



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fifth Sunday of Easter

2nd May, 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, 2 nd May Fifth Sunday of Easter	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	Gerry Jayasuriya Brenda Nuttall (Anniversary)
Monday, 3 rd May Feast of St. Philip & St. James, Apostles	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 4 th May Feast of the English Martyrs	No Mass Today	
Wednesday, 5 th May Feria of Easter	7.00 pm Mass	Ellen Deegan (Get well)
Thursday, 6 th May Feria of Easter	No Mass Today	
Friday, 7 th May Feria of Easter	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Bridie Barry (Birthday)
Saturday, 8 th May Feria of Easter	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Frank Treacey (Anniversary)
Sunday, 9 th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	Mick (Anniversary)
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."

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.

Please note: because of the Bank Holiday this week there will be no Mass here on Tuesday. Instead of Mass on Tuesday morning there will be Mass on Wednesday evening instead.

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 Clare Curtis (Birthday).
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the sick and the dying.**

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 **Kate Kavanagh, 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 **Laurie De Bono, James Kinyanjui, Kathleen Mullan, Aileen Young** and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Joseph Gray, Canon Bernard Hurrill, Frs. David Duggan, Michael Byrne, James Dutton, Donal O'Connor, Francis Carr and Walter Joseph Joret, and also Igor Bogatirjov, Maureen Hinken and Frank Treacy. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

“Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God”

Pope Francis is asking that during this month of May the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and, in a special way, he is inviting all of us to pray fervently for those most closely affected by it.

During each day of May, guided by a calendar with specific intentions, all the Shrines around the world, united in a communion of supplication, will lift up their prayers, which, like the fragrance of incense, will rise up to heaven.

Thirty Marian Shrines will take turns leading this prayer throughout the Church and offering the faithful a series of prayer moments for them to participate throughout the entire day. The official Vatican website will broadcast the prayer said each day in each of these thirty Shrines at 5:00 pm, BST.

Please join in with this prayer as much as you can, in whatever way you can. There are booklets of prayer on the seats to take away and use at home.

Weddings and Baptisms. 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 we shall be celebrating the First Holy Communions of the children who have been waiting all this year. Parents, if your child is at Our Lady's School or St. John Fisher 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.

Congratulations to Deonpeter who will be receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time at the 5.30 Mass this evening. Please pray for him and for all the children who are preparing for this Sacrament.

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.

Tailpiece: One day two boys collected a bucketful of nuts in a graveyard and then sat down to divide the spoils, out of sight behind the fence. “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me,” said one boy. Cycling down the road by the cemetery was a third boy, and as he passed, he heard the voice from inside the cemetery, “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me.” That was enough for him and he sped off down the road as fast as he could until he found an old man with a cane, hobbling along. “Come quick!” said the boy. “Satan and St. Peter are at the cemetery dividing the souls.” “Shoo!” said the old man, “Can’t you see I’m finding it hard to walk as it is!” But after several pleas, he finally hobbled to the cemetery with the boy. Standing by the fence he heard, “One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me...” The old man whispered, “Boy, you were right!” Shivering with fear, they peered through the fence. At last they heard, “One for you, one for me. And the last one for you. That’s all. Now let’s go and get those nuts by the fence, and we’ll be done.” They say the old man made it back to town five minutes before the boy!

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