



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fourth Sunday of Easter

25th 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!

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| Sunday, 25 th April Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i> | Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am | <i>Annie Kennedy (Anniversary)</i> <i>Nancy Lyons (Birthday)</i> |
| Monday, 26 th April <i>Easter Feria</i> | No Mass Today | |
| Tuesday, 27 th April <i>Easter Feria</i> | 9.15 am Mass | <i>Ann Kennedy (Anniversary)</i> |
| Wednesday, 28 th April <i>Optional Memorial of St. Peter Chanel, or of St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort</i> | No Mass Today | |
| Thursday, 29 th April <i>Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe</i> <i>Day of Prayer for Europe</i> | No Mass Today | |
| Friday, 30 th April <i>Optional Memorial of St. Pius V, Pope</i> | 6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass | <i>Mena Rhodes (Anniversary)</i> |
| Saturday, 1 st May <i>Optional Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker</i> | Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm | <i>Gerry Jayasuriya</i> |
| Sunday, 2 nd May Fifth Sunday of Easter | Sunday Morning: 11.00 am | <i>The People of the Parish</i> |
| 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>

Collections during March: 7th March, £279.25; Gift Aid: £79.00

14th March, £260.60; Gift Aid £68.50

21st March, £323.60; Gift Aid £80.00

28th March, £415.12, Gift Aid, £122.40. **Direct Debit Donations (March):** £1,591.00. 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.”

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.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention (LA).
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Ann and John Kennedy.
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the sick and the dying.
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Tara Murray (final exams).

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: Frs. Joseph Bernard Hickson, Peter Cooney, Peter Heath, Thomas William O'Connor and Deacon James Fantham and also Elisabeth Fitzgibbons, Gaspare Licata, Annie Kennedy, John Gingell, Mena Rhodes and Igor Bogatirjov. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Pope's Prayer Intention for May: The World of Finance. Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

May is the Month of Our Lady. If you are coming to a parish weekday Mass, please come a little earlier and join me for the Rosary before Mass during the month.

Weddings and Baptisms. It is very good that restrictions are beginning to lift. At present, 15 people may attend a wedding, and from 17th May, 30 people may do so. For Baptisms, the Government covid roadmap permits the public celebration of Baptism after 17th 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. Thank you for your continued co-operation and consideration of others.

First Holy Communions. Over the next few weeks I hope that we can make a start on celebrating First Holy Communions of the children who have been waiting all this year. Parents, if your child is at Our Lady's School steps are already in hand. If your child is at another school, please write to me if you wish your child to receive this Sacrament at this time.

Vocations Sunday. Today 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 a collection at Masses this weekend for the Clergy Training Fund which helps to support our seminarians and diaconate students. Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Take a gap year and volunteer with KYT. Young adults aged 18-25 are invited to consider spending a gap year with the Kenelm Youth Trust (KYT). Applications are now being taken for the Mission Team for the new academic year, starting in September 2021. This great opportunity is aimed at those who may be about to finish their studies at sixth form/college or university. Go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/embrace-a-gap-year-and-volunteer-with-kyt for more information.

Readers' Rota. If you would like to be on the rota for readers at Mass, please contact Bernadette Downes (07774 680455 or bernadette.a.downes@hotmail.co.uk). Readers are especially needed for Sunday morning Mass. There will be a short meeting next Saturday, 1st May, at 11.00 am, for anyone who would like to have a practice.

Tailpiece: Bloopers from church Bulletins:

- Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married yesterday. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

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