



Our Lady Help of Christians

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10th October, 2021

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

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Sunday, 10 th October <i>Twenty-eighth Sunday of the Year</i> <i>Prisons Week</i>	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Sunday Morning: 11.00 am 3.00 pm Baptisms	<i>Anne Marie Lyons (Anniversary)</i> <i>Natalia Olo, Andreas Bere, et al.</i> <i>Nathan and Lily Hanks</i>
Monday, 11 th October <i>Op. Mem. of Bl. William Howard, Martyr, or of St. John XXIII, Pope</i>	7.30 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	<i>Charmaine Doyle</i>
Tuesday, 12 th October <i>Op. Memorial of St. Wilfrid, Bishop</i>	7.30 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	<i>Fr. Pat Armstrong (50th Anniv.)</i>
Wednesday, 13 th October <i>Op. Mem. of St. Edward the Confessor</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Thursday, 14 th October <i>Op. Mem. of St. Callistus I, Martyr</i>	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	<i>Special Intention (Tom and Family)</i>
Friday, 15 th October <i>Memorial of St. Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Church</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Requiem Mass 6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Brian Harper</i> <i>Guardion Pedro Maxanches</i>
Saturday, 16 th October <i>Op. Mem. of St. Hedwig, Religious, or St. Margaret Mary Alacoque</i>	6.30 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	<i>Tommy Gildea (2nd Anniversary)</i>
Sunday, 17 th October <i>Twenty-ninth Sunday of the Year</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Sunday Morning: 11.00 am 3.00 pm Baptisms	<i>Loro Maxanches</i> <i>Arthur and Alicia Odong</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians.

If you are here with us for the first time today, welcome. If you are returning to Mass after a period of time away because of the pandemic, welcome back! It is lovely to see you again today. If you are a new student, welcome to Oxford and to our parish. Welcome too to returning students whose digs this year are in our parish.

Today is Prisoners' Sunday when we are asked to pray for prisoners, their families and all of those affected by imprisonment and those who support them. PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) supports prisoners, ex-offenders and their families. It cares for those who are lonely, isolated and abandoned and through that care carries a message of hope for a fresh start and a new beginning and to help to reduce the harm caused by imprisonment, especially for the children who are left behind. If you wish to know more about PACT please visit [Prisoners' Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://cbcew.org.uk)

Baptism. This weekend we welcome Nathan and Lily Hanks into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please pray for them and their family.

Please pray for Domenico Mirto, James Brown and all those we know who are sick. And please pray for Sola Adewumi and Adedamola Falolu. If you would like your name to be included on the newsletter to be prayed for, please let me know.

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.”

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.*

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Anne-Marie Lyons RIP (Anniversary).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for James Brown (Get Well).

Our Lady’s Candles are burning this week for Philo Baptiste and Vilma Renaux RIP and Sheila Jennings.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Barbara Rank, Brian Harper, Doreen Watkins, Pamela Campbell, and all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Michael Glancey, Mgrs. Cyril L. Fay and Paul Joseph Watson, Canon William Withers, Frs. Seamus Gilroy, Terence James Brian Whatmore, Edmund Cullen, Thomas L. Rohan and Charles Friel, Deacon Louis Kelly, and also Giuseppe Bonassisa, Patrick O’Connell and Thomas (Tommy) Gildea. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

The Assisted Dying Bill, 2021 and a Novena asking for the prayers of Pope John Paul II.

The Assisted Dying Bill is due to receive its Second Reading in the House of Commons, with full debate, on Friday, 22nd October, 2021. This means legalised assisted suicide and it is not something that, as Catholics, we should simply allow to come to pass. There will be a national novena, starting this Wednesday, asking for the intercession of St John Paul II. **It will run from 13th-22nd October.**

Bishop John Sherrington (the Bishop responsible for the Day for Life) has said: ‘Jesus told his disciples to pray at all times and not lose heart. Providentially the discussion of Baroness Meacher’s Bill in the House of Lords falls on the feast of St John Paul II on 22nd October. The novena, asking the intercession of St. John Paul II, who spoke courageously about the infinite worth of each human person and witnessed to the cross in his final illness, calls upon Catholics and all who share our view that assisted suicide is wrong, to pray with perseverance that this Bill will be defeated.

The Novena Prayer:

*Merciful God, we pray with thanks and gratitude for the great spiritual gift of Saint John Paul II’s apostolic life and mission. Through his heavenly intercession we ask that the ‘Assisted Dying’ Bill be defeated and that the infinite worth of each human person is upheld through proper investment in palliative care. Grant also that we may grow in love for You and proclaim boldly the love of Jesus Christ to all people. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be....*

Morning Prayer. Each morning (except Wednesdays and Thursdays) I pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer of the Church in Our Lady’s. You are welcome to join me, either through the livestreaming or by coming to church. Times may vary, so please check.

Roof and Drains Appeal. Our total, at the latest count, has reached £7,736. That is a wonderful effort and I thank you all very much. It doesn’t mean that we can relax, but at least we can look to getting the work done with more confidence. The collection box has now been removed from the church, but we are still collecting, and any contributions that you may wish to make for our appeal are very welcome. Thank you all.

“Join In!” Leaflets. Thank you to everyone who has filled in and returned one of the yellow leaflets over the summer. We are slowly getting through the replies and contacting people who have expressed an interest in the various possible activities. Please be patient if you haven’t yet heard anything and hold on to that enthusiasm! It’s not too late if you would like to be involved; there are some forms at the back of church. Please fill them in and return to me or Geraldine.

Prayers for Vocations. There are Vocations Prayer Calendars available at the back of church detailing who or what to pray for each day of each month. As you know, October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. If the Rosary has never been part of your prayer life, why not give it a go this October and pray it for Vocations to the Priesthood or the Permanent Diaconate?

Tuesday Coffee Morning, after Mass each Tuesday morning in the Don Bosco Centre. It has been lovely to chat with parishioners over a coffee and cake in recent weeks. Please do come along and catch up with friends.

Tailpiece: (A reportedly true story). A man who had recently been converted to Christianity wrote to the Inland Revenue: “I can’t sleep at nights so I am enclosing £100 I forgot to declare. P.S. If I still can’t sleep I will declare the rest.”

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