



# *Our Lady Help of Christians*

## *Solemnity of Pentecost*

### *23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2021*

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(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May <b>Solemnity of Pentecost</b> <i>Day of Prayer for the Church</i>	<b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b> <b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>Antonio Pereira (Anniversary)</i> <i>Teodoric D'Souza</i>
Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May <b>Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians</b>	<b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Memorial of St. Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>Laurie DeBono</i>
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Memorial of St. Philip Neri, Priest</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 27 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest</i>	No Mass Today	
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Feria</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Thanksgiving (Camilo Birthday)</i>
Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> May <i>Solemnity of the Dedication of the Church</i>	<b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	<i>Patrick Smith</i>
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> May <b>Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity</b>	<b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>Margaret Griffin (Anniversary)</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

**Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.**

**Today is Pentecost Sunday. The Easter Season, which began on Easter Sunday, ends this evening.**

**Thank you to everyone who has helped to make it a special time in the life of our parish.**

Tomorrow we return to Ordinary Time and the cycle of weekday readings resumes at the 8<sup>th</sup> Week in Year 1. The Sunday readings will be for Year B. If you pray the Divine Office we begin tomorrow with Psalter Week 4.

**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 Angela Keown.**

**Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for the Cooperators.**

**St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for our Parish Community.**

**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 Patrick Griffiths, Ivor Bridgewater** and for the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Wilfrid Moore, Canon John Hughes, Frs. Thomas Foynes, Thomas Bagnall, Michael McKenna, Patrick Taylor, John Kearns, James Ward, Dermot Corcoran, Deacon William Parker and also Benjamin Curtis, Sarah Curtis, Lucia Bianchini and Mary O'Mahoney. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

**The Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians.** For the rest of the world, this feast is no longer in the calendar because the Pope created a new memorial to be celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> May – Mary, Mother of the Church. However, in this parish we are not going to forget that we are dedicated to Our Lady Help of Christians and we shall celebrate our Solemnity on Monday. There will be Mass in the evening at 7.00, and I am also delighted to accept an invitation to celebrate Mass in Our Lady's School during the afternoon.

**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.

**Our Lady's Roof and Drains Appeal.** Like most of the world during the pandemic, as a parish we have suffered financially over the last year. Our expenses have been much as usual, but our income has been halved. We have had a large bill for work on the roof over the winter, and we shall have to have the drains dug up and replaced in the next few months. During June and July there will be a special collection box at the back of the church for both of these expenses. If you can make a donation when you come to church it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

**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 world, 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](https://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](https://mission.org.uk) **If you have a Red Box, please bring it in to be emptied by Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June.**

**Commemorative Candles.** 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.

**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.

**Confirmations.** Last year, several of our young people had nearly completed their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation when the first lockdown began and everything came to a stop. I am happy to say that Bishop (emeritus) William has accepted an invitation to come to Our Lady's for the evening Mass on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, to administer the Sacrament. I shall be in touch with all the candidates and the catechists in the next few days to see if we can arrange some top-up meetings and to make sure they may be available on that date.

**Tailpiece:** Donna was once given a teddy bear as a gift. Unfortunately, one of its eyes was looking West while the other was looking East. She looked at it gravely for a moment and then announced that she would call it "Gladly". "Why?" asked her mother, puzzled. "Because of the hymn," Donna explained. "You know, Mummy. The one that starts, 'Gladly, my cross-eyed bear'."

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