



# *Our Lady Help of Christians*

## *Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### *16<sup>th</sup> January, 2022*

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

*Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin*

*Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Moran, lizmoran276@yahoo.com*

***The Presbytery, 59 Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2ND.***

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Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Peace Day</i>	<b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b> <b>7.45 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</b> <b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>Sr. Maureen Grigg (Intentions)</i>  <i>Peter and Gill Nottingham (Ints)</i>
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Memorial of St. Anthony, Abbot</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> <i>(9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)</i>	<i>Merryl Jennings (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)</i>
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> <i>9.15 am Mass</i>	<i>Robert William Pill (Anniversary)</i>
Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Feast of St. Wulstan, Bishop</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Op. Memorials of St. Fabian, Pope,</i> <i>or St. Sebastian, Martyrs</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	<i>(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)</i>	<i>Donstephen (Thanksgiving)</i>
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> January <i>Memorial of St. Agnes, Martyr</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> <i>11.00 am Requiem Mass</i> <i>6.00 pm Exposition &amp; Benediction</i> <i>7.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>Joseph Cahill</i>  <i>Michael Conway</i>
Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Vincent, Deacon</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	<i>8.00 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> <b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	<i>Joyce and Dolores Connolly</i> <i>(Intentions)</i>
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	<b>7.45 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</b> <b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>	<i>Robert and Catherine Carr</i> <i>(Intentions)</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 - 6.45 pm		

**Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.**

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.

**Peace Sunday.** Today is a day of prayer for peace on earth.

**Collections for 2<sup>nd</sup> January:** £393.08; Gift Aid: £126.92. Thank you.

**Please pray for Claudino Serra Vaz** and all those we know who are sick. James Brown would like say thank you to everyone who has been praying for him and to God that he is now feeling better.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of Joseph Cahill, James (Seamus) Kenny, Isodoro Nahabwe and Maura Dennehy** and all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canons Matthias (Matt) Corrigan and Bernard McKenna, Frs. Gerard Peuleve, Cyril Bennett, Archibald (Archie) John Snell, Timothy Dinan, Cecil Keane, Bernard Robertson, C. J. Gregory Winterton, CO, Edward Leicester, CO, Edward Kirner, Clement Burrett, Michael Walshe, George Jackson, John Tolkien and Joseph McKenna, and also Sean Dominic Smith, Sarah (Sally) Roberts, Margaret Hodson, William (Bill) Barber, Marianna Slezak, George Sykes and Michael Grant. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

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 Pat Atherton.**

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

**St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the Relatives of Sr. Agnes.**

**St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for members of the Salesian Order.**

**Healing Heart Wounds Group:** Are you or someone you know struggling with grief? Do you have heart wounds that haven't healed? Are you struggling to forgive someone who hurt you? Do you want to be better equipped to help others experiencing pain? Come join a small group who will meet for four Sundays after the 11.00 am Mass to bring healing to wounds to the heart from trauma or loss. Using Scripture and best mental health principles, it will address spiritual and emotional wounds caused by war, violence, natural disasters, serious accidents, abuse, grief and loss. Dates:

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12.00 noon-1:30 pm

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 12.00 noon-1:30 pm

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 12.00 noon-1:30 pm

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 12.00 noon-1:30 pm

I welcome Ariel Dempsey, MD to our celebrations this weekend. Ariel will be leading the programme and will say a few words after each Mass to introduce it. To register RSVP to [ariel.dempsey@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ariel.dempsey@theology.ox.ac.uk). There are 8 spaces available for the first 8 to RSVP. It will require a firm commitment to attend all 4 sessions.

**Synodal Pathway.** Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to reflect and report on their experience of what it means to be the Church today. Last week I invited you to let me have your thoughts using the open-ended questions on the separate sheets. If you need more time to consider and listen to the Holy Spirit, that is good, but please let me have your thoughts and reflections by the end of the month. Or you could send them to me at [olhoc.oxford.rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olhoc.oxford.rcaob.org.uk).

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins on Tuesday and goes on until 25<sup>th</sup> January. This year the theme is 'We Saw His Star in the East'. The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is a very familiar one. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – that come to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all humanity that God desires.

**The Annual Novena** to St. John Bosco begins next Saturday, leading up to his feastday on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Please take a copy of the Novena prayers home with you.

**Sunday of the Word Of God.** Pope Francis has decreed that next Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, should be “the Sunday of the Word of God”. This year's theme is Blessed are those who hear the word of God! (cf. Lk 11: 28). Next Sunday:

1 Bring a Bible to Mass to be blessed.

2 During Mass that day I shall re-commission and ask God's blessing of our readers, whether they are able to be present physically at the Mass or not.

**First Holy Communion Preparation.** The Feast of Corpus Christi this year falls on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> June, and that is a good date for the celebration of First Holy Communion. Classes will be in the Don Bosco Centre on Thursday afternoons, starting at 3.30 pm. There will be a meeting for parents on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, with the Mass of Enrolment on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> February (the last Sunday before the start of Lent). The classes will start on the Thursday following. If you haven't done so already, please register your children's names with me this week if you would like them to receive Our Lord.

**COVID Regulations.** When you come to church, please consider what keeps you AND others safe.

- Wear a face covering and sanitise your hands
- Keep 1m distance if you can
- If you feel unwell please stay at home
- Vaccination: have your jabs!
- Please dress warmly because we have to keep the church well-ventilated

**Tailpiece.** When a priest had been in his parish for about a year a parishioner asked him what he thought had been his main contribution to the life of the parish. After some thought he replied, “People here didn't know what sin was until I arrived.”

**May God bless you and all those whom you love.**

**Fr. Harry**