



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Fourth 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> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Danny Lyons (Birthday)  Edith Brunnarius Sean McMahon (Anniversary) Rolly and Jocelyn (Thanksgiving)
Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Jean Bradley
Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Patrick & Mary Bailey
Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December <i>Comm. of St. Peter Canisius, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Ellen and Marie Gaughan (Ints.)
Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December <i>Comm. of St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Michael Iago
Saturday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 5.00 pm <b>Crib Service &amp; Carols</b> 5.30 pm <b>First Mass of Christmas</b> 11.30 pm <b>Carols and Readings</b> 12.00 <b>Midnight Mass</b>	Harvey Beesley  Private Intention
Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Dawn at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass during the Day <b>PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO EVENING MASS TODAY AT SACRED HEART</b>	John and Michael Cullen The People of the Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday, 6.00 pm – 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
Bernadette	Mabel and Rachel	<b>This weekend</b>	Bernadette D.	Sandra and Naomi
Mabel	Rachel and Asha	<b>Next weekend</b>	Ann C.	Stephanie and John
Bernadette		<b>Midnight Mass</b>	Fallon and John C.	

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, especially if you are visiting our parish for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

**Feasts in the next couple of weeks.** Of course, next Sunday is Christmas Day. Hoorah! When Christmas Day falls on Sunday some adjustments have to be made to the usual calendar: St. Stephen's Day (a day of especial importance for Altar Servers) will be on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> December as usual; Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> December, will be the Feast of the Holy Family; Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> January, will be the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; the Epiphany will be on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> January; and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which closes the Christmas season, will be on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> January.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023.** Why not do something amazing next year and volunteer your skills to look after our Accueil (assisted) pilgrims on our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France (Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June)? Applications to join the Lourdes Nursing and Medical Team, or the Handmaids and Brancardiers, are now open. Go to [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/medical-and-non-medical-volunteer-applications-now-open-for-lourdes-2023](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/medical-and-non-medical-volunteer-applications-now-open-for-lourdes-2023)

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 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> December: £491.41; Gift Aid: £159.00. Thank you.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week In Thanksgiving (SC).  
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Sr. Monica (Intentions).  
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Jackie and Alan (Intentions).**

**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 Paul O'Connor and Michael Hodgetts and all who have died recently,** and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon William Flint, Canon Gerald Patrick Breen, Frs. Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara, Patrick Wall, Edmund Motherway and Brian Doolan, and also Sr. Veronica Lindsay FMA, Winifred McGrath, Keith Baker, Myles Quirke, Sean McMahan, Kevin McGrath, Patricia (Pat) Rothery, James Anthony Kenny, Mary Quigley, Bridie Barnes and Paul Foster. May they rest in peace.

**Next weekend** Fr. Martin Flatman will be here at Our Lady's to celebrate the Crib Service (5.00 pm) and the First Mass of Christmas (5.30 pm) on Christmas Eve. I shall be here for the Carols and Readings (11.30 pm) and the Midnight Mass (at midnight!), and then for the Mass on Christmas Day at 11.00 am.

**Our Lady Help of Christians Healing Group.** A new course will be starting in January, after the 11.00 am 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. We welcome Ariel to Our Lady's today to introduce the course.

**Crib Offerings.** 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.

**Christmas Flowers.** There will be a retiring collection after the Masses today to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year in memory of someone or for a special occasion please speak to me or send me an email.

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

**Prayers, please.** You have probably heard about the events at Babbs Mill Lake in Kingshurst, Birmingham, last Sunday when four children died after they fell through the ice. It was a tragedy for their families and for the whole community, including St. Anthony's Catholic School where one of the children was a pupil. Archbishop Bernard Longley issued a message: *"My heart goes out to all those affected by this tragedy and on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham I offer my deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kingshurst community at this deeply distressing time."*

**Tailpiece:** A mother passed on this Christmas message: *When my daughters were little I always told them Christmas is Jesus' birthday and that He only received 3 things when He was born, so they shouldn't be disappointed at what they may or may not find under the tree. When it came time for Mass on Christmas morning, I asked the children what they thought Jesus would think of Santa and all the hype. Would He ask Santa a question? My youngest daughter replied, "I think Jesus would ask, 'How come I only got three presents and none of them were toys?'"*

**May God bless you and all those whom you love. If you are away for Christmas, travel safely and have a lovely Christmas. Fr. Harry**