



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Third Sunday of Advent

11<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Moran, [sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

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

Telephone: 01865 770 910 (Our Lady's and Sacred Heart)

Email: [olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) Website: [www.olhoccowley.co.uk](http://www.olhoccowley.co.uk)

Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> <b>2.00 pm Baptism</b> 4.30 pm Syro-Malabar Community Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Pedro Fernande Goncalves and Margarida Tulquel De Jesus Dorothy Gardner (Intentions) Mary Florence Joshi Amelia-Rose Nirmala Singh  Cecilia Michael
Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Madaline Dandrews (Get Well)
Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Patrick and Ellen Grealish (Anniv.)
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Memorial of St. John of the Cross</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>1.00 pm Baptisms</b> (5.30 pm Penance Service at Sacred Heart) (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Nariella, Nicaiah and Nicandro  Thomas Gaughan (Get Well)
Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b> <b>6.00 pm Advent Carol Service</b>	Laurindo Madeira and Guilhermina Sarmento
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Penance Service &amp; Confessions</b> <b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	Danny Lyons (Birthday)
Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Edith Brunnarius Sean McMahon (Anniversary) Rolly and Jocelyn (Thanksgiving)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10.00 am – 12.00 midday

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Henry	Asha and Sandra	<b>This weekend</b>	Fallon	John and Stephanie
Bernadette	Mabel and Rachel	<b>Next weekend</b>	Bernadette D.	Sandra and Naomi

**Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians on the Third Sunday of Advent.**

Today is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which means, “Rejoice, Sunday”. It is a slightly different day of Advent, when we set aside the penitential aspect and remember that the birth of Jesus is news of great joy.

**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 Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira, and the souls of all who have died recently,** and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Drinkwater, Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O’Connell and John Dewis and Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and also Joseph Patrick Cahill, Joan Kelly and Bernie O’Neill. May they rest in peace.

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."*

**Collection for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> December:** £527.72; Gift Aid: £197.00. **Poor Parishes Fund:** £220.65.

**Direct Debit Donations (November):** £1,341.00. **Online Donations via the Archdiocesan Website (November):** £100.00.  
Thank you. There will be a retiring collection after the Masses next weekend for the flowers in the church over Christmas.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Lukasz and Malgorzata (for their Wedding).**



**Advent Carol Service** on Friday this week, starting at 6.00 pm. Please come along; you will have a chance to pray, read and sing some of your seasonal favourites. There will be seasonal refreshments, and if you could help with serving please let me know. Please note that Friday's Mass will be at 9.15 am and there will be no Confessions that evening.



**Advent Penance Service.** There will be a short penance service on Saturday morning, 17<sup>th</sup> December, at 10.00 am, followed by the opportunity for Confessions until noon.

**Our Lady Help of Christians Healing Group.** A new course will be starting in January, running after the 11.00 Mass on Sundays. To register please 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. Registration requires commitment to attend the first four sessions.

**Crib Offerings.** As you can see, our Crib is growing, with the figures of the Annunciation this week. As usual, your crib offerings will be divided between a local charity and an international charity. This year we are supporting Emmaus (Oxford) and the Friends of the Holy Land. This weekend we welcome Laura Bristow from Emmaus (Oxford) who will say a few words about the work of Emmaus at the end of the 11.00 am Mass.

**Our Parish Lunch.** An enormous THANK YOU to all those who made last Sunday's lunch such a great occasion, and thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle, made donations, or simply came along.

**Job Vacancy at St. John Fisher School:** Commencing in January 2023, the school, are seeking to appoint an experienced teacher to provide cover across KS1 and lower KS2. Closing date: Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. For details go to: <https://st-john-fisher.oxon.sch.uk/cover-teacher-closing-date-15th-december-2022/>

**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 \(olhccowley.co.uk\)](https://www.olhccowley.co.uk)

**Tailpiece:** From a parish newsletter: "As Mr Hywel Morgan is indisposed and at present in hospital, all his singing engagements will be cancelled for the present. We are pleased to say that he is progressing slowly."

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