After the Mass we shall go to the Altar of Repose and keep watch with Jesus, remembering His Agony in the Garden and His acceptance of His Father's will.

Good Friday: On Good Friday there is no Mass, but at 3.00 pm, the hour at which our Lord died, there is a "Solemn Celebration" of the Passion of our Lord.



Holy Saturday: The Lord's Day of Rest in the tomb. In the evening at 8.00 pm we begin our Easter celebrations with the Easter Vigil, the greatest event in the Church's year.

Gift Aid Envelopes. If you gift aid your weekly offerings in the collection (thank you), please collect your new box of envelopes from the back of church today.

Please pray for the sick, especially people we know: Bridie Barry, Josie Griffiths, Claire French, Inna, Jean Carpenter, Beatrice Upham, Terry Jackson, Mary Cross, Sheila Cuddy, Rosa Fernandes, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, John Hudgell, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle, Mary Barry, Mary Cairns, Lisa Birch and Julio Madeira Cabral Soares.

Please pray for Sheila Jennings, Anne Rhodes, Julia Scully, John Lillis, Gladys ("Bonnie") Trowell who died recently, and all whose anniversaries fall at this time: Archbishop Thomas Leighton Williams, Mgr. Canon Daniel Leonard, Frs. Thomas Cockburn, Matthew Sheridan, John Callaghan, Philip O'Reilly and Lawrence King, Dcn. Raymond Zacaroli, and also Breda Keenan, Patricia Conway, Elizabeth Conry, Collette McNarry, Mary Teresa Heavey, Mick Mullagh, Charlie O'Connor, Betty Kellett, James Craig, Julia Moran and Mary Batten.

Eucharistic Ministers will be re-commissioned during the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday.

The collection on Good Friday is for the Holy Places – i.e. for the upkeep of the sites in the Holy Land.

Traditionally the collection at the Easter Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of church if you wish. Thank you.

Welcome to Bishop Richard Walker. I am very grateful to Bishop Richard who will be here at Sacred Heart on Maundy Thursday and Holy Saturday. On Good Friday I shall be here, and Bishop Richard will be at Our Lady's.

Easter Triduum. There is a list on the table at the back of church for people to sign up for roles this week.

May God bless you and all your loved ones.
Fr. Harry