



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Christmas Day

### Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

25<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, 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	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> 7.45 am <i>Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> (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>	Harvey Beesley  Private Intention  John and Michael Cullen The People of the Parish
Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>12.00 noon Mass</b>	Leandras Agnew (Get Well) Private Intention
Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Feast of St. John, Apostle</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> <b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Bridget Duncan
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Feast of the Holy Innocents</i>	No Public Mass Today	Sr. Norma's Intentions
Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Feast of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Jocelyn (Thanksgiving)
Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> <b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Filomeno Da Cruz Martins
Saturday, 31 <sup>st</sup> December <i>Seventh Day in the Christmas Octave</i>	8.00 am <i>Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> (11.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm</b>	Thanksgiving for blessings in 2022 Martin and Bridie Keane
Sunday, 1 <sup>st</sup> January <b>SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD</b>	7.45 am <i>Office of Readings &amp; Morning Prayer</i> (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Grace Mungai (Intentions) Anne Mullagh Mr R. K. Joshi

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Mabel	Rachel and Asha	<b>This weekend</b>	Ann C.	Stephanie and John
Bernadette and Maureen		<b>Midnight Mass</b>	Fallon and John C.	
Nora	Asha	<b>Next weekend</b>	Nalini	Naomi and Udeme

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians today, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Happy Christmas, everyone!

**Feasts in the next couple of weeks.** Of course, today 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; next Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> December, will be the Feast of the Holy Family; next 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.

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

*At 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. 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 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 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> December: £384.86; Gift Aid: £147.00. Christmas Flowers: £97.54. Thank you.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Sr. Margaret (Intentions).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Mrs. Comfort Agatha Ojewande.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Mrs. Omolara Dairo.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Mr. Michael Gamble Junior.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Mabel (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, David, Thomas Gaughan, and all those we know who are sick.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cecilia Smith, Dermot Carroll and Lucy Lynch and all who have died recently,** and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr. Canon Thomas Gavin, Mgr. Patrick O'Mahoney, Frs. Anthony Ireland, Thomas Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe, Seamus McInerney, David O'Callaghan, Francis Etherington Patrick Lynch, Deacon Peter Mason and Sr. Ann Hoskison FMA, and also Bridie Barnes, Paul Foster and Michael Brennan. May they rest in peace.

**Welcome and thanks to Fr. Martin Flatman** who will be here this weekend at Our Lady's to celebrate the Crib Service and the First Mass of Christmas.

**Thank you.** Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our church so beautiful for our Christmas celebrations and for every week throughout the year.

**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 (27<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June)? Applications to join the Lourdes Nursing and Medical Team, or the Handmaids and Brancardiers, are now open. [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 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).

**Christmas Crib.** Crib Offerings this year will be divided between Friends of the Holy Land and Emmaus (Oxford) who try to help homeless people in Oxford. Friends of the Holy Land is an ecumenical charity supporting the vulnerable Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

**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.

**Tailpiece.** A priest was just starting his homily at the Christmas Midnight Mass when the electricity in the church failed. The ushers ran and found more candles and placed them all around the church. Then the priest re-entered the pulpit, shuffled his notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?" A tired voice called out, "Right near the end!"

*I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your friendship and help this year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.*

Fr. Harry