



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday of Easter

(Divine Mercy Sunday)

16th April, 2023

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary (also Giving and Gift Aid): 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.olhoccowley.co.uk

Happy Easter, everyone.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Sunday, 16 th April Second Sunday of Easter <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass 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)	<i>Antonietta Aprea (Birthday)</i> <i>Mary Doyle (Intentions)</i> <i>Clare Watts (Special Intention)</i> <i>Antonio M da Silva & Rosa C Lobato Soriano</i>
Monday, 17 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	<i>Mrs Maria Debono (Birthday)</i>
Tuesday, 18 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass in Our Lady's School	<i>Mabel</i>
Wednesday, 19 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	<i>Agnes & Tom Allen (Golden Wedding)</i>
Thursday, 20 th April <i>Easter Feria</i>	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	<i>Mary and Edward Murphy</i>
Friday, 21 st April <i>Optional Memorial of St. Anselm, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	<i>Pat Murphy (1st Anniversary.)</i>
Saturday, 22 nd April <i>Easter Feria</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	<i>Shea Shergess (get well)</i> <i>Nancy Lyons (Birthday)</i>
Sunday, 23 rd April Third Sunday of Easter	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass 3.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	<i>Alia Ouseph & Roy Matthews</i> <i>Antonio Da Silva</i> <i>Aigbomodion Ian Otiobhi</i> <i>The People of the Parish</i>

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

(Confessions at Sacred Heart: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45; 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
Nora	Mabel and Rachel	This Weekend	Ann and Bernie D.
Zoja	Anne-Marie and Anne	Next Weekend	Naomi and Ann

The Easter Season

The Easter Season began on Easter Sunday, and ends after Evening Prayer on Pentecost Sunday. These fifty days are a very special time and, as St. Athanasius wrote, they “are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one great Sunday.” The joyful sound of “Alleluia!” is heard many times throughout this season and we add two “Alleluias” at the dismissal of the Mass today.

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

*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.*

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

Please pray for those who have died recently: Bishop David McGough, Dermot McMahan, Cajetan Pereira, Nicholas Dore, Julia Moran, and also those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Anthony Browne, Peter Moore, Reginald Slade, Patrick Downey, Antony Conlon, Hugh Griffith, Andrew Kenny, Oswald Joyce and Liam Bouchier, and also Anne Doherty, Philomena (Phyllis) Hilsdon, Esther Masterson and Alfonso Pereira. May they rest in peace.

If you wish to join us for Mass or other services from your home go to <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians> Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion to say at home:

“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.”

Prayer at the end of Mass:

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

**O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Margaret Stamp.
Our Lady’s Candle is burning this week for Clare Watts (Special Intention).
St. Don Bosco’s Candle is burning this week for Fr. Graham (Birthday).**

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. According to the diary of St. Faustina, Jesus said: “...*tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet....”* (Diary 699).

Welcome to Evander and Shavania Fonseca who were baptised here this weekend. May God bless them and their family.

Gift Aid Boxes. Thank you to those who have collected their new Gift Aid envelopes, and a reminder to those who have yet to do so that they are available at the back of the church. Please let Geraldine know if you no longer need the boxes. Thank you.

Sacramental Preparation:

- 1. The Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated on Tuesday, 30th May, at 6.00 pm. Lessons will be at 4.00 pm on Tuesdays in the Don Bosco Centre, starting this Tuesday, 18th April. Apply at www.olhoccowley.co.uk/sacraments/confirmation.
- 2. First Holy Communion** will be on the weekend of 10th/11th June. Lessons restart this Thursday.

Being a Welcoming Church. The next online, Zoom meeting will be on Monday 17th April, 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. It is about ‘supporting refugees’; no charge, simply register by emailing kevinhateley@fatherhudsons.org.uk

Coronation of King Charles III. On Saturday, 6th May, we shall have Mass at 10.00 am followed by a bring-and-share breakfast/lunch in the Don Bosco Centre as we watch the ceremonies together. All welcome.

Tailpiece: An Easter story. A man was driving along when a rabbit hopped out into the road. He swerved to avoid it but it was too late. The driver pulled over and got out to see what had become of the bunny, but much to his dismay, it was dead. A woman who was passing saw the man crying on the side of the road and stopped. She asked the man what was wrong. “I feel terrible,” he explained, “I accidentally killed this poor creature.” The woman told the man not to worry; she knew exactly what to do. She opened her bag and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the dead bunny and sprayed it. Miraculously, the rabbit jumped up and hopped away down the road. After a few yards it stopped, turned around and waved at them. It hopped another few yards, turned and waved again. After another few yards it stopped, turned and waved again!!!! The man was astonished. He said to the woman, “What on earth is in your spray can?” The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: “Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds a permanent wave.”
I’ll get my coat.

Thank you for your generosity to me last Sunday and also for your gifts, cards, good wishes and prayers. I appreciate them very much.

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