



Our Lady Help of Christians

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27th June, 2021

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest
(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

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Sunday, 27 th June Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	<i>Jim Kilfeather</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 28 th June <i>Memorial of St. Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr</i>	<i>(9.15 am at Sacred Heart)</i> 12.30 pm Requiem Mass	<i>Tommy Blair (speedy recovery)</i> <i>Michael Joseph McLoughlin</i>
Tuesday, 29 th June Solemnity of St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles	9.15 am Mass <i>(11.00 am at Sacred Heart)</i>	<i>Silvester Agnelo DaCunha</i> <i>Ron Jones</i>
Wednesday, 30 th June <i>Op. Mem. of the First Martyrs of Rome</i>	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 1 st July <i>Op. Mem. of St. Oliver Plunkett, Bishop, Martyr</i>	<i>(7.00 pm at Sacred Heart)</i>	<i>Dorothy Gardner (speedy recovery)</i>
Friday, 2 nd July	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Fr. Pat Farrelly</i>
Saturday, 3 rd July <i>Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30pm	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Sunday, 4 th July Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	<i>Fr. Jim McGloin</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians.

If you have recently moved into Our Lady's parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please say hello to me.

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.”

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.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Claire Davis.

The Sacred Heart Candles are burning this week Tony and Kevin and a Special Intention.

Our Lady's Candles are burning this week for Rachel Caldwell (Birthday) and Ron Jones RIP (Anniversary).

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving for a grace received.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Sr. Bruna Livieri FMA, Joe McLoughlin, Florinda Louise Turner** and all who have died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Patrick Corrigan, Canon Francis Dudley, Frs. John Bradley, John Joseph McMorro and William O'Malley, and also Francis McElroy, Mary Bowen, Cecilia (Sheila) Byrne, Arthur Townsend, Mary Breen, Patrick Daly, Jeremiah Cronin, Edward John (Ted) Rodgers, Kathleen Toms, Teresa Calvert, Martin Clifford, May Lilley and Ron Jones. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Parish Finances. You may not believe this on present evidence, but I hate talking to you about money. This weekend I am very grateful to two members of the Parish Finance Committee who have agreed to say a few words to us about our finances. Brendan Lyons will speak at the end of the 5.30 pm Mass on Saturday and John Cropper will speak at the 11.00 am Mass on Sunday. As they will be saying, the simple reality is that we expect running the Church this year will cost just over £70,000. The total amount of money that we can expect to take in from all normal sources is about £50,000. That leaves a gap – the wrong way – of about £20,000. In part, this gap is due to the need to carry out work in the church – such as fixing the drains. Every church has also taken a hit due to lower attendance because of Covid. This is all completely understandable, but we still need to cover the gap.

giftaid it! One painless way to help is by gift aiding your present donations. This is a strangely British thing! If you don't already gift aid your donations to Our Lady's could we ask you to consider doing so, please?

- To gift aid your donation you will need to complete a gift aid declaration form. This is a simple form (name, address, and signature) that gives us permission to reclaim tax that you have paid from the Inland Revenue.
- There is no cost to you to gift aid your donations.
- To be eligible to gift aid you need to be a UK tax payer.
- For every £1.00 you donate we can claim back 25p.
- You need to have paid enough tax to cover what we will claim back. For example, if you donate £10.00 to Our Lady's we can claim back £2.50. So, you will have needed to pay a least £2.50 in tax.
- You can donate using weekly envelopes or by direct debit.
- This doesn't commit you to giving a regular amount every week. You can give a set amount on a regular basis or be flexible in what you give and when.
- You can leave the scheme at any time.

If you would like to sign up for gift aid, please see Fr. Harry or contact Geraldine in the parish office by email or phone for further information. Thank you.

St. Peter & St. Paul. The Solemnity of St. Peter & St. Paul occurs on Tuesday of this week. Ordinarily this would be a Holyday of Obligation, but obviously the obligation to attend Mass is suspended while the pandemic continues. There will be Mass here at Our Lady's at 9.15 am and at Sacred Heart at 11.00 am.

First Friday. This Friday is the first of the month and we shall say the Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart before the evening Mass.

Holy Communion For The Sick And Housebound. If you know of parishioners or family members who would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please let me know.

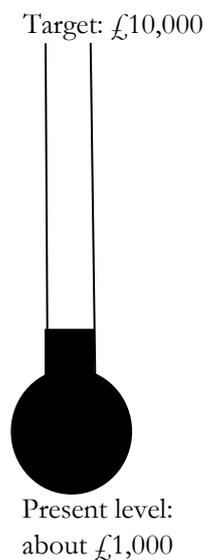
COVID Precautions. Advice and regulations seem to be changing all the time and it is rather confusing. At present, as I understand it, the following rules apply:

- **WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS** The number of attendees is determined by how many people the building can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place. We ask that people attend by family invitation/consent only.
- **BAPTISMS** Unfortunately the cap of 30 attendees remains in place for Baptism services.
- **FACE COVERINGS** Please continue to wear a face mask in the church (unless exempt).
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** If you are not in a "bubble", please continue to keep at least one meter distant from the next person.

Reflect With Me. On your seats this week you should find a leaflet from the Archbishop inviting us to reflect on the diocesan vision statement. I hope that we can do this together as a parish community, either live or by zoom, in the near future.

Readers at Mass. If you would like to join the rota of readers, THANK YOU! Please contact Bernadette Downes (Bernadette.A.Downes@hotmail.co.uk) and she will be happy to include you.

Pope's Prayer Intention for July: Social Friendship. We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.



Our Lady's Roof and Drains Appeal. Thank you so much for your generous response to this appeal so far, but we do need more, please. All contributions are welcome. To try to balance the books, during June and July there will be a special collection box at the back of the church for the roof and drains appeal. If you can make an offering whenever you come to church it would be much appreciated.

If you can help raise funds for the church (e.g. do a sponsored activity) please do.

Tailpiece: During World War II, when the American troops first came to this country, one priest preached about how he wanted all his flock to welcome the stranger in their midst. So one woman invited a couple of GIs to her home for coffee, and when they came she tried to make conversation in the English style. "I'm afraid it looks like rain," she commented. "Never mind, Ma'am," one of the soldiers replied, comfortingly. "It smells like coffee."

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