



Our Lady Help of Christians

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st August, 2021

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

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Sunday, 1 st August <i>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30pm Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	<i>Martin Grealish</i> <i>John White (Anniversary)</i>
Monday, 2 nd August <i>Optional Memorials of St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop, or St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Gabriela M Mosquita</i>
Tuesday, 3 rd August	No Public Mass Today	<i>Kate Murdoch and Family</i>
Wednesday, 4 th August <i>Memorial of St. John Mary Vianney, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>In Thanksgiving</i>
Thursday, 5 th August <i>Op. Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Brian Nolan (Anniversary)</i>
Friday, 6 th August <i>Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	7.00 pm Mass	<i>Claire French (Birthday)</i>
Saturday, 7 th August <i>Optional Memorials of St. Sixtus II, Pope, & Companions, Martyrs, or of St. Cajetan, Priest</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30pm	<i>Abhimanylu Joshi</i>
Sunday, 8 th August <i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Sunday Morning: 11.00 am <i>3.00 pm Baptism</i>	<i>The People of the Parish</i> <i>Theodore Alexander River</i> <i>Rowbotham</i>

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."

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Claire French (Birthday).

Our Lady's Candles are burning this week for Helen & Paul Witherick (30th Wedding Anniversary) and John White RIP.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Shirley Anne Milne, and the souls of all who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Richard Philip Lynch CO, David Ford, Cuthbert Brown, James Gough, Francis Gwinnett and Deacon John Leach and also Douglas Rothery, Nora Griffin, John White, John (Sean) O'Meara, Brian Nolan and John Hennigan. 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.



Holidays. I shall be away from Monday morning until Friday evening this week and so there will be no weekday Masses or Confessions here. I shall offer Mass for the intentions listed.

COVID REGULATIONS.

A cautionary tale: two friends of mine, a husband and wife, went to an Ordination outside of this diocese recently. It was a joyous occasion with the feeling that things were getting back to normal. Masks were worn in the Cathedral, but there was no social distancing and people were singing their hearts out. Afterwards there was a buffet reception at which a good time was had by all. This week the wife (already double-jabbed) tested positive for COVID and is now feeling very sorry for herself. The moral is: we must still take care. 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 be under one Kind.
- Congregational singing may be reintroduced. Musicians, please take note (no pun intended), **but those who want to join in with the singing should wear a mask at this time.**

The church will be open for private prayer on Saturdays (to start with), 8.00 am to 8.00 pm.

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? There are yellow 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 leave it in the box in the church porch by the end of August.

Future Parish Events. Here are a few ideas:

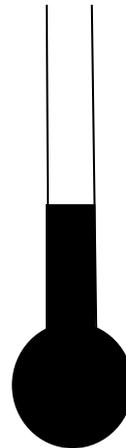
- **Parish Party, Sunday, 29th August.** Just bring your own food and come and go at your leisure between 12-4pm. There will be games and we have been offered a BBQ. Free tea, coffee, soft drinks and wine will be served throughout the afternoon. It will need to be a community effort if it is to work – 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.**

Pope's Prayer Intention for August: The Church.

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

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



Our Lady's Roof and Drains Appeal.

The appeal continues to make progress, thanks to your generosity, and we are now standing at over £4,500. That is wonderful news, but we still have a long way to go. The collection box (built by the children in Year 5 at Our Lady's school) 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.

Present level: about £4,534

Tailpiece: At a school Nativity Play a small boy was annoyed at being cast as the innkeeper when he wanted to be a Wise Man and wear a crown, so he decided to wreck the play. When Joseph knocked on the door he announced firmly, "Come in, there's plenty of room!" Fortunately, Joseph was quick-witted: he took one look inside and said, "I'm not taking my wife into a place like that. Come on, Mary, we'll sleep in the stable!"

May God bless you and all those you love.

Fr. Harry