



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

23rd August, 2026

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

Parish Priest: Rev. Canon 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.*

Sunday, 23rd August <i>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</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	<i>Kathleen and Mick Mullagh</i> <i>Private Intention</i> <i>Jaime Luz Pires and Maria Da Costa Freitas</i> <i>Claire French</i> <i>John Bartlett</i>
Monday, 24th August <i>Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	<i>(7.00 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i> 8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	<i>Fr. Pat Armstrong (Birthday)</i>
Tuesday, 25th August <i>Optional Memorials of St. Louis or St. Joseph Calasanaz, Priest</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer <i>(9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Siobhan Smith (get well)</i>
Wednesday, 26th August <i>Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Thursday, 27th August <i>Memorial of St. Monica</i>	6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>John Soares Madeira (Birthday)</i>
Friday, 28th August <i>Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer <i>(7.00 pm Mass at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>The Souls in Purgatory</i>
Saturday, 29th August <i>Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 10.00 am Mass <i>(12.00 noon Baptism at Our Lady's)</i> <i>(5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday at Our Lady's)</i>	<i>Marian Boggis (Intentions)</i> <i>Leo Ferrao</i> <i>Winston Borthwick</i>
Sunday, 30th August <i>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</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	<i>Private Intention</i> <i>Jim McCann</i> <i>Kitty Ryan (Anniversary)</i> <i>Felix Saulong Jr. (Birthday)</i>
Confessions: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm, and Saturday, 10.30 – 11.00 am. (And at Our Lady's: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.)		

**Welcome to Sacred Heart Church today,
especially if you are new to the parish or visiting or on holiday.**

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	Daiva Silva & Deirdre Wallace	Pat McGroarty & Chris Donovan	Lilian Tatenda Mwawa & Kim Netto	Jocelyn Esteban
Next Sunday	Deirdre Wallace & Blossom	Ercia Andrade & Rolly Esteban	Pawel Drozd & Rolly Esteban	Jocelyn Esteban

Please pray for the sick, especially people we know: Bridie Barry, Claire French, Inna, Jean Carpenter, Terry Jackson, Mary Cross, Sheila Cuddy, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, John Hudgell, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle, Mary Barry, Mary Cairns, Lisa Birch, Rodolfo Melo De Sousa, Dantas Luis Galucho Rosa, Julio Madeira Cabral Soares, and Thomas Durkin.

Please pray for Andrew Scully, Florence McCormack, Sr. Hanora O'Brien, Joseph White, Terence Jackson and all those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Mgr. Canon Laurence Emery, Mgr. Richard J. Foster, Canon Laurence Hogarty, Frs. Alan Smith, Patrick Branagan, Peter Blundell, Francis Rowe, James Downey, Isaac William Savin and Francis Toole, Deacons Peter Kilgallon and David McCarroll, and also Ezra Moore, Elizabeth (Betty) Piercy, Rose Thomas, Adam Dennis Quelch, Peter King, Catherine Rita Sheridan, Michael McManus, Pietro Lindo and James Turnbull. May they rest in peace.

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

Citizens UK is an organisation that deals with the social welfare of local people. We should like to launch a group in this deanery and we hope to have 2-3 volunteers from each parish to kickstart this project. If you would like to help please come and see me. Thank you.

Readers at Mass. There is a new rota available for readers at the 9.00 am Sunday Mass. If you would like to be included on the rota (or if you think that your name may somehow have been left off), please speak to Deirdre Wallace after Mass. She will be very happy to hear from you.

Kenelm Youth Trust. It is not too late for those aged 18-25 to apply to join the Kenelm Youth Trust Mission Team this year. Whether you are thinking about deferring university, taking a gap year, reconsidering your options after results day, or simply looking for an unforgettable year before moving on to university or employment, joining the Diocesan Mission Team could be the perfect opportunity. They are still accepting applications for this year, so get in touch as soon as possible. Contact Hannah Smith: hannah.smith@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk 01538 703224.

Assisted Suicide Bill. On Friday, 11th September the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. We believe this is wrong for many reasons. Please contact your MP, urging him/her to attend the debate and vote against the Bill.

The Annual Diocesan Novena to pray for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi, started last Tuesday and will continue until his feast on Wednesday, 26th August.

Marriages. Congratulations to Carla and Francisco who were married at Our Lady's this weekend. And also to Virna and Tito who were married recently in Dili, East Timor. May God bless them throughout their lives.

The Season of Creation 2026: "Make Living Water Flow". Each year from 1st September to 4th October, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. This year, the theme for the Season is "Living Water", from Ezekiel 47:1-12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God.

News for Young Parishioners. On Saturday, 26th September, the Kenelm Youth Trust will be taking part in a Pilgrimage Walk from St. Michael's Church in Penn, Wolverhampton, to St. Francis of Assisi Church, Shelfield, Walsall. The Walk is around a 12-mile route between two diocesan shrines for the Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi. All are welcome to join. Please ask Joyce for more details.

Early notice: a Mass for the Sick, with the Sacrament of Anointing, will be celebrated here on Saturday, 17th October, at 1.00 pm. If you know of anyone who is sick and/or housebound who might like to attend if they are given help with transport, please tell them about it, and let me know about them.

Tailpiece: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were on a camping holiday. One night they had a conversation:

Holmes: "Watson, look up there. What do you see?"

Watson: "I see thousands of stars and galaxies. I see planets and a beautiful moon. I even see a shooting star."

Holmes: "And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson: "I deduce that there must be a God. Furthermore, it makes me think how wonderful God must be to have created such a vast and awe-inspiring array."

Holmes: "Very good. Anything else?"

Watson: "Well, I suppose it also makes me realise how small and insignificant human beings are in comparison to such splendour. What do you deduce, Holmes?"

Holmes: "I deduce, my dear Watson, that someone has stolen our tent."

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