



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Second Sunday of Lent

28<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> February <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	<b>Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b> <b>Sun morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>George Rhodes</i> <i>(Anniversary)</i>
Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> March <i>Feast of St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales</i>	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March <i>Feast of St. Chad, Bishop, Patron of the Archdiocese</i>	9.15 am	<i>Jackie (get well)</i>
Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Optional Commemoration of St. Casimir</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	<i>Eddie Kelly RIP</i>
Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	<i>Sean Jennings (Birthday)</i>
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	<b>Sun morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
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.mcmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.**  
**St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the sick and the dying.**

**A Liturgical Note:** During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "A\*\*\*\*\*A!" There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday. We shall save it all up and let rip with sound, light and colour at the Easter Vigil when we celebrate the Resurrection.

**First Friday.** This Friday is the first of the month. We shall pray the Novena Prayers of the Sacred Heart before Mass.

### 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 the repose of the souls of **John Flanagan, Bernadette Gavin, Mary Lillis, Philomena Gardiner, Bridget Willoughby, Jose Robeiro** and for the souls of all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Kevin Dunn, Canon Peter Taylor, Frs. John Flynn, William Diver, Denis McGuinness, Denis Murphy, Douglas Carter, John Pinkman and Robert Wright, and also Bridget Salter, Mary Benadel, Elizabeth Perry, Basil (Les) Winter and Catherine (Kathleen) Quirke. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Jose Robeiro's funeral will be here at noon on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, and Bridget Willoughby's funeral will be here on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, at 10.00 am

**Please pray for those we know who are sick.** 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.

To help people like Abdella  
**Text LENT to 70460**  
 to donate £10 to CAFOD's Lent Appeal  
 Or visit [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give)



**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

We had the **CAFOD Lent Fast Day last Friday.** CAFOD asked us to give up something to help them as they work with people in need around the world. There are envelopes on your seats in church today. If you wish,

you can use them and put them into the collection bags along with your weekly offering to the church. Or you could donate online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent). You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10. (*Texts cost £1.10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more info, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)*)

**Lectio Divina.** Would you like to try "*Lectio Divina*" by Zoom during Lent? It is a Latin phrase, meaning "divine reading", and it is a way of praying with the Bible. We had our first session last Monday and I think it worked quite well. You are welcome to join us. We read the following Sunday's Gospel together and pray about it. It takes about half an hour, 7.00–7.30 pm. If you would be interested in trying it please let me know and make sure that I have your email address.

**Parish Penance Service.** On Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, at 6.00 pm, with Mass at 7.00 pm.

**"Walk With Me" Booklets.** There are still a few copies available in the porch, cost £1, or whatever you can afford. The Lent calendars are free. The daily reflections help us through Lent on a journey of prayer and contemplation.

**Morning Prayer.** Each morning (except Wednesdays and Thursdays) I shall pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer of the Church at 8.00. You are welcome to join me through the live streaming.

**Stations of the Cross** each Friday in Lent, after the evening Mass.



**Feasts of St. David, Patron Saint of Wales, and St. Chad, Patron of this Diocese.** A happy feast day tomorrow to anyone with Welsh blood. And a happy feast day to us all on Tuesday, St. Chad's Day.

**Induction.** According to Canon Law, a Parish Priest should be "inducted" into his new parish. Normally it would be a chance for a celebration in church, followed by a party. Unfortunately, we can't do that at present, but there will be a service of Induction at 6.00 pm on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March – the Feast of St. Joseph – when the Dean, Canon Mervyn Tower, with "introduce" me to the parish. I hope that many of you will be able to attend.

**Commemorative Candles.** Don't forget that for £5 you can buy a candle which will burn for any intention for any week of your choice beside the Tabernacle or in front of the statues of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Don Bosco or St. Joseph.

**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 next Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March. As part of the celebration servers are encouraged to send a picture of themselves holding their Guild Medal to [office@vocations.org.uk](mailto:office@vocations.org.uk) so the Vocations team can create a montage poster in lieu of the annual photo at Mass. **It has been pointed out to me that the medals are stored here at the church, so if you are a server please call me so that you can get a photo of yourself with your medal. I should like to meet you.**

**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/the-god-who-speaks/focus/sunday-of-the-word-of-god/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god/>

**Tailpiece:** I liked this from a child's essay about the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, as recorded in St. John's Gospel (but not quite like this):

*"Jesus spake unto her saying, 'How many husbands have you had?'  
 And she, answering, said, 'Lord, five.'  
 Jesus said, 'Give me a drink.'"*

**May God bless you and those you love.**  
**Fr. Harry**

**The Year of St Joseph.** Pope Francis has designated 2021 a year of St Joseph. March is St. Joseph's month and we shall be praying a Novena leading up to the feast of St. Joseph on 19<sup>th</sup> March, using a prayer suggested by Pope Francis:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*