



# Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

*Easter Sunday*

*5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sg.sacredheart.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

**Happy Easter, everyone.**  
**Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!**

Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Easter Sunday</i></b>	<b>8.00 pm Easter Vigil</b> <i>7.30 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer (8.45 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>9.00 am Mass</b> <i>(11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> <b>NO EVENING MASS</b>	<i>Mick Mullagh</i>  <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Sabas Balbag and Lourdes Balbag</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Monday within the Easter Octave</i></b>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Sr. Maureen Grigg (intentions)</i>
Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Tuesday within the Easter Octave</i></b>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)</i>	<i>Sally McVeigh (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday)</i>
Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Wednesday within the Easter Octave</i></b>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>In Thanksgiving</i>
Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Thursday within the Easter Octave</i></b>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer (2.30 pm Requiem Mass at Our Lady's) (5.30 pm Reception of Julia Scully at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>John Lillis</i>
Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Friday within the Easter Octave</i></b>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer (12.00 noon Requiem Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Julia Scully</i>
Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Saturday within the Easter Octave</i></b>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b> (5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Janet Buchanan (Intentions)</i> <i>Sheila Jennings RIP</i>
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April <b><i>Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday</i></b>	<i><b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer 9.00 am Syro-Malabar Mass at Our Lady's) <b>9.00 am Mass</b> (11.00 am Mass at Our Lady's) <b>6.00 pm Mass</b></i>	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Doreen McInerney</i> <i>Tom Gaughan (Anniversary)</i> <i>Feliciano, Augusta, Zetiti, Paya, Elisa</i>

**Welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass, especially if you are visiting for the Easter holidays.**

The Easter Season begins today, Easter Sunday, and ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday. These fifty days are a very special time and, as St. Athanasius wrote, they “are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday.”

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.*

**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, Theresa Cahill,** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Anthony Emery, Canon Peter Edward Jones, Frs. Michael Clive Glynn, Timothy Burke, Kevin Preston, Eamon Patrick Clarke, Kenneth William Collins, Joseph Barr and Michael McManus, Deacon Jack Foxall, and also Maureen Gannon, Martyn John Spackman, Mary Bailey, Bob McNarry, Gillian Margaret Phipps, Thomas (Tom) Gaughan, Denis O'Connor and Roland Allsworth Snr. May they rest in peace.

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

**Welcome.** Today, during the 9.00 am Mass, we shall welcome Amy-Rose Buckland into the community of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please pray for her and for her family.

**A big thank you** to everyone who worked so hard to make our Easter celebrations so beautiful. Thank you to the altar servers, the flower arrangers, the cleaners, the musicians, the Eucharistic ministers, the readers, and most of all to those brave souls (soles?) who volunteered to have their feet washed.

**Regina Coeli:** One of the most joyous anthems of the Church is the Regina Coeli, the Easter hymn to Our Lady. During a plague in Rome, so the legend goes, Our Lady's portrait (reputedly painted by St. Luke) was carried in a procession which included Pope St. Gregory the Great. As they approached St. Peter's Basilica, the air became pure and free of pestilence. At the bridge which joins Rome to the Vatican, angels were heard singing the first three verses from the Regina Coeli and St. Gregory was inspired to add the fourth line 'pray for to us to God, alleluia.' This prayer reminds us, of how much we have to be thankful for, even in the midst of our daily trials. When our Lord conquered death in His resurrection, he opened the gates of Heaven for us to be able to share Eternal Life with Him.



**O Queen of Heaven,  
rejoice, alleluia.  
For He whom you did  
merit to bear, alleluia.  
Has risen, as he said,  
alleluia.  
Pray for us to God,  
alleluia.**

**Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.**

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Congratulations** to Sally McVeigh who will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday here on Tuesday.

**Traditionally the collection at the Easter Masses** is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of Church to use if you wish. Thank you very much.

**Divine Mercy Sunday.** This week we are encouraged to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet (leaflets at the back of church), and next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday.

**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.

**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.

**Tailpiece:** Darlene was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally, she spoke, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, darling," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," Darlene paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, poppet," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, Darlene observed happily, "He's getting better at it, isn't He?"



**Have a very happy  
and blessed Easter.**

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