



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday of Lent

7th March, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

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Sunday, 7 th March Third Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am	<i>Sean Jennings (Birthday)</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 8 th March <i>Op. Commemoration of St. John of God, Religious</i>	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 9 th March <i>Op. Comm. of St. Frances of Rome, Religious</i>	9.15 am 12.00 noon Requiem Mass	<i>Fatima Layssung</i> <i>José Ribeiro</i>
Wednesday, 10 th March <i>Novena to St. Joseph</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 11 th March <i>Novena to St. Joseph</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday, 12 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	5.00 pm Penance Service 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	<i>Clare Oliver (Intentions)</i>
Saturday, 13 th March <i>Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph</i>	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	<i>Pat & Mary Cafferkey (& Deceased Family Members)</i>
Sunday, 14 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i> <i>Novena to St. Joseph</i>	Sun morning: 11.00 am	<i>Sissie McManus</i> <i>(Anniversary)</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 5.00-6.45 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.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for John Flanagan RIP.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Justin Flynn (get well).

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Thomas Griffin RIP (Birthday).

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Patrick Downes.

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 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday. We shall save it up and let rip with sound, light and colour at the Easter Vigil.

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.

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, Bridget Willoughby, José Ribeiro, Sheila Evans, Fr. Oliver Kemp and for the souls of all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Gerard J. Hanlon, Raymond Walsh and Anthony Allport, Frs. Humphrey Crookenden, CO, Terence Luxon, Ernest Jarvis, Thomas Fullerton, CO, Francis Johnson, Joseph Purcell, Ralph Sheppey-Greene, Christopher Thornton, Connell Harkin, Vaughan Lloyd and Anthony Sims, Deacons James Rowe and Philip Prince, and also Rosie Moore. Fr Kemp was ordained in 1966 and, among other parishes, he served at Headington from 1977 to 1980. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. José Ribeiro’s funeral will be here at noon on Tuesday, and Bridget Willoughby’s funeral will be on Monday, 22nd March, at 10.00 am

Induction. There will be a service of Induction, when the Dean, Canon Mervyn Tower, will “introduce” me to the parish at 6.00 pm as the new parish priest on Friday, 19th March – the Feast of St. Joseph. All welcome.

Parish Penance Service. On Friday, 12th March, there will be an extended period when you can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We can start with a short Penance Service at 5.00 pm, with Mass at 7.00 pm.

Stations of the Cross each Friday evening after Mass.

The Easter Triduum

The most important week in the Church’s year – indeed, the most important week in the history of the world – is Holy Week. It begins on Palm Sunday, when we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into the Holy City. On Maundy Thursday we remember the Last Supper and the commandment of Jesus to love one another, and the Institution of the Eucharist. On Good Friday we solemnly celebrate the Passion of our Lord. On Holy Saturday we join Him in the Sabbath Rest until the Easter Vigil when we begin to celebrate The Resurrection. We must plan how we can celebrate this most wonderful week this year in the present situation.

- **Stewards.** I am very grateful to our team of stewards who help to greet people as they arrive, guide them to a place in the church, regulate the procession for Holy Communion, and encourage people to record their details for the Track and Trace and use the hand sanitiser. We always need stewards, but this is most especially true during Holy Week. Please let me know if YOU can be a steward, and for which services.
- **Cleaners.** Similarly, I am most grateful to the wonderful people who clean the church following services. Please tell me if YOU would like to share your time and energy to do this in Holy Week.
- **Booking.** We must still be careful to keep social distancing, and that means we must know how many people are coming to church. You are welcome to Our Lady’s, but please **book your places for Mass on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday morning.** Let Geraldine, the Parish Secretary, know by email, ’phone or a note through the presbytery door which services and how many will be with you.

Lectio Divina. Would you like to try “*Lectio Divina*” by Zoom during Lent? 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 like to try it please let me know and make sure that I have your email address.

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

The Year of St Joseph. Pope Francis has designated 2021 a year of St Joseph. We shall pray a Novena leading up to the feast of St. Joseph on 19th March, using a prayer that he has suggested:

*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.*

Crib Offerings. *‘Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners who donated to the Crib Offerings, raising £310.80 for Christians in the Holy Land. Conditions are extremely challenging there currently, especially as they face another Easter season without pilgrims. Please continue to remember FHL and those we support in your prayers.’*

Echoes of God. The final chapter in our 7-week course on the Bible, written by David McLoughlin is available., 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: Teacher, explaining the Parable of the Prodigal Son to her class: “But there was someone for whom the son’s return brought only bitterness and resentment. Do you know who that was?” Eager young boy: “Yes, Miss. The fatted calf.”

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