



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Third Sunday of Lent

8th 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, 8 th March Third 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	Sean Jennings Snr. (Birthday) Private Intention Hilda and Martin Salmon Flora Abes The People of the Parish
Monday, 9 th March <i>Optional Commemoration of St. Frances of Rome</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Ruth Joshi (Birthday)
Tuesday, 10 th March	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Sissie McManus (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 11 th March	No Public Mass Today	The Summers Family (Get Well)
Thursday, 12 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Nossa Senhora de Fatima
Friday, 13 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's, with Stations)</i>	Sr. Breda (Get Well)
Saturday, 14 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week</i>	<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>	Methodear Method Nicolette Clarke
Sunday, 15 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Dementia Prayer Week</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 Cecilia Michael Mary Kate McTague (Anniv.) The People of the Parish
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 on the Third Sunday of Lent.

In the Gospel today Jesus tells us to thirst for the Living Water. That “living water” is the life of grace to which Jesus invites us all and which we receive most fully in the Mass and the other Sacraments.

There will be a second collection today for the maintenance of St. Chad's Cathedral – the mother church of our Diocese.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Thursdays, 6.00–7.00 pm, with the opportunity for Confession.

Stations of the Cross. Each Saturday, at about 10.30 am, after the morning Mass.

Parish Penance Service. On Thursday, 19th March, there will be a short service of reflection and prayer at 6.00 pm.

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
This Sunday	Blossom and Daiva Silva	Philomena Doherty	Pawel Drozd	<i>No flowers during Lent</i>
Next Sunday	Priya Chacka	Josh Peter	Rolly Esteban	<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 John Durkin, Sheila Jennings and Anne Rhodes, who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop David Cashman, Canons Gerard Hanlon and Raymond Walsh, Frs. Francis Johnson, John McNally, Ralph Sheppey-Greene, Christopher Thornton, Connell Harkin, Vaughan Lloyd and Anthony Sims, Deacons James Rowe and Patrick Duffy, and also Sissie McManus, Mary Kate McTague, Rosie Moore, John and Jane Bartlett, Sr. Imelda James, and Matthew Murray. May they rest in peace.

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

The national Dementia Prayer Week, 12th-19th March, Dementia Prayer Week invites us to pause, pray, and stand in solidarity with those living with dementia, their families, and all who care for them. It highlights the dignity of every person, reminding us that each life remains precious and loved by God, even when memory fades.

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

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 this Friday, when the subject will be "Mary and the Saints".

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: (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

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 that sounds exciting to you, and you can spare an hour or so a week, visit oxfordprolife.org.uk/volunteer.

Readers for Holy Week and Easter: please let Sally know if you are available to read from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, so that she can prepare a rota. Thank you.

Young Discerners' Group. Are you a young man in School Years 9 - 13, who wants to explore a Vocation to the Catholic priesthood? You are invited to St. Mary's College, Oscott in Birmingham on Saturday, 9th May 2026, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm. Spend time with others who are thinking about a Vocation and meet Fr. Craig Szmidt (Diocesan Director of Vocations). There will be time for discussion and prayer, a tour of Oscott, and an opportunity to speak with seminarians, joining them for Mass and lunch. Parents are also invited and will be able to ask any questions they may have to a priest's parents. To find out more, or to book (by 26th April), contact Deacon Owen Gresty 0121 321 5135 or deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk Free of charge - but booking is essential.

Tailpiece: A new Parish Priest was greeting parishioners as they left after Mass. Most of the people were very polite, except for one man who said, "That was a very dull and boring sermon, Father." The next week, the same man again appeared and said, "I don't think you did much preparation this week." He appeared yet again the following week, this time muttering, "You really blew it. You didn't have a thing to say, Father." Thoroughly demoralised, the priest could stand it no longer. He went to the sacristan and asked about the man. "Oh, don't let him bother you," said the sacristan. "He's a little slow and doesn't really understand things. He just goes around repeating whatever he hears other people saying."

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