



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Fourth Sunday of Easter

26th April, 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.*

Happy Easter, everyone.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Sunday, 26 th April Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	<i>(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.00 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	Annie Kennedy Private Intention Sheila Jennings Josie Coughlan Eva and Maurice Smithson <i>(Wedding Anniversary)</i>
Monday, 27 th April <i>Feria of Easter</i>	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(11.00 am Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Nancy Lyons <i>(Birthday)</i> Gladys Trowell
Tuesday, 28 th April <i>Op. Memorial of St. Peter Chanel, or of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Mary Bailey <i>(Anniversary)</i>
Wednesday, 29 th April Feast of St. Catherine of Siena <i>Day of Prayer for Europe</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Thursday, 30 th April <i>Optional Memorial of St Pius V</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Paddy McCartney
Friday, 1 st May <i>Op. Mem. of St. Joseph the Worker</i> <i>First Friday of the Month</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Ercia Giherras Andrade and Jaffe Andrade Babo <i>(Anniversary)</i>
Saturday, 2 nd May <i>Memorial of St. Athanasius</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> 10.00 am Mass <i>(5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	Valter Afonso <i>(Intentions)</i> Fatima Jong
Sunday, 3 rd May Fifth Sunday of Easter	<i>7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer</i> <i>9.00 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 Peter Villar Deceased Kirby Family Martinho Jeronimo & Jacinta Soares
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.30 am <i>(And also at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.)</i>		

Welcome to Sacred Heart today especially if you are new to the parish.

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	Eucharistic Ministers		Flowers
	9.00 am	9.00 am	6.00 pm	
This Sunday	Deirdre Wallace	Pat McGroaty	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa	Claire Fermin
Next Sunday	Rocelle Galinda and Jocelyn Esteban	Chris Donovan	Anne Marie Sonan	Priya and Family

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, Rodolfo Melo De Sousa.

Please pray for Gladys (“Bonnie”) Trowell, Theresa Cahill and Judith Champ who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. Ronald Cosslett, Peter Cooney, Peter Heath and Thomas William O’Connor, Deacon James Fantham, Sr. Teresa Frost FMA, and also Peter Nottingham, Elisabeth Fitzgibbons, Gaspere Licata, Anne Kennedy, John Gingell, Keelin Trahearn, Igor Bogatirjov, Maureen Hinken, Iris Kathleen O’Brien, Ellen Monks, Vincent Murray, Paddy McCartney, Patrick Griffiths, Mary Whelan, Keiran Braiden, Michael Joseph O’Donoghue and L. Peter. May they rest in peace.

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

A message from the Archbishop: *“Dear friends, This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, when the Church prays especially for vocations to the priesthood. I want to ask you to join me in praying today that all those whom Our Lord is calling will respond with courage and generosity to his invitation to serve their brothers and sisters as priests in our Archdiocese. If you feel that the Good Shepherd might indeed be calling you - and if you are 18 or over - I would ask you to write to me directly at archbishop@rcaob.org.uk. I shall be happy to meet you, with our Vocations Director, Fr Craig Szmidt, and to hear your story as you try to discern what the Lord is asking of you today and in the years ahead. Please pray for me and for all our priests. With my prayers and kindest wishes. +Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham”*

There will be the annual second collection for the Clergy Training Fund at Masses today.

Young Discerners’ Group. Are you a young man in School Years 9-13 who wants to explore a Vocation to the Catholic priesthood? Come to St. Mary’s College, Oscott, in Birmingham on Saturday, 9th May, 10.30-4.00. To find out more, or to book, contact Deacon Owen Gresty, deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk or 0121 3215135. The day is free, but booking is essential.

Sacred Heart Youth Group. There will be the annual outing to the Malvern hills on Sunday, 21st June. Please speak to Joyce for more information.

Cowley Salesian Cooperators warmly invite you to celebrate Holy Mass with them on 23rd May at 12.00 noon in Our Lady’s church for the 150th Salesian Cooperators anniversary. Please join us with an open heart to commemorate the dream and work that continues today because of St John Bosco. There will be light refreshments after Mass in the Mornese Centre at Elmthorpe Convent. You can leave cars in Our Lady’s church car park.

Easter Duties. Because of the central importance of Easter to the Christian faith, the Church says that 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.

Confirmations. Bishop Richard will be with us on Saturday, 31st October, for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If, for some reason, you do not want to wait that long for the Sacrament, please come and speak to me because there will be Confirmations at Our Lady’s in June and you might be able to join that group.

Safeguarding Training for Volunteers. Do you volunteer to do anything at Sacred Heart Church (thank you, if you do)? If so, do you know your responsibilities in keeping people safe? Whatever your role, it is essential that you get some training, please. There is FREE training available online, which you can do at your own pace and your own time. It has been put together by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA). You can get it on the CSSA website at training.catholicssafeguarding.org.uk. Please speak to Onyi, our parish safeguarding rep, if you want more info.

Tailpiece: A priest was walking down the street when he saw a group of boys, standing around a dog. Worried that they might be hurting it, the priest went over and asked what they were doing. One of the boys replied, “Father, this dog is a stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we’ve decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog.” Of course, the priest was shocked. “You shouldn’t be having a contest telling lies!” he exclaimed. “Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie.” There was dead silence for a minute, then one of the boys gave a deep sigh and said, “Oh...all right fellers, he’s won. Give him the dog.”

**May God bless you and all those whom you love.
 Fr. Harry**