



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

22nd January, 2023

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

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Sunday, 22 nd January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	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)	Sr. Maureen Grigg (Intentions) Ena Maguire (Anniversary) Laurindo Madeira & Guilhermina Sarmiento The People of the Parish
Monday, 23 rd January Op. Memorial of St. Nicholas Owen Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Lillis & Bernie Gavin
Tuesday, 24 th January Memorial of St. Francis de Sales Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Daniel Tang (Intentions)
Wednesday, 25 th January Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	(11.00 am Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart)	Stephen Motherway
Thursday, 26 th January Memorial of St. Timothy & St. Titus	11.30 am Requiem Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Robert Gleeson Thomas Gaughan (get well)
Friday, 27 th January Op. Mem. of Bl. Edward Oldcorne, or of St. Angela Merici Holocaust Memorial Day	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sr. Teresa (Intentions)
Saturday, 28 th January Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Cecilia Lorraine Smith
Sunday, 29 th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	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)	Eduardo Esteban Peter Nottingham RIP Fernando Neves Liu & Luzia Pereira Lobato

Confessions: 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
Maureen	Sandra and Mabel	This weekend	Bernie D	Stephanie and John
Vitalija	Rachel & Anne-Marie	Next weekend	Ann C	Ella and Ellie

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

Today is the "Sunday of the Word Of God". It is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time and it is a day when we reflect on the importance of the Bible in our faith. This year's theme is *Blessed are those who hear the word of God!* (cf. Lk 11: 28).

During the Mass your Bibles will be blessed and our Readers will be commissioned or recommissioned for their ministry.

We pray for all those who have died recently, remembering Dcn Joe Patterson, Richard Hansen, Dermot Carroll, Stephen Motherway and Robert Gleeson, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Peter Dao-Duc-Diem, Canons Bernard McKenna, Arthur Wall, Thomas Copsey and Giles Goward, Frs. Michael Walshe, George Jackson, John Tolkien, Joseph McKenna, David Lloyd, Charles Ross, John Garvey, Anthony Timlin and Vincent Joseph Royles, and Deacon Michael Ainsworth, and also Marianna Slezak, George Sykes, Michael Grant, Mary Bridget Lillis and Bernadette Gavin. 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.*

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 for Ministers of the Word.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the Unity of the Church.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for all members of the Salesian Order.

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

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We are now in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It concludes on Wednesday, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

The Annual Novena to St. John Bosco begins today, leading up to his feastday on Tuesday, 31st January. Novena prayers are available in the porch. **On the feast of St. John Bosco** there will be Mass here at Our Lady's at 9.15 am, with refreshments in the DBC after Mass.

Prayer and Praise Group. We are starting a new initiative: after the 9.15 am Mass and coffee on the second Tuesday of each month you are invited to spend some time with others, praying and giving praise to God. Starting on Tuesday, 14th February. All welcome.

Our Lady Help of Christians Healing Group. A new course will be starting this weekend, in the Chapel after the 11.00 am Sunday Mass. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come and join the session.

Young Adult Group for 18-35s at Holy Rood Church on Abingdon Road. Next meeting is on Monday, 23rd January with Br John Bosco, OCD. He will talk on 'Jesus Christ in the Pauline letters - Who was He?' 7.30-9.00 pm. For info contact Kate, 07933765367. All welcome.

First Holy Communion Preparation. Children aged 8 or older are invited to start preparing to receive Holy Communion on 10th/11th June.

- Preparation classes will be in the Don Bosco Centre (the parish hall) on Thursday afternoons, at 3.30 pm, starting on Thursday, 23rd February.
- There will be a meeting for parents on Thursday, 9th February, 3.30 pm, with the Mass of Enrolment on Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th February.

Parents, if you haven't done so already, please register your children's names with me, either with one of the application forms at the back of church or on-line at [Application for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation | Our Lady Help of Christians | Cowley | Oxford \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](#)

Lepra. There will be a second collection at Masses next weekend for Lepra a charity whose mission is to beat leprosy. In the 99 years since their founding, they have helped millions of people affected by leprosy. There is now a cure for leprosy, however there is still work to be done as prejudice, discrimination, and lack of healthcare and resources mean not everyone can receive this in time to prevent disabilities.

Holocaust Memorial Day. 27th January is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Every year on that day we remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust, and in subsequent genocides.

Marriage Encounter England and Wales are offering a course on 3rd – 5th March at The Campanile Hotel, Great Western Way, Delta Business Park, Swindon, SN5 7XG. The marriage enrichment course offers a chance for couples to rekindle their relationships and focus on what is important to them. Please go to <https://wwme.org.uk> for more information and to book.

Invitation from CAFOD. CAFOD's Big Lent Walk is for a school, a parish, or a group of friends to walk together. Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends, have fun or take time to pray and reflect. As a Lent commitment, it's an inspiring way to bring our faith into every day of Lent, and support others in need. For more go to walk.cafod.org.uk

National Rethink Abortion Training Day, Saturday, 4th February at Oscott College, Birmingham, B73 5AA, 10.00-5.00. An interactive event equipping you to talk about abortion in a meaningful and productive way in your everyday life. £25 (inc. lunch and refreshments). To book your place go to marchforlife.co.uk

Tailpiece: Back in the days when telephones simply made calls, a priest 'phoned up Archbishop's House in a right old temper. "Is the old so-and-so there?" he demanded. "This *is* the old so-and-so", a glacial voice informed him. "Well, do you know who *I* am?" roared the priest. "No", came the reply. "Good!" said the priest, and hung up.

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry.