



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday of Advent

13th December, 2020

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

The Presbytery, 59 Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2ND.

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Sunday, 13 th December Third Sunday of Advent	Sat evening: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am 2.00 Baptism	Holy Souls Michael Henry Isabel Javer
Monday, 14 th December <i>Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 15 th December	9.15 am Mass	Emily Witherick
Wednesday, 16 th December	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 17 th December	No Mass Today	
Friday, 18 th December	7.00 pm Carol Service	
Saturday, 19 th December	10.30-11.30 am Confessions Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday, 20 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sun morning: 11.00 am 2.00 Baptism	Mary Bailey Dante Marks
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10.30-11.30 am.		

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians on the Third Sunday of Advent.

Today is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which means, “Rejoice, Sunday”. It is a slightly different day of Advent, when we set aside the penitential aspect and remember that the birth of Jesus is news of great joy.

Christmas Bubbles



Our Christmas tree has arrived, and I am very grateful to the generous parishioner who has donated it. Instead of it being just a decoration I should like to use it symbolically to represent something of the message of Christmas. Christmas is all about God’s love for us, demonstrated in the birth of Jesus. It is also demonstrated in the way we receive and pass on that love.

We have all become very conscious of being in “bubbles” this year, and therefore I thought it would be nice to decorate the tree with bubbles (which look suspiciously like baubles!) The children at the school have made some beautiful decorations for us. A BIG THANK YOU TO THEM. All members of the parish and our visitors are invited to write, on one of the bubbles, the name(s) of anyone who has shown them love and who holds a special place in their hearts – probably the people in your social bubble. The bubble will be hung on the tree. The many bubbles will then become a testament to the presence of love in the world – and the way in which, individually, our lives have been enriched by love.



Our Christmas tree will then become a testimony to love in the world, and in our own local community.

Prayer at the end of Mass:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! *Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen*

I am hoping that we shall be set up this week with a livestreaming service in the church. If it works (!) I shall let you have the details so that you can tune in. In the meantime, livestreaming of the Mass each day is available at: <http://www.stanhonyofpadua.org.uk/>; <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk> <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>. Here is a prayer, an Act of Spiritual Communion, which you can say as you watch a Livestream Mass:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.”

Please pray for Ronald Rowles, and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. Cyril Barlow, John Griffith, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Michael McKiernan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O’Connell, Daniel O’Connor and Michael O’Meara, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and Keith Baker, Myles Quirke and Winifred McGrath. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for those we know who are sick, especially Dermot Carroll, Bernadette Allsworth and Grace O’Rourke. If you or family members are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank you.

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is the Catholic Church’s official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. For an appeal talk, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday. They need our support to continue their work. To donate, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text ‘SEA’ to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles. For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at the Christmas Midnight Mass and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the statues of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Joseph, or St Don Bosco, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be for any reason you want: to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present?



Congratulations to Linda and Paul Evans who were married here at Our Lady’s yesterday. May God bless them in their life together in the future.

Baptism. Today we welcome Isabel Javer into the family of the Church through the waters of Baptism. Please pray for her and for her family.

Advent Carol Service. We shall be having a service of carols and readings in the church on Friday, 18th December at 7.00 pm.

Unfortunately, it will have to be different this year because we can’t gather indoors to sing, so what I propose to do is to livestream the service so that there will be just a few musicians in the church and everyone else can join in from the comfort of their own home.



Diocesan Directories. The new directories are now available. If you want to know anything about our diocese, then this is the book you need. Spiral-bound £4.50, normal binding £3.00.

Safeguarding. If you need to contact the Archdiocese of Birmingham Safeguarding Team call 0121 230 6240 or by email: safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk.

Christmas Mass times at Our Lady’s

Confessions: Saturday 19th December 10.30 – 11.30am;
Tuesday, 22nd December 10.00 - 11.00 am
CHRISTMAS EVE: 12.00 MIDNIGHT MASS
CHRISTMAS DAY 11.00 am MASS
WEEKEND MASS TIMES AS USUAL
NEW YEAR’S DAY: SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD 12.00 noon MASS

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven’t found one on your seat, please ask a steward. Take a few and drop them off to your neighbours. Thank you.

Booking arrangements at Christmas at Our Lady’s

If you would like to attend one of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day you will need please to make arrangements in advance. What I shall need to now is your name, phone number, the total number of people from your household who will be attending and the Mass you wish to attend. You could:

- TELEPHONE THE PRESBYTERY,
- WRITE TO THE PRESBYTERY,
- EMAIL me at olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

All information given will be deleted 21 days after Christmas Day. If you come to Mass on Christmas Eve or Day without booking, we cannot guarantee a place.

Tailpiece: Many years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury was Frederick Temple. He always enjoyed community singing and seldom missed the chance to join in a rousing carol or hymn. During a visit to the Midlands one Advent he was passing a church holding its carol service and, hiding his ‘dog collar’, he decided to go in. The pews were packed, but he squeezed in, opened the hymn book and began singing enthusiastically. Sadly, no more than a couple of verses had passed before the man standing next to him said under his breath, “Dry up, mister, you’re spoiling the show.”

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