



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th January, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

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

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Sunday, 17 th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Peace Day	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am	The People of the Parish Joyce & Dolores Connolly (Ints)
Monday, 18 th January Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 19 th January Feast of St. Wulstan, Bishop Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	7.00 pm Reception of Winnie Gildea	
Wednesday, 20 th January Op. Memorials of St. Fabian, or St. Sebastian Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	10.00 am Requiem Mass	Winnie Gildea
Thursday, 21 st January Memorial of St. Agnes, Martyr Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	No Mass Today	
Friday, 22 nd January Op. Mem. of St. Vincent, Deacon, Martyr Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sr. Maureen Grigg (Intentions)
Saturday, 23 rd January Memorial of St. Nicholas Owen, Martyr Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	The People of the Parish
Sunday, 24 th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	Sun morning: 11.00 am	Gill and Peter Nottingham (Intentions)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

Peace Sunday. Today is a day of prayer for peace on earth.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Anne McDonagh.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Margaret Murray.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for deceased members of the Roberts Family.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Christian Unity.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Fr. Graham Forristalle.

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*

Mass at Our Lady's. You are still welcome to come to Our Lady's for Mass, but if you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we are now live and 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."

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

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 Helen Towey, Winnie Gildea, Fr. Patrick Joyce and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Bernard McKenna, Arthur Wall, Frs. Archibald John Snell, Timothy Dinan, Cecil Keane, Bernard Robertson, C. J. Gregory Winterton, CO, Edward Leicester, CO, Edward Kirner, Clement Burrett, Michael Walshe, George Jackson, John Tolkien, Joseph McKenna, Michael Forde, Charles Ross and John Garvey, and also Marianna Slezak, George Sykes, Michael Grant, Sally Roberts and Bill Barber. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace. Winnie Gildea's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday morning. Unfortunately, only a very limited number may attend, but the Mass will be livestreamed and you can join us through the wonders of modern technology.

The Annual Novena to St. John Bosco begins on Friday. Please take the Novena prayers home with you.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins tomorrow and goes on until 25th January. This year the theme is based on *John 15:1-17: Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.*

Lent. Yes, I know we have only just finished Christmas, but just four weeks from Wednesday will be the start of Lent. It's not too early to start thinking what you can do to make this season of grace fruitful.

Ashes for Ash Wednesday (17th February). Do you know where the ashes come from for Ash Wednesday? They are made by burning the palms that we waved on Palm Sunday to welcome the Lord into His City. Of course, last Palm Sunday we were under lockdown and the church was closed, so we didn't have any palms. Nevertheless, I am hoping that we can make our own ashes for Ash Wednesday. If you have palms from earlier Palm Sundays that we could use for this, please bring them to church over the next few weeks.

Sunday of the Word Of God. Pope Francis has decreed 24th January to be the Sunday of the Word of God. "Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." (Pope Francis). So, ...

1 Bring a Bible to Mass next Sunday to be blessed.

2 During Mass that day I shall re-commission and ask God's blessing of our readers, whether they are able to be present physically at the Mass or not.

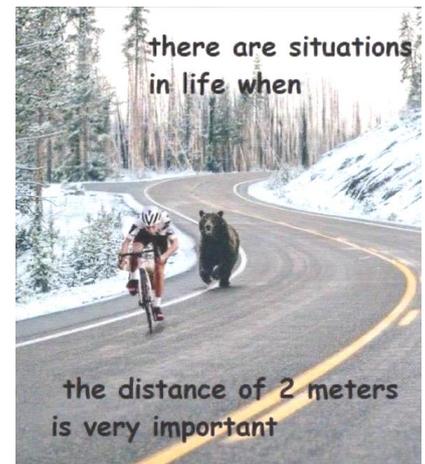
3 I encourage you to begin a journey through the whole Bible in a 7-week course written by David McLoughlin entitled *Echoes of God: Journeying with the word of God.* These weekly reflections are perfect for us to read through and chew over at home during this period of lockdown. Each week takes a fundamental core teaching of Scripture and together the sessions help us get a sense of the Scriptures as a whole; to see the unfolding of God's liberating and creative love in the history of Israel and in the Church. The materials, which are very easy and enjoyable to read, will be included in successive weekly newsheets, but you can access the materials any time at

<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god/>

Crib Collection. This year we collected for the Friends of the Holy Land who support Christians in the Holy Land. Thanks to your generosity we collected £310.80.

Our Lady's needs your help. I should like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to donate to our parish during the pandemic. Whether you have done this as a one-off or as a regular contribution, thank you. If you have not been able to make donations recently, but would like to do so it is possible by setting up a standing order or by giving on-line. If you need help with either of these please call me. I do appreciate that many may be struggling financially at this time. Please be assured there is no expectation to give.

For Your Protection and that of everyone else, when you come to Our Lady's, please remember to wear a face-covering, to sanitise your hands on arrival and departure, to check in for the track and trace, and to keep your distance from others who are not in your "bubble. Thank you.



Tailpiece: A couple were preparing for their wedding and the groom sidled up to the priest. "I'll give you £100 if you'll change the wedding vows. When you get to the part where I'm to promise to 'Love, honour and obey', I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that bit out." He passed the priest the cash and walked away satisfied. The wedding day arrived, and it came to that part of the ceremony where the vows are exchanged. The priest looked the young man in the eye and said, "Will you promise to obey her every command and wish, and serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life?" The groom gulped and looked around but there was no escape, and he said in a tiny voice, "Yes." Afterwards he hissed to the priest, "I thought we had a deal." The priest put the £100 into his hand and whispered back, "She made me a much better offer."

May God bless you and all those who are dear to you
Fr. Harry