



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fourth Sunday of Lent

14th March, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 14 th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am	Pat & Mary Cafferkey (& Deceased Family Members) Sissie McManus (Anniversary)
Monday, 15 th March Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 16 th March Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph	9.15 am	Salvador Mendes RIP
Wednesday, 17 th March Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 18 th March Op. Comm. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop Dementia Prayer Week and Novena to St. Joseph	No Mass Today	
Friday, 19 th March Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary Dementia Prayer Week	6.00 pm Mass of Induction	The People of the Parish
Saturday, 20 th March	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Theresa King (Anniversary)
Sunday, 21 st March Fifth Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments	Sun morning: 11.00 am	Brigida Do Rosario Cabral (First Anniversary)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4.00 – 5.00 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 for Caitlin Lyons (Birthday).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Salvador Mendes RIP.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Mick & Sissie McManus RIP (Anniversary).

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the sick and the dying.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Kitty Davies.

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."

Laetare Sunday. We are now three and a half weeks into Lent, and Easter is three weeks today. In other words, we are over halfway through and that's a cause for rejoicing! Today is "Laetare Sunday" – "Be Glad Sunday" – when we relax the disciplines of Lent slightly and think of the joy of Easter. It's also Mothering Sunday.

Happy Mothering Sunday to all Mums

Please pray for those we know who are sick, including Dominico Mirto. If you or any 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 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: Bishop David Cashman, Mgr. Daniel Kelly, Frs. William Madden, Patrick Maguire, Andrew Brennan and Deacon Thomas Ashcroft, and also Mary Kate McTague, Sissie McManus, Antonio Iorio, Martin Conroy and Joseph Ahern. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Bridget Willoughby's funeral will be here at Our Lady's on Monday, 22nd March, at 10.00 am. Because of the pandemic not many may attend the funeral Mass, although I know that many parishioners would like to be here. As usual it will be streamed and, if you can, I invite you to attend virtually and to pray for Bridie and her family.

Induction. Next Friday we shall have a Mass at 6.00 pm during which I shall be inducted as the new Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians by the Dean of North Oxford, Canon Mervyn Tower. The Induction is an opportunity when the Parish Priest can be officially presented to the people of his new parish. During the ceremony he makes the Profession of Faith and takes the Oath of Fidelity which is required of all those holding office and teaching responsibility in the Catholic Church, and he pledges himself to work as a faithful pastor of his people. For the people, it is an opportunity to welcome their new priest and to pledge themselves to work with him in the service of the Gospel. I invite you all to attend, but I also ask stewards and cleaners to be present, please, to make sure that we are COVID-secure.

Praying together in a time of Pandemic. You can join me for *Lectio Divina* by Zoom each Monday evening, 7.00–7.30 pm (please let me have your email address and I shall send you a link), and for *Morning Prayer* through the church's livestreaming each morning (except Wednesdays and Thursdays) at 8.00.

Confessions. Because of the Mass of Induction next Friday, there will be no Confessions or Stations of the Cross that evening. There will be the chance for Confession on Saturday (4.00-5.00) before Mass.

The Year of St Joseph. 2021 is a year of St Joseph. We are praying a Novena leading up to the feast of St. Joseph on 19th March, using a prayer of 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.*

Parish Annual Statement of Accounts.

- With this newsletter there is a copy of the annual statement of the parish accounts for 2020. Thank you all for your generosity to the church during very difficult circumstances. Thank you, too, to the Parish Finance Committee for all their hard work and to Brendan Lyons, the chair of the Committee, for presenting these figures today.
- The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the hall. If you no longer need them or if your circumstances have changed (e.g. you no longer pay income tax) let Geraldine, the Parish Secretary, know, and also if you have changed your address.

The Easter Triduum

I wish I could say that Holy Week and the Easter Triduum will be back to normal this year, but sadly they won't. We are in a much better position than last Easter, but our Holy Week and Easter liturgies will reflect the fact that we are still living through a pandemic.

- **Stewards.** Please let me know if YOU can be a steward for Holy week. There will be a training/planning session at 11.00 on Saturday, 27th March.
- **Cleaners.** Similarly, please tell me if YOU would like to share your time and energy to help clean the church after services in Holy Week.
- **Booking.** You are welcome to Our Lady's, but please **book your places for Mass on Palm Sunday (5.30 and 11.00), Maundy Thursday (7.00 pm), Good Friday (3.00 pm), the Easter Vigil (8.00 pm) and Easter Sunday morning (11.00).** 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.

Tailpiece: Happy St. Patrick's Day to all on Wednesday: a man went to see his doctor who was baffled. "I'm very sorry Mr O'Flaherty, but I can't diagnose your trouble. I think it must be the drink." "Don't worry about it, Doctor. I'll come back when you're sober."

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