



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

30<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

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

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| Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> January<br><b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                       | <b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b><br>7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b> | Manuel Guilherme Goncalves &<br>Frederick Sumampow<br>Antonio Pereira |
| Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> January<br><i>Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest</i>                   | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>9.15 am Mass</b>   | Emmi Egbuonu  |
| Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> February<br><i>Feria</i>   | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>(9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)</b>                                     | Kevin Grace   |
| Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> February<br><i>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)</i> | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br>(9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)<br>11.00 am Mass                           | In Thanksgiving<br>Private Intention                                  |
| Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> February<br><i>Op. Memorial of St. Blaise or of St. Ansgar</i>        | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br>(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)  | Florrie Murphy  |
| Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> February<br><i>Feria</i>  | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br>6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction<br>7.00 pm Mass                          | Claudino Serra Vaz  |
| Saturday, 5 <sup>th</sup> February<br><i>Memorial of St. Agatha</i>                             | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>                                    | Mary Clarke   |
| Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> February<br><b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                        | <b>7.45 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</b><br><b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>                                | Sr. Monica's Intentions   |

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 - 6.45 pm

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

Collections for 16<sup>th</sup> January: £359.52; Gift Aid: £150.30. Thank you.

**First Friday.** This Friday is the First of the month. Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said before Mass.

**Please pray for Claudino Serra Vaz** and all those we know who are sick.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls** of all who have died recently or whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Michael Williams, Frs. Mortimer Loftus, David Condron, John Berry, Thomas O'Carroll, Joseph Connelly and Denis Clancy, and also Iris Morton, Tom Penders, Anna Barlow, Wayne St Clair, Patrick Tuttle, Sheila Evans, Christopher Graham, Carlos Da Costa, Speranza Mirto and Philomena Surman. 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.*

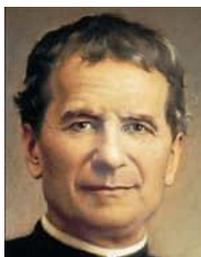
**Updated COVID Regulations.** I have received some new guidelines from our Bishops this week:

- If you feel unwell please stay at home. Vaccination: have your jabs!
- **Face masks:** the main form of virus transmission is via personal oral or nasal aerosol. Those attending an act of worship may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth) whilst in the church building. Churches should continue to ensure there is good ventilation.
- **Social distancing:** there is no need for formal social distancing in church buildings, although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others around them.
- The use of hymn books, missals and other worship aids can be resumed.
- **Sanitising:** please sanitise hands on entry and exit of churches, but there is no need for readers to sanitise their hands before reading. All ministers of Holy Communion should still sanitise their hands.
- **Holy water stoups** may be refilled but care should be seen that the water is changed regularly.
- **Church cleaning:** usual forms of church cleaning are sufficient.
- **The Sign of Peace** may be offered again during Mass if felt appropriate.
- For the time being, Holy Communion must continue to be given under one kind only (the Sacred Host).
- **Congregational singing** may continue and there is a general encouragement to wear face coverings while singing. However, it is recognised that not everyone will feel able to do this.
- **Social Activities:** parish social activities can resume, with suitable health and safety measures.

**From next weekend therefore we can start to make a few changes.** Whilst infection rates remain high I ask that we all be as considerate as we can be in keeping each other safe.

- I would still like to ask everyone to wear a face covering in church, please.
  - Seating Arrangements: I shall remove the distancing tape on the right-hand side of the church to allow people to sit closer to each other for those who feel comfortable to do so. On the left-hand side of the church distancing will remain in place (alternate pews in use) for the benefit of those people who would prefer still to be distanced.
  - The holy water stoups will be re-filled so that we can bless ourselves and remind ourselves of our Baptism.
  - We shall stop the special cleaning of the church after each Mass. Thank you to our wonderful team of stewards and cleaners who have made it possible for us to continue to celebrate Mass all this time.
- Other changes will be introduced gradually.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.  
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Gwen Roberts.  
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Sr. Elizabeth's Intentions.**



**Monday this week is the feast of St. John Bosco. Happy Feast Day to all members of the Salesian Family.**

We shall have Mass at Our Lady's at 9.15 am, and the children from Years 5 & 6 at Our Lady's school will join us. There will be refreshments available in the hall after Mass, organised by the Cooperators. (Please note that this

means there will be no Mass here on Tuesday morning).

**Next Wednesday is Candlemas – the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.** Mass, with the Blessing of Candles, will be at 11.00 am.

**Synodal Pathway.** A while ago the Pope said, "If the Holy Spirit, who attracts people to Jesus, is missing, then there is no church there. There is a nice club of friends, good, with good intentions, but there is no church, there is no synodality". Let us pray therefore: *O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.* The 'Synodal way' is an invitation for us to listen to the Holy Spirit as we journey together. There is a box at the back of church for you to return your reflections. Thank you to those who have already done so.

**Healing Heart Wounds Group** will be meeting again in the chapel after the 11.00 am Mass. Please continue to pray for those taking part.

**First Holy Communion.** Preparation classes will be in the Don Bosco Centre on Thursdays, at 3.30 pm, starting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a meeting for parents on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, 3.30 pm, with the Mass of Enrolment on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> February. If you haven't done so already, please register your children with me if you would like them to take part.

**Tailpiece.** This is a true story that a colleague of mine experienced. He was celebrating a wedding, and a small boy had been carefully trained to read the Gospel account of the Wedding Feast at Cana. He was doing well when suddenly the back door of the church flew open and a woman stood there, arms akimbo. "I don't know what's going on here," she yelled, "But I want whoever has parked their car on my drive to move it". A dreadful pause followed, and the child who had been reading looked totally bewildered. Then he lowered his head and manfully took up the reading where he had been interrupted. "Woman, what is that to me? My time has not yet come"!!!

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