



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday of Advent

5th December, 2021

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

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Sunday, 5 th December Second Sunday of Advent	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	Forgotten Souls The People of the Parish
Monday, 6 th December <i>Op. Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Sean Delaney
Tuesday, 7 th December <i>Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop</i>	7.00 pm Mass	John White
Wednesday, 8 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass in Our Lady's School) 12.00 noon Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Emily Witherick (25 th Anniv.) Fr. Hancock
Thursday, 9 th December <i>Op. Memorial of St. John Diego Cuatlatatzin</i>	7.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart) (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Patricia King John PM
Friday, 10 th December <i>Memorial of St. Edmund Gennings, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Agustinha Das Santos
Saturday, 11 th December <i>Opt. Memorial of St. Damasus I, Pope</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Katherine Raj
Sunday, 12 th December Third Sunday of Advent	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Sunday Morning: 11.00 am	The People of the Parish
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.

Collections for 21st November: £395.20; Gift Aid: £149.00. **Catholic Youth Service:** £69.17. Thank you.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The phrase “Immaculate Conception” does not refer to the conception of Jesus, as some people think, but rather to the conception of Mary. It means that through the merits of her Son, she was totally free from sin from the first moment of her life, her conception. Because the Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Archdiocese, this Feast, which falls on Wednesday, is a big day for us. There will be Mass here in Our Lady's church at 12.00 noon that day. There will also be Mass at Sacred Heart at 6.00 in the evening.

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Patricia King and Sr. Patricia Millinson and all those who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Harold Drinkwater, Canon Joseph Walsh, Frs. Liam MacFarlane, Horace Relph, Michael George Knight, William Warner, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorro, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Molloy and Vincent Lucas and also Elizabeth McGavigan and Sr. Eileen McGarry FMA. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

The Sower. The latest edition of *The Sower*, the Diocesan magazine, is available at the back of church.

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.”

Christmas Stars



I want to draw your attention to our Christmas tree. As last year, instead of it being just a decoration we are trying to use it symbolically to represent something of the message of Christmas. Christmas is all about God's love for us, demonstrated in the birth of Jesus. It is also demonstrated in the way we receive and pass on that love.

All members of the parish are invited to write, on one of the paper stars which have been specially made for us by the children at Our Lady's school, the name(s) of anyone who has shown them love and who holds a special place in their hearts. The star will then be hung on the tree. The many stars will then become a testament to the presence of love in the world – and the way in which, individually, our lives have been enriched by love.

Our Christmas tree will then become a testimony to love in the world, and in our own local community.

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 Elizabeth McGavigan RIP (Anniversary).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Sr. Rose's Intentions.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Mara Kalnins.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund is to help those smaller parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

Missio Red Boxes. If you have a Red Box, please bring it in by today. You can leave it in the Sacristy. Thank you.

Congratulations to Evelyn and Godwin Mostopher who had their marriage blessed here last Friday, and welcome to Valerio who received the Sacrament of Baptism.

Wanted!! We need people who are willing to help to prepare children for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. If you would like to try this ministry, please talk to me. Training will be provided.

First Holy Communion Lessons. Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next June, please register them, using the form in the church porch, or on-line at www.olhoccowley.co.uk (go to Sacraments). Classes will start in February.

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Commemorative Sanctuary Candles.

For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at the Christmas Midnight Mass and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the statues of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Joseph, or St Don Bosco, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be for any reason you want: to



remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present?

Christmas Afternoon Tea. Thank you very much to the team who organised this weekend's Christmas Afternoon Tea. And thank you to everyone who supported it, either by attending or by donating prizes for the raffle.

Tailpiece: A bishop was once visiting a parish and when he was introducing him the parish priest asked the children if they knew what a bishop does. There was silence for a while and then one boy said gravely, "He's the one you can move diagonally."

May God bless you and all those you love.

Fr. Harry