



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fifth Sunday of Lent

26th March, 2023

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary: Geraldine Griffin

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Sunday, 26 th March Fifth 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)	Sissie McManus & Mary Kate McTague William McDermott Winnie Gildea (Birthday) Felix Saulong (40 days)
Monday, 27 th March	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Ellen McGarry (Anniversary)
Tuesday, 28 th March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Sean and Marion Hurley (Intentions)
Wednesday, 29 th March	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 30 th March	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	John Cullen (Anniversary)
Friday, 31 st March	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	In Thanksgiving (Nossa Senhora)
Saturday, 1 st April	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass	Filomeno da Cruz Martins & Jose Madura Janet & Donald (60 th Wedding Anniv.)
Sunday, 2 nd April Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 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 3.00 pm Baptism: Denilson Xavi Pinto Da Silva (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Sabas and Lourdes Balbag Mick Mullagh The People of the Parish

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

(At Sacred Heart: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm and 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
Maureen	Anne and Robin	This weekend	Bernie D. and Michelle	Sandra and Nalini
Vitalija	Asha and Sandra	Next weekend	Michelle and Bernie D.	Ella and Ellie

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

The statues in the church. Before the liturgical reforms of the 1960s, the 5th Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday because one of the Gospel accounts of the Passion of Our Lord would be read. To mark that, the statues in the church will be veiled from today until Holy Saturday. The signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion and death.

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

We pray for all those who have died recently: Johanna Berg and Dermot McMahon and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishop Thomas Leighton Williams, Bishop Humphrey Bright, Mgr. Canon John Joseph Welch, Mgr. Henry Francis Davis, Canon Brian Withers, Frs. John Joseph Donnelly, John McManus, Thomas Cockburn, Matthew Sheridan, John Callaghan and Philip O'Reilly, Deacon Raymond Zacaroli, and also Coleman (Colm) Keady, Catherine Regan, Josie Bates, John Steele, Bridget (Breda) Keenan, Patricia Conway and Elizabeth Conry. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace.

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 Winnie Gildea (Birthday).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for those who are sick and suffering.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Kathleen Murphy (Birthday).

Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church's year. We shall begin at the entrance to the church and process to the altar.

Easter Triduum. There is a list on the table at the back of church inviting people to sign up for various roles at the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday – welcoming, having feet washed, serving, watching at the altar of repose. There is plenty for everyone so please don't be shy.

The Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday, 28th March, 11.30 am in St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

Easter Flowers. There will be a retiring collection next Sunday towards the cost of the flowers that will adorn our church for the coming celebration of Easter. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year, perhaps in memory of someone, please speak to me.

The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company (PFMAC) is the family of local schools in Oxfordshire. The Board of Directors want to recruit new members of the Board – volunteers from the Catholic community – who will help to take the vision forward. A letter from the Chair, Paul Concannon, is available on: [The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company - Recruiting New Directors \(pfmac.org.uk\)](https://www.pfmac.org.uk)

Holy Week for Altar Servers. There will be rehearsals for the servers on "Spy" Wednesday (5th April) for the services in Holy Week:

- For Maundy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the rehearsal will be at 5.00 pm.
- For the Good Friday Solemn Liturgy, the rehearsal will be at 5.30 pm.
- For the Easter Vigil the rehearsal will be at 6.00 pm.

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the Don Bosco Centre. **We do need more people to be involved in the Gift Aid scheme, please.** If you don't already gift aid your donations to Our Lady's could we ask you to consider doing so? Please contact Geraldine in the parish office by email or phone for further information or if you are already a gift-aider and your circumstances have changed. Thank you.

Cooperators' Meeting, next Thursday, 30th March at 7.00 pm in Elmthorpe Convent.

The Sacrament of Confirmation. Tuesday 30th May at 6.00 pm. Lessons will be starting after Easter. Apply at www.olhoccowley.co.uk/sacraments/confirmation or fill in an application form at the back of church.

Oxford Pro-Life Rosary Witness. Saturday 1st April. Calling all pro-lifers to unite at 12 pm to publicly recite the Rosary for an end to Abortion and in defense of life. Meet outside the Clarendon building: 48 Broad St, Oxford, OX1 3AZ. The public witness is an initiative for all Catholics who would like to be more active in defending the unborn. By coming along, you can hear more about other pro-life opportunities in Oxford. For more information contact Honor Roberts: honorroberts@hotmail.com

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

Parish Financial Report 2022. Our Financial Report January to December 2022 is now available, please do pick up a copy from the church porch. In summary:

Money in:	<u>£73,068.20</u>
Money out:	<u>£64,924.13</u>
Surplus	<u>£ 8,144.07</u>
End of year bank balance	-£16,779.39

Thank you for your kind contributions. My thanks to the Finance and Fund-Raising Committees who have worked hard to help raise and manage our funds effectively. Do give us your ideas on how we can raise funds to continue to keep our wonderful church and thriving parish community going strong. Please do speak to me if you have any questions on the Financial Report.

Easter Cards. I hope you like the cards. Please take one away with you. Besides Easter greetings, it has all the times of the Holy Week of Masses and Liturgies and I look forward to seeing you.

Tailpiece: A priest once announced proudly that there was to be a new font placed in the church. This, he explained earnestly, was so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

May God bless you and all your loved ones.

Fr. Harry