



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Easter Sunday

17<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

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

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**Happy Easter, everyone.**

**Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!**

Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 8.00 pm</b> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>	Fr. Graham Forristalle Clare and Paul Watts (Ints)
Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Monday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Public Mass Today	Esther Masterson (Anniv.)
Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Tuesday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Wednesday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Public Mass Today	Special Intention
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> April <i>Thursday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Public Mass Today	Jos and Priya (Thanksgiving)
Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> April <i>Friday within the Easter Octave</i>	No Public Mass Today	Special Intention
Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April <i>Saturday within the Easter Octave</i>	<b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	Mrs Rose Oswin
Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	<b>7.45 am Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</b> <b>Sunday Morning: 11.00 am</b>	Nancy Lyons (Birthday)

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

New to the Parish or returning for Easter? Welcome. If you have recently moved into Our Lady's parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please say hello to me. Thank you.

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>



### The Easter Season

The Easter Season begins today, Easter Sunday, and ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday. These fifty days are a very special time and, as St. Athanasius wrote, they "are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday." The first eight days make up the Easter Octave and they are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord – that is, feast days of the most importance. The joyful sound of "Alleluia!" is heard many times in this season and we add two "Alleluias" at the dismissal of the Mass this week.

A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Holy Week celebrations so beautiful. Thank you to the altar servers, the sacristans, the stewards, the flower arrangers, the cleaners, the musicians, the Eucharistic ministers, the readers and the booklet-folders. Thank you too to Fr. Martin Flatman who was here on Maundy Thursday and Holy Saturday.

## Prayer at the end of Mass:

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;  
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,  
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:  
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

**O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,  
Has risen as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

**The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Sr. Maria's Intentions.  
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for the People of Ukraine.  
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.  
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving.**

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."*

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

**Congratulations** to Clare and Paul Watts who are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary at this time. May God bless them and their family.

**Our Lady of Help Healing Group:** Are you or someone you know struggling with grief? Come join the Our Lady of Help Healing Group. We meet on Sundays after Mass. Using applied Scripture and scientifically proven mental health principles, we help address spiritual and emotional wounds from grief and loss. We will learn how to help others in their healing journey and, together, will make a safe space to bring our pain to the cross of Christ for healing.

Dates: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Time: 12.00 noon-1.45pm

Led by Ariel Dempsey, MD and Debbie Clark. Certified by the Trauma Healing Institute. To register please RSVP to [ariel.dempsey@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ariel.dempsey@theology.ox.ac.uk). There are 8 spaces available. Registration requires commitment to attend the first four sessions.

*Testimonies from Healing Group Participants:*

*"It was a safe place and a group where it was easy to share because of the sense of trust and lack of judging, (i.e., nonjudgmental) being able to articulate one's feelings and bear them aloud helped my own healing. [The exercises were] a very new imaginative way to learn new things about myself and how the past has impacted me."*

*"Being listened to and my own healing. I understood how far and long is my journey healing process. Support in the group and praying for each other. Constant reminder that Jesus loves me."*

*"It was such a wonderful moment, realizing how hurt can hold us back if we do not let go. Allowing God to take over and let him lead the way."*

*"I have learned to be nonjudgmental. Be empathetic in every situation as you may not know what someone is going through."*

*"Learnt some ways to express grief to bring comfort and peace to oneself."*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Fr. Edward Simpson SCJ, Deacon Jack Foxall, Pat Markham, Martyn Spackman** and all who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Leo McCarty, Frs. Peter Moore, William Smith, Reginald Slade, Patrick Downey, Antony Conlon, Hugh Griffith, Andrew Kenny, Oswald Joyce and Liam Bouchier, Deacon Peter Seeney, and also Anne Doherty, Esther Masterson, Alfonso Pereira and Sheila Dempsey. May they rest in peace.

**Holidays.** I am planning to take a few days off this week, so there will be no public Mass here on Tuesday or Friday. I shall still be celebrating Mass, however, and I shall offer Mass for the intentions listed above.

**Traditionally the collection at the Easter Masses** is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of church to use if you wish. Thank you.

**Collection for the Holy Places.** Thank you very much for your generous support of the retiring collection on Good Friday to support the shrines in the Holy Land. You gave £264.98.

**The Solemnity of St. George.** We usually celebrate the Feast of England's Patron Saint on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, but because this year that falls during Easter Week the feast has been transferred to Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**Tailpiece:** A nun told me this story, so it must be true. While Noah was in the ark, and the heavens were raining for all those days and nights, it so happened that the ark sprang a leak. Nobly, the dog put his nose into the hole to stop the water coming in and sinking the ark. That is why, to this day, a dog has a cold nose. But the leak grew bigger, and so Noah's wife put her feet into the hole. That is why, to this day, a woman has cold feet. But the hole got still bigger, and so eventually Noah had to sit in it. And that is why, to this day, a man likes to stand with his back to the fire!



**Have a very happy  
and blessed  
Easter.  
May God bless  
you and all those  
whom you love.  
Fr. Harry**