



Our Lady Help of Christians

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th July, 2021

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

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Sunday, 25 th July Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	<i>Fr. Michael Crumpton</i> <i>Filipe Sarmento</i>
Monday, 26 th July <i>Memorial of St. Joachim & St. Anne</i>	<i>(9.15 am at Sacred Heart)</i>	<i>Tusin Tchung Vila-Nova (RIP)</i>
Tuesday, 27 th July <i>Memorial of Blessed Robert Sutton, Martyr</i>	9.15 am Mass	<i>Dennis Barry (Anniversary)</i>
Wednesday, 28 th July	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 29 th July <i>Memorial of St. Martha</i>	<i>(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)</i>	<i>Bibiana Hollero (RIP)</i>
Friday, 30 th July <i>Op. Mem. of St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop</i>	6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Terezina Sarmento</i>
Saturday, 31 st July <i>Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30pm	<i>Martin Grealish</i>
Sunday, 1 st August Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	<i>John White (Anniversary)</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.”

Collections during June: 6th June, £442.34; Gift Aid: £148.80; 13th June, £371.38; Gift Aid: £162.00;
20th June, £332.66; Gift Aid: £156.00; 27th June, £418.76; Gift Aid: £152.00.

Direct Debit Donations (June): £1,526.00. **Day for Life:** £148.22.

Thank you very much.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Lily Baptist RIP.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for our Parish Community.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Holy Father has designated today the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The elderly can obtain an Indulgence by participating in one of the Masses celebrated on the occasion of this World Day, and this is extended to those who participate via television, radio or the internet. The Indulgence is also granted to all those who perform a 'work of mercy' on this World Day by visiting an elderly person who is alone, either face-to-face or virtually.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Florinda Louise Turner, Shirley Anne Milne, and the souls of all who have died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Arthur Diamond, Frs. Euan Henderson, Joseph Tynan, Denis O'Shea, Basil Wrighton, Thomas Michael Duffy, Deacons Frank Lockett and Ernie Titchmarsh and also Valerie (Val) Griffiths, Patrick Bailey, Abie Doherty and Douglas Rothery. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Prayer at the end of Mass:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! *Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,* that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

COVID REGULATIONS.

Following the lifting of certain regulations on July 19th the Bishops' Conference has issued guidelines for Catholic churches. Although some regulations will be lifted, care must be taken to ensure that churches continue to be places where people feel safe to gather to worship.

The full guidance can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/>. In summary:

- Hand sanitising is still **recommended**.
- Face coverings are still **strongly recommended** in church.
- Adequate ventilation is still a priority.
- The individual desire for social distancing still needs to be respected.
- Holy water fonts are to remain unfilled.
- The sign of peace remains suspended.
- As long as the Test, Track and Trace system is operational, QR codes will remain clearly visible and parishioners should sign in on the sheets provided if they are not using an app.
- Holy Communion will continue to be under one Kind.
- Congregational singing may be reintroduced. Musicians, please take note (no pun intended). **Those who want to join in with the singing should wear a mask at this time.**

I have always believed that a locked church is a waste of space, and therefore I am delighted to say that the church will be open during the day for private prayer on Saturdays to start with, 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, and we can hope to increase in the future.

NB. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended, and we will continue to stream the Mass. The Bishops' Conference hopes that it will be reintroduced on the first Sunday of Advent 2021.

Your Parish Needs YOU!! Please join in.

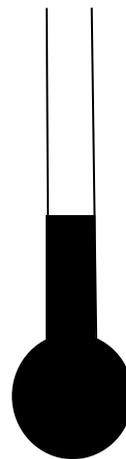
So many ministries and activities have been "mothballed" during the lockdowns that I don't really know who does what normally. So can I start asking for help, please? On your seats are leaflets inviting you to volunteer for different things. It is the chance to re-start things, or perhaps to start something new in the parish. Please ask yourself if you would like to be part of the re-awakening of our parish and fill in the leaflet and return it by the end of August.

Future Parish Events. Here are a few ideas:

- **Parish Party, Sunday, 29th August.** Just bring your own food and come and go at your leisure between 12-4pm. There will be games and we have been offered a BBQ. Free tea, coffee, soft drinks and wine will be served throughout the afternoon. It will need to be a community effort if it is to work – cleaners, furniture carriers, people to make and serve drinks, people to bring and organise games, and probably more. If you would like to help, please let me know. And let's all pray for good weather!
- **A Day of Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers.**
- **A course for anyone who would like to be received into the Church or who would simply like to know more about the Faith.**
- **Bible Study or Prayer Groups.**

Please pray for those we know who are sick. 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.

Target: £10,000



Present level: about £4,253

Our Lady's Roof and Drains Appeal. The appeal took a great step forward this week, thanks to some very generous donations, and we are now standing at over £4,000. That is wonderful news, but we still have a long way to go. By popular demand (!) the collection box will remain at the back of the church for another month. All contributions are welcome. Thank you all.

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

Tailpiece: Dear Lord, so far today I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to have to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen.

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