



Our Lady Help of Christians

Seventh Sunday of Easter

16th 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, 16 th May Seventh Sunday of Easter World Communications Day	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	Fr. Pat Sammon and Peter Cox (Anniversary) Kathleen Murphy (Get well)
Monday, 17 th May Feria of Easter	No Mass Today	
Tuesday, 18 th May Op. Memorial of St. John I, Pope, Martyr	9.15 am Mass	Gerard Doyle (Get well)
Wednesday, 19 th May Optional Memorial of St. Dunstan, Bishop	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 20 th May Op. Mem. of St. Bernadine of Siena, Priest	No Mass Today	
Friday, 21 st May Op. Memorial of St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Mary Barrett (Birthday)
Saturday, 22 nd May Op. Memorial of St. Rita of Cascia, Religious	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Antonio Pereira (Anniversary)
Sunday, 23 rd May Solemnity of Pentecost Day of Prayer for the Church	Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	Teodoric D'Souza
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 Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Laurie DeBono RIP.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Mr. R. K. Joshi (Anniversary).

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Sr. Maria and the Sisters at Elmthorpe.

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 DeBono and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. John Humphreys, Canon Wilfrid Smith, Frs. Thomas Canning, Joseph Griffin, Ernest Cook, William Lyons and George Henry Boulton and also Margaret Boyle, Antonio Pereira, Jerzy Dybalski, Dorothy Aveyard and Peter Cox. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

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. To lighten their load could you offer your services, please? Offering would be a very big help.

May Prayer Initiative. Pope Francis has asked Catholics to dedicate the month of to a “marathon” of prayer, to ask for the end of the Coronavirus pandemic. It involves shrines to Our Lady around the, 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 are available in church. The Vatican website will broadcast the prayer said each day in each of the thirty Shrines at 5:00 pm, BST.

Message from CAFOD: As Coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with Caritas India to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD’s Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID and vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely-run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

Missio Red Box Appeal. In 2020 Our Lady’s parish raised £810.34 through the Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Communities around the world are grateful that people here in Oxford are supporting them through prayer and generous donations. The missionaries, and the communities they serve, are living in such difficult circumstances, made even harder by COVID-19. They have asked us to pass on their thanks, and tell us that they pray for us all. Find out more at mission.org.uk **If you have a Red Box, please bring it in to be emptied by Sunday, 6th June.**



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.

World Communications Day, Sunday 16 May. On this day, Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those professionals who work in Communications, and particularly for those who are responsible for communicating on behalf of the Catholic Church in this country. The communications office of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales supports the bishops, in their witness and engagement with current issues, and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through digital, social, print and broadcast media. The office is the central point for media enquiries and is a key resource for national and international media professionals. It also plays an important role in developing the public profile of the Church through word and image. There is a second collection to support Catholic Communications. Please support it if you can.

First Holy Communions. It is lovely to report that we are celebrating with the children who are receiving their First Holy Communion during these last weeks of May. Because of the pandemic, we cannot have one Mass with a party afterwards, but we are spreading the celebrations over these two weeks on Friday and Saturday evenings. Congratulations to all the children. Please pray for them 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.

Fundraiser for Pax Christi. This week Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid-19 by looking to be sponsored for various imaginative enterprises. See their website www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-your-interest/ for details on how you can sponsor them.

Tailpiece: Next Sunday is Pentecost, so this seemed appropriate: A teacher lined up the children in her class to recite the creed they had been memorising for the past few weeks. “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,” Robbie began. “And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,” Suzy said next. “Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,” said Timmy. “Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried,” said Molly. “He descended into hell,” said Jim. “The third day he rose again from the dead,” said Margaret. “He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,” said Billy. “From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead,” said Jill. Then there followed a long silence. Finally Timmy spoke up and said, “Please Miss, the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit isn’t here today.”

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