



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fifth Sunday of Lent

21st March, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 21 st March Fifth Sunday of Lent <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am	Theresa King (Anniversary) Brigida Do Rosario Cabral (First Anniversary)
Monday, 22 nd March	10.00 am Requiem Mass	Bridget Willoughby
Tuesday, 23 rd March <i>Op. Comm. of St. Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop</i>	12.00 noon National Day of Reflection for COVID-19 Pandemic	In Time of Pandemic
Wednesday, 24 th March	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 25 th March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	11.00 am	Coleman Keady (Anniversary)
Friday, 26 th March	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	Vera Grundy
Saturday, 27 th March	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Winnie Gildea RIP (Birthday)
Sunday, 28 th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord <i>Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments</i>	Sun morning: 11.00 am	Debbie McAndrew
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 for Winnie Gildea RIP (Birthday).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Benvinda Amaral Defatima Maxanches.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for the Mazonowicz Family Intentions.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Benedita Dastiva Amaral Maxanches.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Belinha Borges Amaral Maxanches.

Collections during February: 7th February, £481.90; Gift Aid: £116.50

14th February, £324.98; Gift Aid £120.90

21st February, £390.44; Gift Aid £116.50

28th February, £362.83, Gift Aid, £107.50.

Direct Debit Donations (January): £1,457.00; **(February):** £1,251.00.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day: £289.65. 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*

Please pray for those we know who are sick, including Domenico Mirto and Regina Soares. 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.

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: Archbishop Bernard Ullathorne, OSB, Archbishop Francis Joseph Grimshaw, Bishop Humphrey Bright, Mgr. Canon John Joseph Welch, Mgr. Henry Francis Davis, Frs. John Joseph Donnelly, John McManus and Deacon Louis Joseph Livesey, and also Catherine Regan, Regina Mihailova, Coleman (Colm) Keady and Josie Bates. 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.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation. This Thursday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Although it is not a Holyday of Obligation, it is a major feast marking the start of Our Lord’s earthly life. There will be Mass here at Our Lady’s at 11.00 am.

Induction. Thank you very much to everyone who came to celebrate my induction as Parish Priest last Friday or who joined in through the webcam. I am very grateful to you all for your warm welcome, for your messages of encouragement, for those who helped in the sacristy or as stewards and cleaners or who decorated the church, and for your prayers and gifts. It was a lovely occasion and I look forward to serving you all.

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.

Gift Aid Envelopes. 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, or if you have changed your address.

Holy Week and 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. Attached to this newsletter is a sheet giving the times of services during the Holy Week and outlining the main changes that we have to make to the normal liturgy

- **Stewards and Cleaners.** Please let me know if YOU can be a steward or a Cleaner for Holy week. There will be a training/planning session at 11.00 next Saturday, 27th March.
- **Booking.** You are welcome to Our Lady’s, but please **book your places for any of the services of Holy Week and Easter.** 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.

National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown

The Prime Minister has asked for a National Day of Reflection on the first anniversary of the first lockdown this coming Tuesday. The President and Vice President of the Bishops’ Conference have developed this theme, asking all Catholics to hold this day not only as one of Reflection but of Prayer, with an encouragement for all our people to pay a visit to a church and pray for the many needs, hopes and sorrows that have emerged over the last year.

“March 2020 was the first time our churches had to be closed. It is our hope that on this day, every one of our churches will be open. We invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. ... There is so much on which to reflect and include in our prayer. ... May Tuesday 23rd March be a great day of prayer that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God’s Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come.”

We shall have Mass at 12 noon on Tuesday, and then the church will be open for private prayer until 4.00 pm.

Census 2021 is here! The census is a once-in-a-decade survey which ensures everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed such as doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. Census day is today, **Sunday, 21st March**, and you should have now received letters with online codes explaining how to complete the forms. There’s a wide range of support services such as language support and accessible census guidance. You can also get help from census staff in the contact centre over the phone, in a web chat or on social media. For more information and to find out how to get help visit census.gov.uk or call the contact centre 0800 1412021.

Tailpiece: About two hundred years ago a famous religious wit was asked to make a comment about a sloth. He said, “What is most extraordinary is that he lives not upon the branches but beneath them. He moves slowly and passes his life in suspense – like a young clergyman distantly related to a bishop.”

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