



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7th February, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 7 th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am	Andy Scully (get well) The People of the Parish
Monday, 8 th February Optional Memorials of St. Jerome Emiliani or of St. Josephine Bakhita Day for the Victims of Human Trafficking	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 9 th February	9.15 am Mass	Tom MacDonald
Wednesday, 10 th February Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 11 th February Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of Prayer for the Sick	No Mass Today	
Friday, 12 th February	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Mary Barrett (Intentions)
Saturday, 13 th February	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Mary Clarke
Sunday, 14 th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Day for the Unemployed	Sun morning: 11.00 am	The People of the Parish
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00-6.45 pm		

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

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>

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Nancy McGrath RIP (Anniversary).

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Danny & Nancy Lyons RIP (Wedding Anniversary).

Collections during January: 3rd & 10th January, £384.51; Gift Aid: £219.35

17th January, £251.02; Gift Aid £156.10

24th January, £118.72; Gift Aid £44.00

31st January, £290.43, Gift Aid, £142.00. **Direct Debit Donations (December):** £1,356.00. 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*

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 those we know who are sick, especially John Flanagan. 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 the repose of the souls of Canon Giles Goward, Fr. Pat Joyce, Bernadette Gavin, Mary Lillis, Sean Smith, Philomena Gardiner and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time Archbishop Frederick William Keating, Canon Patrick Cassidy, Frs. John Watkins, Frederick E. James, John Gibb, Matthias Brady, John Paul O'Sullivan, William Connick and James McGloin and also Norman Gurl, Maria Giduch, Billy Flynn and Nancy McGrath. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

Bernadette Gavin and Mary Lillis will have a joint funeral service here at Our Lady's on Tuesday, 23rd February, at 10.00 am. There will be a Requiem Mass at Our Lady's for Sean Smith at noon on Thursday, 18th February. Because of the pandemic, only family members may attend, but the Masses will be livestreamed for all to take part.

Lent. It's not long now until the start of Lent (Ash Wednesday is 17th February), so if you haven't already done so it's time to start thinking what you can do to make this season of grace fruitful. Thank you to all the people who have been so generous in bringing their old palms to church so that they can be burned to make ashes. We shall burn them next Sunday after Mass, so if you still have some that you would like to burn, please bring them in this week.

Ideas for Lent 2021. Because of the pandemic we are limited in what we can do together, but here are a few suggestions:

1. **Parish Penance Service.** On Friday, 12th March, at 6.00 pm, with Mass at 7.00 pm.
2. **"Walk With Me" Booklets.** These are now available in the porch, cost £1, or whatever you can afford. The Lent calendars are free. The daily reflections are rooted in the Gospel from the daily and Sunday liturgy to help us on a journey of prayer and contemplation. It is a tool for evangelization and a way to encourage us to reach out to those who no longer practise their faith.
3. **"My Day By Day".** These small booklets are available in the porch (£1). They contain the Mass readings for each day of Lent to Maundy Thursday.
4. **Morning Prayer.** You are welcome to join me for Office of Readings and Morning Prayer of the Church each morning (except Wednesdays and Thursdays) at 8.00 through the live streaming.
5. **Stations of the Cross** each Friday in Lent, after the evening Mass.
6. **Cycle of Prayer.** During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; the Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.
7. **Lectio Divina** (see below). On Monday evenings, if we can get Zoom to work, we shall read the following Sunday's Gospel together and pray about it. It will last about half an hour and anyone is welcome.
8. For your Lenten commitment you could take part in **CAFOD's Walk for Water** Appeal. Ask your friends and parishioners to sponsor you to walk 10,000 steps a day: 10,000 steps a day - done your way. Every day. For 40 days. Go the distance this Lent and help to end water poverty. It doesn't matter how you do it, just as long as you put your heart and soul into it. Sign up now, raise money and do something different to fight poverty. Go to <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

An Idea for Lent. Would you like to try "*Lectio Divina*" during Lent? It is a Latin phrase, meaning "divine reading", and it is a way of praying with the Bible. We shall have to do it by Zoom, and I honestly don't know if that will work, but it is worth trying. If you would be interested in trying it as part of a group please let me know and we can set it up for Monday evenings for about half an hour, starting at 7.00 pm.

COVID-19. For your protection and that of everyone else, when you come to church, please wear a face-covering, sanitise your hands on arrival and departure, check in for the track and trace, and keep your distance from others who are not in your "bubble. Thank you.

Annual Guild of St Stephen Mass. Altar servers across the Archdiocese are invited to join the live streaming of the Guild of St Stephen Mass at St Chad's Cathedral at 10am on Saturday, 6th March. As part of the celebration servers (young and old, whether at home or in church, vested or not) are encouraged to send a picture of themselves holding their Guild Medal to office@vocations.org.uk so the Vocations team can create a montage poster in lieu of the annual photo at Mass. **Please save the date and get involved!**

Finance Committee. There will be a Zoom meeting of the Parish Finance Committee at 8.00 pm on Thursday, 18th February.

Echoes of God: Journeying with the word of God. The next chapter in our 7-week course on the Bible, written by David McLoughlin is available. to take away, or go to <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/thegod-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god/>

Tailpiece: A man decided he would give up sweet things for Lent. He took his resolution seriously, even changing his driving route to avoid his favourite bakery. One morning, however, he arrived at work carrying a gigantic cake. "This is a very special cake," he explained to his grinning colleagues. "This morning I was praying as I drove along and without thinking I drove by the bakery. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, 'Lord, if you want me to have one of those delicious cakes in the window you will let me have a parking place directly in front of the bakery.' And sure enough," he went on, "the eighth time around the block, there it was!"

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