



Our Lady Help of Christians

First Sunday of Lent

26th February, 2023

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

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Sunday, 26 th February First Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments	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)	Kath Kavanagh (Anniversary) Lucia Josephat Daniel Tang (Intentions) Joao Lobato and Ana Saldanha
Monday, 27 th February Op. Comm. of St. Gregory of Narek	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 28 th February Op. Comm. of St. Oswald, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Daniel Tang (Intentions)
Wednesday, 1 st March Feast of St. David, Patron of Wales	No Public Mass Today	George Rhodes (Anniversary)
Thursday, 2 nd March Feast of St. Chad, Bishop, Patron of the Archdiocese	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Doyle (Get Well)
Friday, 3 rd March CAFOD Lent Fast Day Women's World Day of Prayer	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	William McDermott
Saturday, 4 th March Optional Commemoration of St. Casimir	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) Saturday Evening Vigil: 5.30 pm	Jimmy Doyle MaryAnne Borthwick (Get Well)
Sunday, 5 th March Second Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments	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)	Thomas Gaughan (Get Well) Daniel Tang (Intentions) Ansel Netto

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

(At Sacred Heart: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 -11.30 am)

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Henry	Anne-Marie and Anne	This weekend	Ann C	Michelle and John
Bernadette	Robin and Asha	Next weekend	Naomi and Bernie D	Nalini and Sandra

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

Collections for 12th February: £558.49; Gift Aid: £182.00; 19th February: £562.38; Gift Aid: £187.00.

CAFOD Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal: £368.05. Thank you.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day is this Friday, 3rd March. Thank you for your very generous response to the emergency appeal a few weeks ago. On Friday we shall have our more regular Lent Fast Day: we give up some food and put the money we save into the second collection next Sunday. **First Friday.** This Friday is the first of the month.

We pray for all those who have died recently: Sr. Helen Carey FMA, Canon Gary Byrne, William McDermott, Francis (Tom) Billington, Felix Saulong and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bishop Kevin Dunn, Frs. George Brewster, George Henry Tarrant, John Flynn, William Diver and Douglas Carter, and also Eddie Kelly, Joseph Roddy, John Gerard Flanagan, George Simpson, Bridget Salter and Mary Benadel. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace. William McDermott's funeral will be at the Immaculate Conception, Bicester, on Friday.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity Number: 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

*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 Clare and Robert Curtis (Wedding Anniversary).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Judith Flynn (get well).

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Bob Hinchin (Intentions).



Lent House Masses. If you would like/be willing to be a host for a House Mass, please let me know; it means inviting your Catholic neighbours (non-Catholics are welcome too) to come to your home.

Walk With Me and My Day By Day Booklets. These are available together with Lent calendars. They are a good aid to daily prayer and reflection.

Stations of the Cross. We shall meditate on the Stations together each Friday in Lent, 7.30 pm.

Parish Lent Day of Recollection, Saturday, 11th March, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, in the church and parish hall. This is open to everyone, but will be especially aimed at Eucharistic Ministers, in preparation for renewal of their ministry on Maundy Thursday. Light refreshments will be provided. Please let me know if you are able to come.

Prayer petitions. Throughout Lent I invite you to write out any petition that you would like the rest of us to pray for and post it on the wall. Please read the petitions and include them in your daily prayers.

Morning Prayer of the Church. I pray the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, usually at 8.00 am, and I should welcome your company if you would care to join me, either in person or on the live streaming.

Parish Penance Service followed by Confessions, Friday, 24th March, 5.30 pm.

During Lent there will be Mass on Monday mornings at 7.00 am, followed by breakfast.

A Liturgical Note: During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "A*****a!" There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled from the fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday. We shall save it all up and let rip with sound, light and colour at the Easter Vigil.

Feasts of St. David, Patron Saint of Wales, and St. Chad, Patron of this Diocese. A happy feast to anyone with Welsh blood on Wednesday. And happy feast day to us all on Thursday as we celebrate St. Chad.

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



Mass for Missio, 11th March, 12.00 noon at St Chad's Cathedral. Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and supports the Church in greatest need, where it is growing and where it is suffering. All supporters of Missio, through prayer, through giving to the Red Box, as local secretaries are invited to a Diocesan Mass at St Chad's Cathedral with Archbishop Bernard Longley and representatives from Missio and Mill Hill Missions. This will be a wonderful occasion to thank God for the work of Missio and to pray for the work of the Church's Mission to the world.

First Holy Communion. The children who are starting their preparation for Holy Communion will be enrolled at the Masses this weekend. Please pray for them and their families.

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.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Canon Mervyn from Corpus Christi, Headington, is leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 22nd – 30th August, price £1,995.00 pp (single suppl. £450). See www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk for more details and to book.

Tailpiece: A priest wanted to buy a horse and he went to a farmer who, he was told, had a special one. "Why is it special?" the priest asked. "Well, he's very religious," replied the farmer, "If you want him to go forward you have to say 'Praise the Lord'. If you want him to stop, you say 'Amen'." The priest mounted the horse, shouted "Praise the Lord", and the horse started running. The priest was so excited that he let the horse run until he saw a cliff ahead. He yelled "stop", "halt", "whoa"; but the horse just kept running. The priest finally recalled the farmer's words and yelled "Amen". The horse skidded to a halt at the very edge of the cliff. The priest took off his hat, wiped his brow, and said, "Praise the Lord."

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry.