



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday of Easter

18th April, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Happy Eastertide, everyone.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Sunday, 18 th April Third Sunday of Easter	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	Fr. Graham (Intentions) Family and Friends of John Flanagan (Intentions)
Monday, 19 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 20 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	9.15 am Mass	Kathleen McMahon Yuda (Get well)
Wednesday, 21 st April <i>Optional Memorial of St. Anselm, Bishop</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 22 nd April <i>Easter Feria</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday, 23 rd April Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Antonio D'Souza (Anniversary)
Saturday, 24 th April <i>Optional Memorials of St. Adalbert & St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyrs</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Annie Kennedy (Anniversary)
Sunday, 25 th April Fourth Sunday of Easter	Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	Nancy Lyons (Birthday)
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today. If you have recently moved into Our Lady's parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please say hello to me. Thank you.

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>

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."

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Denis Barry.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Felix Donaghy.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Fr. Harry Curtis.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Leovigildo Da Costa and Nevias Etelvina Andrade.

Day Of Prayer. On Tuesday, 4th May, for the Church in England and Wales there will be a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse.

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.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of James Kinyanjui, Kathleen Mullan, Aileen Young and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Patrick Leo McCartie, Frs. William Smith, Reginald Slade, Patrick Downey, Antony Conlon (Westminster), Hugh Griffith, Andrew Kenny, Oswald Joyce, Liam Bouchier, Patrick Quilty, Benjamin Cox, Wilfrid Davenport, Desmond Donnelly, Peter Dennison and Deacon Peter Seeney, and also Anne Doherty, Esther Masterson, Alfonso Pereira, Sheila Dempsey and Ellen Bolger. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. We pray too for the repose of the soul of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and for comfort for the Queen and the Royal Family.

Weddings and Baptisms. As you all know only too well, Government restrictions have led to multiple postponements of events in the church over the last year, so it is very good that restrictions are beginning to lift. As I understand it, from last Monday 15 people may attend a wedding and from 17 May, 30 people may do so. For Baptisms, the Government covid roadmap permits the public celebration of Baptism after 17 May, when 30 people will be permitted to attend. I should therefore be grateful if couples who wish to get married here, or parents who wish to have their children baptised, could contact me (preferably by email or letter, please) to arrange some meetings and dates. Thank you.

However, please remember that COVID RESTRICTIONS STILL APPLY. Although covid restrictions are in the process of being lifted cautiously across society, restrictions in church remain unchanged. It is very important that we all continue to observe them for the safety of all who use our facilities. These include: sanitising your hands as you enter and leave the church, leaving contact details as you enter, wearing a face covering whilst in the building and maintaining at least one metre (+) distance from other people inside and outside the building. As well as being government requirements, observing these for the sake of others is also an act of charity on our part. It is worth bearing in mind that some people attending Mass have not yet received their first vaccination, let alone a second dose, and that even those who have been vaccinated may still potentially be able to spread the virus. Thank you for your continued co-operation and consideration of others.

First Holy Communions and Confirmations. I have received a few enquiries about what is happening about the children who are still awaiting these Sacraments from last year and also those who would like to prepare for them this year. The simple answer is that I still don't know. I am awaiting some guidance about what is or is not allowed in the way of preparation classes and celebrations. I hope that things may start moving again soon, so please keep watching for updates. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Thank You from CAFOD. Thank you to all parishioners at Our Lady's for your Lent Fast Day donation of £329.65. It means so much to us that you have reached out to our brothers and sisters around the world, when life here at home is quite changed. This Lent we shared the story of Abdella's ten hour walk for water through the mountains in Ethiopia. Your gifts will mean that we can help improve water access for Abdella's community and others around the world.

Talk on Church Finances in a time of Pandemic, today, Sunday, 18th April, 1.45pm for a 2pm start. Every organisation needs money including the Church. However, in recent years income to parishes has been steadily reducing and costs continue to increase. The pandemic has and will have a significant impact on that situation. To take part in this, join Zoom Meeting <https://redcliffe.zoom.us/j/84083946770?pwd=YkNNb0lPM0RCbjJMajh0SmJBUUV2QT09>

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

Vocations Sunday. Next Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray for an increase in Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life in our Archdiocese. There will be the annual collection at Masses next Sunday for the Clergy Training Fund which helps to support our seminarians and diaconate students. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Readers' Rota. I should like to reinstate a short-term rota for readers. If you would like to be on it, please contact Bernadette Downes (07774 680455 or bernadette.a.downes@hotmail.co.uk). Readers are especially needed for Sunday morning Mass. I hope that we can have a short meeting on Saturday, 1st May at 11.00 am, for anyone interested coming on the rota and would like to have a practice.

Tailpiece: There's only room for a short tailpiece this week, so ... What's the best way to make Easter easier? Put an "i" where the "t" is.

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