



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday after the Nativity

3rd January, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Moran, lizmoran276@yahoo.com

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

Tel: 01865 770910, email: olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Sunday, 3 rd January SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY	Sat evening: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am	Bridget White Eileen Joyce (Intentions)
Monday, 4 th January	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 5 th January	9.15 am Mass	The People of the Parish
Wednesday, 6 th January SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	11.00 am Mass	Josie Dekkers (101 st Birthday)
Thursday, 7 th January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Raymond of Penyafort</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday, 8 th January	No Mass Today	
Saturday, 9 th January	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Catherine and Robert Carr (Intentions)
Sunday, 10 th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	Sun morning: 11.00 am 2.00 pm Baptism	The People of the Parish William Peter Wilson

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

Christmastide ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Collections during December: 6th December, £410.07; Gift Aid: £208.63.

13th December, £371.44; Gift Aid £161.00

20th December, £488.86; Gift Aid £190.00

27th December, £171.00, Gift Aid, £162.00. **Direct Debit Donations (November):** £1446.00. Thank you.

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*

Tier 4. As you know, because of the rapid spread of the Coronavirus we have now been moved into Tier 4 where we are encouraged not to leave home if it can be avoided. So far, Places of Worship are still allowed to open for public services – and we shall continue to do so here at Our Lady's until we are told otherwise.

If you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we are now live and all the action (24/7) can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

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.”

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for John Cromeley (Anniversary).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for the Maxwell Family.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for the Barry Family.

St. Joseph's Candles is burning this week for the McCann Family.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.

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.

Please pray for all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Martin Power, Frs. Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, Francis Dwyer, Philip Smith, John P. Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley and Charles Becker, and also Albina Reim, Bridget McDermott, Suzanne White and Brian McCurry. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

I shall be away from Wednesday afternoon until Friday evening this week.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany. After many years when this feast was celebrated on the nearest Sunday, it has now been reinstated on its proper date, 6th January. In a normal year it would be a Holyday of Obligation when we are obliged to attend Mass. This year, because of the pandemic, the obligation is removed and if, because of your health, you are in any doubt whether to come, then please do not. If you are able to access our livestreaming you can take part in the Mass in that way. Mass that day will be at 11.00 am.

Sacramental Preparation. It has been a very difficult and frustrating period of preparation for the children who were hoping to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time last Summer. I am grateful to the teachers at Our Lady's School and St John Fisher School for making it possible for them to complete the preparation in their "bubbles" at school. That has been a great blessing. It is impossible to make firm plans under the COVID-19 dominated circumstances, but I am hoping that they will be able to make their First Holy Communion, either here or at Sacred Heart in Blackbird Leys, on one of two Sundays: 17th January and 24th January. The reason for a choice of Sundays is to try to limit the numbers of people attending without restricting the number of family members. I regret, but we cannot have a party after Mass.

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: for example, to remember a loved one, or a special intention.



The assisted suicide lobby are currently running a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

Thankfully, the Government has so far resisted these attempts and emphasised their commitment to neutrality on this issue. The Church holds that it is important that the Government continues to hold strong against pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and rejects their demands. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool to enable you to email your MP asking the Government not to give in to the demands. It only takes about half a minute to email your MP. Go to <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

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.

Christmas Decorations. Although Christmastide in the Church's calendar doesn't end until next Sunday, it is traditional to take down the Christmas decorations by "twelfth night". That being the case, we shall take the Trees down this week, and put the decorations into storage for another year. Thank you to everyone who put a prayer bubble on the tree as a symbol of love. It helped us to appreciate the coming of Jesus, the love of God made visible. And thank you to everyone who helped to make the church so beautiful and prayerful for us this Christmastide.

Baptism. Next Sunday we shall welcome William Peter Wilson into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please pray for him and his family.

Don Bosco Today and the Salesian Calendar 2021. The latest editions of these publications are available today. Please take a copy as you leave after Mass.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The traditional time for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18th-25th January, the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. This year it has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. They chose a theme based on **John 15:1-17: Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.**

Where's Duck??? A game for children. Duck wanted to come to church for Christmas and now he's hiding somewhere in the church with a small friend. There will be a small prize for the first child who can tell me where they are.



Tailpiece: A prayer as we enter the new year.

Dear Lord, so far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to have to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help, please. Amen.

Thank you all again for your Christmas offerings and for the many individual gifts and cards that I received. I hope you had as happy a Christmas as I did, and that God may bless you in 2021.

Fr. Harry