



Our Lady Help of Christians

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9th 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, 9 th May Sixth Sunday of Easter	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	<i>Frank Treacey (Anniversary)</i> <i>Mick Iago (Anniversary)</i>
Monday, 10 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 11 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>Ben Ogegbo</i>
Wednesday, 12 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 13 th May Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord	11.00 am Mass	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Friday, 14 th May <i>Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Fr. Peter Brealey (Birthday)</i>
Saturday, 15 th May <i>Feria of Easter</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	<i>Fr. Pat Sammon and Peter Cox (Anniversary)</i>
Sunday, 16 th May Seventh Sunday of Easter <i>World Communications Day</i>	Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	<i>Kathleen Murphy (Get well)</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.mcmedia.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."

On Tuesday we shall welcome some of the children from Y5 and Y6 at Our Lady's school to the 9.15 am Mass.

This Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven. The obligation to attend Mass is lifted this year, but Mass will be celebrated here at Our Lady's at 11.00 in the morning. Stewards, please take note and help if you can.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Mrs Vilma Renaux (Anniversary).
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Robert Curtis (Anniversary).
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Fr. Peter Brealey (Birthday).

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 Aileen Young, Laurie De Bono and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Francis Woodward, Frs. Patrick Cocklin, Cathal Cassidy, Denis Hickling and Deacon James Duffy, and also Monica Pope, Sr Georgina McPake FMA, Michael Iagoe and Robert Curtis. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Taking the next step with care. This is a very exciting time. One of the Psalms speaks about the Lord as a warrior awaking as if from sleep and stretching, ready for action. It feels that the Church is also once again starting to awaken and stretch. Things are starting to happen and it is lovely to see parishioners coming back to Mass. It is important that we all continue to observe restrictions in church. These restrictions 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 1+ metre distance from other people. It is also important that we co-operate with the stewards in being seated safely. Thank you.

Appeal For More Stewards. Since Christmas a very dedicated team of stewards has done the parish proud in keeping us all safe and making Sunday Mass possible. Some stewards have had to step down, so to lighten the load of the remaining stewards could you offer your services, please? Offering would be a very big help.

May Prayer Initiative. In response to the Holy Father's heartfelt wish, the month of May is being dedicated to a "marathon" of prayer, to ask for the end of the Coronavirus pandemic. Pope Francis wishes to involve Shrines around the world in this initiative, so that they may become vehicles of the prayer of the entire Church. With the people at the shrines we are asked to pray the Holy Rosary each day of the month for a daily prayer intention. A list of each day's shrine and prayer intention is printed in the booklets that were made available last week. The Vatican website will broadcast the prayer said each day in each of the thirty Shrines at 5:00 pm, BST.

Commemorative Candles. The large candles in front of the Tabernacle and the statues in the church burn night and day. These lights indicate the presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle and also give honour to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. Don Bosco. They show our desire to remain present to the Lord in prayer, even though we have to leave church and go about our daily business. If you would like one of the week-long candles to burn for a particular intention or in memory of a loved one, please put your intention in an envelope, with an offering of £5, and give it to me after Mass or leave it in the collection basket.

Holy Water. If you would like holy water for use at home, please bring your own bottle, ready-filled with water, which I shall be happy to bless.

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.

First Holy Communions. Starting next Friday and Saturday we shall be celebrating the First Holy Communions of the children who have been waiting all this year. Please pray for all the children who are preparing for this Sacrament and for their families. Parents, if your child is at neither Our Lady's School nor St. John Fisher School please write to me if you wish them to receive this Sacrament at this time.

Bishop William Kenney. I expect that you know that in our Archdiocese, Archbishop Bernard is assisted by three auxiliary bishops, each looking after a different area of the archdiocese. In our area Bishop William Kenney has been our Bishop for many years. Last Friday he sent this message: *I wanted to say that today 7th May the Holy Father has accepted my resignation as Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, as I have reached my 75th birthday. I become, therefore, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus. I will, however, be continuing with my normal duties for the time being; probably until a successor is appointed.* On behalf of Our Lady's Parish I shall give him a small gift with our congratulations and thanks on the occasion.

Fundraiser for Pax Christi. In the week 15th-21st May, Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid-19. One person is having a dance-a-thon, another is delivering a peace message to foreign embassies in London, a third is cycling 50 miles visiting peace sites, a fourth is going on a walk from Victoria to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, another will be cycling for 75 miles, to celebrate Pax Christi's 75th anniversary. Please go to their website www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/ for details on how you can sponsor them.

Young adults aged 18-25 are invited to spend 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 invitation is aimed at those who may be about to finish their studies at sixth form/college or university. For information go to www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/embrace-a-gap-year-and-volunteer-with-kyt.

Tailpiece: Three churches agreed to run a joint mission. After the mission they gathered to compare notes. "Our church did very well in the mission," the first noted. "We gained four new members!" "We did even better," said the second. "Our church gained six new members." "We were very pleased too," said the third. "We lost our ten most troublesome members."

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