



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2022

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

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Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> April <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments	<b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b> 12.00 noon Baptism	Mrs Virginia Philips Mary Cronin (Get Well) Olivia McAllister
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> April Op. Comm. of St. Isidore, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Richard Bolton
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April Op. Comm. of St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass 9.45 am Lectio Divina	Mick Mullagh (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> April	No Public Mass Today	Joaquim da Costa Vaz
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> April Op. Comm. of St. John Baptist de la Salle	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Maisie Moran
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>11.30 am Requiem Mass</b> 6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	Steven Fontaine Celso Maliksi
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> April	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 1.00 pm Baptism <b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	Cian Conroy Mabel (Intentions)
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b> Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments	<b>7.45 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</b> <b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>	Christine Butler

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 - 6.45 pm

### Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians today.

In the “old” calendar, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday, and it still marks the start of the more intense period of Lent as we prepare for Holy Week. The statues in the church will be veiled from today until Holy Saturday. The signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion and death.

**Palm Sunday.** Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church’s year. We shall begin at the back of the church and process to the altar.

**Collections for 27<sup>th</sup> March:** £769.23; Gift Aid: £166.00. Thank you.

**Second Collection for CAFOD Lent Fast Day and Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal:** £50.00 (in total £720.62).

**Prayers for the Sick.** Please pray for Claudino Serra Vaz, Janet Oakley, Filomeno Da Cruz Martins and all those we know who are sick.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of Steven Fontaine, Pat Markham, Irene Hollick** and all who have died recently, or whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Anthony Emery, Canon William Swift, Frs. Lawrence King, Michael Clive Glynn, Timothy Burke, Kevin Preston and Eamon Patrick Clarke and also Maureen Gannon, Bob and Collette McNarry. May they rest in peace.

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 Sheila Jennings (Birthday).**  
**Our Lady’s Candle is burning this week for Sr. Esther’s Intentions.**  
**St. Joseph’s Candle is burning this week for the People of Ukraine.**  
**St. Don Bosco’s Candle is burning this week for a Private Intention.**

**Cake sale.** After Masses this weekend there will be a cake sale in the Don Bosco Centre, courtesy of the Salesian Cooperators, to raise funds for the parish. Many thanks to them. There will also be tea/coffee after Mass on Sunday. Please stay and renew some friendships.

**New national Catholic newspaper.** There are copies of the first edition of *The Catholic Post* available at the back of the church. This edition is free, so please take a copy. If you like it and would be willing to pay for it in the future please let me know.

**Ukraine: Update on the Diocesan Response**

We are pleased to say that since we sent out our last update on the response to Ukraine, Fr Hudson’s Care has received numerous offers of sponsorship/accommodation and of translation skills in Russian and Ukrainian. The evident enthusiasm for support from our parishes and parishioners is a testament to our faith.

We have continued to work with Fr Hudson’s Care, with our Ukrainian communities, with local councils and with agencies such as Reset and Caritas Social Action Network to understand how best to offer our support as a diocese. So far, a lot of our work has been preparatory. As we understand it only a few refugees have arrived from Ukraine so far under the families’ scheme, and they have been accommodated with family members. We are not aware of anyone yet arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, needing housing or schooling. We are expecting some more guidance from the government on the matching process over the coming days, but we are acutely aware that the matching process needs more support to ensure refugees can safely come to the UK.

It is imperative to us that we must utilise our own Catholic network in this country and in Europe to help to identify refugees and help them find sponsors here in the UK to expedite their journey for safety and support.

Father Hudson’s is happy to continue to receive offers of accommodation and language services and to support and remain in touch with those who offer their help. Contact Father Hudson’s (01675 434000) or go to [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ukraine](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ukraine)

**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? Join a small group who will meet for four Sundays after the 11.00 am Mass. 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: April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>

Time: 12.00 noon-1.45pm

Led by Ariel Dempsey, MD. To register please RSVP to [ariel.dempsey@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ariel.dempsey@theology.ox.ac.uk). There are 8 spaces available. Requires commitment to attend all 4 sessions.

**Baptism.** This weekend we welcome Olivia McAllister into the family of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please pray for her and for her family.

**Diocesan Directories.** The new directories (or as they are now called, “Year Books”) are now available. If you want to know anything about our diocese, this is the book for you. Spiral-bound £4.50, normal binding £3.50.

**Tailpiece.** A priest decided that he needed a pet and he bought a parrot. Unfortunately, the parrot must have previously been in bad company: it was as loud and foul mouthed as they come. Any attempt to approach or calm it down ended in a stream of swearing and abusive language. One day the priest saw the Bishop coming to his front door. Panicking, he grabbed the bird, opened the freezer, and slammed the creature inside. There was instant silence, and the priest, worried he had harmed the bird, opened the freezer door. The parrot quietly stepped out and said, “Dear Sir, I am deeply sorry for any offence I may have caused and I promise from now on to amend my ways. I am indeed a reformed parrot and you will hear no more bad language from me.” The priest was amazed and was about to ask what had caused this conversion when the parrot added humbly, “And may I ask what the chicken did to offend you?”

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