



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

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Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Sat evening: 5.30 pm</b> <b>Sun morning: 11.00 am</b> <b>2.00 Baptism</b>	The People of the Parish Mary Bailey Dante Marks
Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December <i>Commemoration of St. Peter Canisius</i>	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.15 am Mass	Kevin and Winnie McGrath
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December <i>Commemoration of St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>	9.15 am Mass <b>11.30 am Funeral service</b>	Helen Towey Ronald Rowles
Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	11.30 pm <i>Carols and Readings</i> 12.00 <i>Midnight Mass</i>	Special Intention
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	11.00 am	The People of the Parish
Saturday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</i>	<b>Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	John Flanagan
Sunday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December <b>FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	<b>Sun morning: 11.00 am</b>	Josie McCrave (Intentions)

Confessions: Tuesday, 10.00 – 11.00 am

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

### Christmas Bubbles



*Our Christmas tree is looking lovely, and I am very grateful to the generous donor. 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*

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**URGENT!! STEWARDS AND CLEANERS NEEDED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES.** Because of the extra numbers in church we need more helpers. Please let me know if you can help, and for which Mass.

The equipment for a livestreaming service in the church was held up in the post this week, but I hope that it will be in place from Monday. 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.stanthonyofpadua.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: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr. Patrick O’Mahoney, Mgr. Canons William Flint and Thomas Gavin, Frs. Patrick Wall, Edmund Motherway, Anthony Ireland, Thomas N Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe and Seamus McNerney and Mary Quigley, Sr Veronica Lindsay FMA, Pat Rothery, and Kevin 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.

**Today is Sea Sunday**, when the Church asks us to pray 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](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday). They need our support to continue their work. To donate, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://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?



**Baptism.** Today we welcome Dante Marks into the family of the Church through the waters of Baptism. Please pray for him and for his family.

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.** The second part of Advent is marked by the “O Antiphons” which highlight a different title each day for the Messiah and invite Him into our hearts: **O Sapientia** (O Wisdom), **O Adonai** (O Lord), **O Radix Jesse** (O Root of Jesse), **O Clavis David** (O Key of David), **O Oriens** (O Rising Sun), **O Rex Gentium** (O King of the Nations), and **O Emmanuel**.

**Advent Carol Concert/Service.** I want to thank Liz, Tara and Clare who provided us with such a wonderful Carol Service last Thursday. If you have not had the chance to enjoy it at home you can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz1Eb5P-xGah20MoGgkx6kA> It lasts about half an hour.

**Christmas Offerings.** Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. I am very conscious that I haven’t been here long, but if you wish to make an offering there are envelopes at the back of Church. Thank you.

**Crib Offerings.** We shall be donating crib offerings this year to Friends of the Holy Land to help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

**Booking arrangements at Christmas at Our Lady’s.** If you would like to attend one of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day I shall need to know 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](mailto:olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

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

**Tailpiece:** A thoughtful, rather than a funny one for the last Sunday before Christmas, told by Cardinal Heenan. There was once a sick old lady in Wapping, in the East End of London. Over her bed she had a picture of Our Lady. The doctor, probably meaning no harm but fairly young and ignorant, said, “Well, Granny, who is the film star over the bed?” “Film star?” said she. “That is the Virgin Mother.” “*Virgin* Mother?” said the doctor, “*Virgin* Mother? Why, there never was such a Mother.” “Ah, doctor,” she replied, “There never was such a Son.”

*I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your welcome to me in this very strange year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.*

Fr. Harry