



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5th February, 2023

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 5 th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Racial Justice Sunday	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)	Dolores Connolly RIP (Anniv.) Dec'd McVeigh & McGarry Families Daniel Tang (Intentions) Horacio Liu & Filomena Liu
Monday, 6 th February Mem. of St. Paul Miki & Comps.	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Sacred Heart)	Simon Smith (Get Well)
Tuesday, 7 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Angel Freitas
Wednesday, 8 th February Op. Mem. of St. Jerome Emiliani or of St. Josephine Bakhita Day of Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 9 th February	(1.30 pm Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart) (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Richard Hansen Merryl Jennings (2 nd Anniversary)
Friday, 10 th February Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Marian Boggis (Birthday)
Saturday, 11 th February Op. Mem. of Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of Prayer for the Sick	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Mary Clarke
Sunday, 12 th February Sixth 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)	Florrie Murphy Daniel Tang (Intentions) The People of the Parish

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
Nora	Anne and Robin	This weekend	Michelle	John C and Naomi
Zoja	Asha and Sandra	Next weekend	Fallon	Ella and Ellie

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

Today is Racial Justice Sunday. The theme is “All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together”

We pray for all those who have died recently: Sr. Helen Carey FMA, Canon Gary Byrne, Ryszard Kaniszewski, Richard Hansen, Eufemia Maria Gentile Mastroddi and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop Frederick William Keating, Mgr. John Heslin, Frs. Thomas O’Carroll, John Watkins, John Gibb, Matt Brady and John Paul O’Sullivan, and also Carlos Da Costa, Speranza Mirto, Kath Kavanagh, Dolores Connolly, Norman Gurl, Philomena Surman, Nora Esther Hayes, Maria Giduch, Luciano Magnasco and Billy Flynn. 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 Sr. Helen Carey FMA.
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for a Private Intention.**

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.

Prayer and Praise Group. On the second Tuesday of each month, after the 9.15 am Mass and coffee, you are invited to spend some time with others, praying and giving praise to God. Starting on Tuesday, 14th February.

Our Lady Help of Christians Healing Group. The course will continue in the Chapel after the 11.00 am Sunday Mass. Please pray for those taking part.

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

For some time I have been intending to do a sponsored walk around the boundary of the parish to raise money for the parish, but if you wanted to walk with me you could do it to raise money for CAFOD. It could not be done every day, but in easy stages (perhaps two miles each day) we could get round Our Lady's parish and also Sacred Heart parish by the end of Lent. I shall equip myself with a street map and work out an itinerary and keep you updated.

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

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 next Thursday, 9th February, at 3.30 pm in the Don Bosco Centre. Please come if you can.**
- The Mass of Enrolment will be 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 \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](#)

Friends of the Holy Land have organised a fundraising concert featuring the well-known talents of the London Welsh Male Voice Choir supported by The Priests in a powerful combined performance. On Thursday 16th February at Westminster Cathedral, starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets, starting at £20, are available now through Eventbrite at - <http://bit.ly/3i0ath2> or search *LWMC Concert at Westminster Cathedral*.

Prayers for the Sick. Next Saturday, 11th February, is the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, a good day to pray for people who are sick – our fellow-parishioners, our family, our friends, and also people who have no one to pray for them.

Lent 2023.

1. **My Day By Day** and the **Walk With Me Booklets** will be available.
2. **Stations of the Cross** after Mass each Friday.
3. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection**, Saturday, 11th March, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm. There will be a talk and a time of prayer. It will be open to all, but it will be especially for Eucharistic Ministers, in preparation for renewal of their ministry on Maundy Thursday.
4. **Parish Penance Service.** On Friday, 24th March, before the evening Mass at 5.30 pm.

Lent House Masses. This is an idea to celebrate Mass in parishioners' homes in different parts of the parish. It could bring all sorts of blessings, including attracting some people who do not come to Our Lady's at present. If you would like/be willing to be a host for a House Mass during Lent, please let me know; it means inviting your Catholic neighbours (non-Catholics are welcome too) to come to your home. Ask them to bring some refreshments so that we can have a simple shared meal after Mass.

Ashes for Ash Wednesday (22nd February). If you have palms from last Palm Sunday that we could use to make the ashes, please let me have them by next Sunday.

Tailpiece: A man decided he would give up sweet things for Lent. One morning, however, he arrived at work carrying a gigantic cheesecake. "This is a very special cheesecake," he explained to his colleagues. "I drove by a bakery this morning and there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, 'Lord, if you want me to have one of those delicious cheesecakes, you will let me have a parking place directly in front of the bakery.' And sure enough," he went on, "the eighth time around the block, there it was!"

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