



Our Lady Help of Christians

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

1st January, 2023

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

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 Website: www.olhocowley.co.uk

Sunday, 1 st January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD	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)	Martin and Bridie Keane Grace Mungai (Intentions) Anne Mullagh Mr R. K. Joshi
Monday, 2 nd January Mem. of St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops	No Public Mass Today	Winston Borthwick (get well)
Tuesday, 3 rd January Op. Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Wednesday, 4 th January Christmas Feria	No Public Mass Today	Albert Daniel
Thursday, 5 th January Mem. of St. Charles of St. Andrew	8.00 am Mass	Robert William Pill (Anniversary)
Friday, 6 th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Holyday of Obligation	7.30 am Mass 8.15 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 7.00 pm Mass	Honorina O'Brien Briget Duncan and Victoria Thomas Gaughan (get well)
Saturday, 7 th January Op. Memorial of St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Kathleen Murphy
Sunday, 8 th January FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass (4.30 pm Syro Malabar Community Mass) (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Cecilia Michael Winnie Gildea & Helen Towey (Anniv.) The People of the Parish

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers	This weekend	Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Nora	Asha	Next weekend	Nalini	Naomi and Udeme
Josie	Anne-Marie & Anne		Michelle	John and Sandra



Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI RIP. We pray for the repose of the soul of His Holiness Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI who led the Church of Christ on earth from 2005-2013. May he rest in peace. Archbishop Bernard has released this statement:

"I pray for the repose of the soul of His Holiness Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI as his long life of devoted service comes to a close. May he now enjoy forever the company of the saints and the reward of all the Lord's good and faithful servants. I recall with gratitude the warmth and impact of Pope Benedict's presence during his State Visit in

2010 and especially during his visit to Birmingham for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman. He showed us the love of the pastor's heart which had guided his ministry as priest, as bishop and as Supreme Pastor. I am grateful for the prayerful way that he supported his successor Pope Francis, continuing to promote the unity and mission of the Church. On behalf of the clergy, Religious and all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Birmingham I offer our condolences and pray that Emeritus Pope Benedict may rest in peace with his risen Lord."

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.

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."



Goodbye to 2022



It has been a momentous year, with record temperatures, the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and her subsequent death. Prime Ministers, Chancellors, and mini-budgets came and went. There were the Commonwealth Games, the Euros and the World Cup. We discovered Bazball. Besides all that I thought you might be interested to see some of the events of the last year that happened in Our Lady Help of Christians. During 2022:

- ❖ We celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the church, the 90th Anniversary of Our Lady's School, and the 150th Anniversary of the Salesian Sisters.
 - ❖ 30 people, including 1 adult, were Baptised
 - ❖ 33 children received their First Holy Communion
 - ❖ 22 children and 1 adult were Confirmed
- ❖ Joaquim and Juvenilia, Kieron and Shannon were married here in Our Lady's and Thomas and Aisling were married in Co. Galway, Ireland.
- ❖ 15 Funerals were celebrated - James Anthony Kenny, Joseph Patrick Cahill, Kath Kavanagh, Nora Esther Hayes, Luciano Giovanni Luigi Magnasco, Stephen (Steve) Fontaine, Martyn Spackman, Philomena Hilsdon, Jane Hannah Boyce, Sr. Rose Cavanagh FMA, Robert John (Bob) Jackson, Gerald Amantrading, Paul Watts, Catherine Rita Sheridan and Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira. May they rest in peace.



Hello to 2023



The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Helen Towey (Anniversary).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Bernadette Edwards.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for All Salesian Sisters.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) RIP.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Pat Atherton.

Next Friday. Next Friday, the First Friday, is the Solemnity of the Epiphany, a Holyday of Obligation. There will be Mass here at 7.30 am and 7.00 pm.

Cake Sale. Next weekend the Salesian Cooperators will be selling cakes after the Masses to raise funds for the missionary work of the Salesian Sisters.

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 Kathleen Murphy, Dermot Carroll and Lucy Lynch and all who have died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, Francis Dwyer, Philip Smith and John P. Davis, and also John (Johnnie) Kennedy, Bridget McDermott, Suzanne White and John Cromey. May they rest in peace.

My Day By Day Book. The January edition is now available at the back of church (price £1).

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.

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.

Tailpiece. Help, I've seen too many Christmas crackers! What carol is sung in the desert? *O Camel Ye Faithful.*

I wish you every blessing in the New Year. Thank you very much to all who helped in any way to make our Christmas celebrations so beautiful: those who cleaned and prepared the church, arranged the flowers, read, sang or played, served at the altar, and all the many other jobs. Above all, thanks to you and your families for coming and joining in these celebrations.

I should also like to thank you all for your very generous Christmas offerings and for the many individual gifts and cards that I received. May God bless you all. Fr. Harry