



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday of Advent

4th December, 2022

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 4 th December Second Sunday of Advent	Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Fernando Neves Liu and Luzia Pereira Lobato John Cullen Sabina Hennigan Martinah Madeira
Monday, 5 th December Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Joseph McGarry
Tuesday, 6 th December Op. Mem. of St. Nicholas, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Margaret Stevens
Wednesday, 7 th December Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 8 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	(9.15 am Mass in Our Lady's School) 12.00 noon Requiem Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Emily Witherick (Anniversary) Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira Mary Doyle (Intentions)
Friday, 9 th December Op. Memorial of St. John Diego Cuauhtlatotzin	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Jim O'Brien
Saturday, 10 th December Memorial of St. Edmund Gennings, Priest, Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (1.00 pm Nuptial Mass at Sacred Heart) Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Lukasz and Malgorzata Pedro Fernande Goncalves and Margarida Tulquel De Jesus
Sunday, 11 th December Third Sunday of Advent	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass 2.00 pm Baptism 4.30 pm Syro-Malabar Community Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Dorothy Gardner (Intentions) Mary Florence Joshi Amelia-Rose Nirmala Singh Cecilia Michael

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Agnes	Anne and Robin	This weekend	Bernadette D	Ellie and Ella
Henry	Asha and Sandra	Next weekend	Fallon	John and Stephanie

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today, especially if you are new to the parish.

Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for Felix Saulong, Jr., Jean Carpenter, Brenda O'Meara, Claudino Serra Vaz, Bridie Barry, Phil Bawden, Pat Mazonowicz, Thomas Gaughan, David and all those we know who are sick.

Please pray for the soul of Fr. Ian Ker, Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira, and the souls of all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. Liam MacFarlane, Horace Relph, Michael George Knight, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorrow, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Molloy and Vincent Lucas and also Susan Keane, Ronald Rowles, Sabina Hennigan, Elizabeth McGavigan, Sr. Eileen McGarry FMA and Joseph Patrick Cahill. May they rest in peace.

Collection for 26th/27th November: £463.38; Gift Aid: £137.00. Thank you.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity Number: 234216
To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

Our Parish Prayer: *Help us, Lord, to receive you with an open heart this day.
May our community receive your grace and deepen its faith in you.
Make us lights to shine forth with your love, giving life and hope to those who have fallen away
or who have never known you. Amen.*

Christmas Angels



As we prepare for Christmas we cannot avoid references to angels in the Scriptures: the Archangel Gabriel brings the news to Mary; he also advises Joseph; angels announce the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. Angels are messengers. This Advent I invite you decorate our Christmas tree by writing your prayer for Christmas – for yourself, your family and friends, for the poor, for peace, and so on - on one of the paper angels that have been specially made for us by the children at Our Lady's School, and hanging it on the tree. God's messengers can help us with our prayers to God. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas.

If you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we are live and can be viewed at
<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

"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."

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving (SC).
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Isla Murdoch (exams).**

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 Thursday, is a big day for us. There will be Mass in Our Lady's School at 9.15 am to which all parishioners have been invited and there will also be Mass at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm.

Cake Sale, this weekend in the church after Mass to raise money for the Salesians Sisters' Missionary work.

Children's Liturgy of the Word. After the Opening Prayer of the Mass children aged between 5 and 10 will be invited to go to the Chapel for their own service of the Word. They will return for the Offertory.

Don Bosco Calendar 2023. Please take a calendar from the church porch.

Missio Red Boxes. If you have not already done so, please collect your red box from the Don Bosco Centre.

Our Parish Lunch.

**Today. In the Don Bosco Centre after the
11.00 am Mass. Ticket only.**



Advent Penance Service. To help us prepare for Christmas there will be a short penance service on Saturday morning, 17th December, at 10.00 am, followed by the opportunity for Confessions.

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?



The new Diocesan Directories are available from the Piety Stall. (Spiral bound: £4.50, plain bound: £3.50).

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.

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 with me, using the form enclosed with this newsletter, or on-line at [Application for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation | Our Lady Help of Christians | Cowley | Oxford \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](http://Application for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation | Our Lady Help of Christians | Cowley | Oxford (olhoccowley.co.uk))

Tailpiece: I have always admired the priest who put up a notice in the car park of his church: "*Church parking only. Violators will be baptised*". But as a surreal notice I think this, from the kitchen of a church hall, takes some beating: "*Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot please stand upside down in the sink*".

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