



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Easter Sunday

4<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

*Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest*

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

*Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin*

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**Happy Easter, everyone.**

**Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!**

Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Saturday evening: 8.00 pm</b> <b>Sunday morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>James Pender</i> <i>Mick Mullagh</i>
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Monday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Tuesday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Mass Today	
Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Wednesday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Thursday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Friday within the Easter Octave</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Elizabeth Conry</i>
Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Saturday within the Easter Octave</i>	<b>Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	<i>Tom Gaughan (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)</i>
Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	<b>Sun morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>Jimmy Pender</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.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Sheila Jennings (Birthday).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Mick Mullagh.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Kathleen Mullagh.

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

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for the Barry Family.



### The Easter Season

The Easter Season begins today, Easter Sunday, and ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday. These fifty days are a very special time and, as St. Athanasius wrote, they “are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday.” The first eight days make up the Easter Octave and they are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord – that is, feast days of the most importance. The joyful sound of “Alleluia!” is heard many times in this season and we add two “Alleluia’s” at the dismissal of the Mass during the Octave.

## Prayer at the end of Mass:

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;  
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,  
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:  
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

**O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,  
Has risen as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

**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, John Kinyungu, Kathleen Mullan** and for the souls of all who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Anthony Emery, Canons William Swift and Peter Jones, Frs. Michael Clive Glynn, Timothy Burke, Kevin Preston, Eamon Clarke and Kenneth Collins, and also Maureen Gannon, Bob McNarry, Collette McNarry and Thomas Gaughan. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

**New to the Parish or returning for Easter? Welcome.** If you have recently moved into Our Lady’s parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please say hello to me. Thank you.

**A big thank you** to all the flower arrangers and to everyone who worked so hard to make our Holy Week celebrations so beautiful. Thank you especially to our stewards and cleaners who made it possible to hold our services and who performed their tasks so willingly and with such efficiency and humour. Thank you too to Fr. Martin Flatman who was here on Good Friday.

**Divine Mercy Sunday (next Sunday).** This week we are encouraged to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet (there are leaflets in the porch).

**Cycle of Prayer.** During Easter we are asked to pray for the following intentions: new members of the Church; Vocations; the right use of the media; the Church; human work.

**Congratulations and Welcome to Michelle Robbins** who was baptised here last Monday.

**Gift Aid Envelopes.** The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the sacristy. 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.

**Traditionally the collection at the Easter Masses** is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of church to use if you wish. Thank you.

**Readers’ Rota.** In the next few weeks I should like to start getting back to a more normal way of celebrating Mass. We must still be very careful, of course, but it may be possible to reinstate a short-term (so you are not excluded if you wish to stay away for a bit longer) rota for readers. If you would like to be on it, please let me know.

**Tailpiece:** Once or twice it has been pointed out to me that I am a little forgetful at times (!), so I take some comfort from the example given by a Bishop of Exeter in times gone by. That kindly, but absent-minded gentleman was a keen cyclist and left his palace one warm day for a ride in the country. Two miles outside Exeter he realised that the bicycle he was riding did not belong to him, so he turned around and cycled back to find his own. By the time he was back in the city however, he had forgotten why he had returned and set out once again for the open road, still riding the wrong bicycle.



**Have a very happy and blessed Easter.  
May God bless you and all those whom you  
love. Fr. Harry**