



Our Lady Help of Christians

First Sunday of Advent

3rd December, 2023

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary (also Giving and Gift Aid): Geraldine Griffin

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Our Lady Help of Christians Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Elizabeth Moran who can be contacted at sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Sunday, 3 rd December First Sunday of Advent Migrants' Day	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)	Janet Gildea Joseph McGarry (Anniversary) Kevin Kirby (Intentions) John Cullen (Birthday)
Monday, 4 th December Op. Memorial of St. John Damascene, Priest	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	John Cullen
Tuesday, 5 th December Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Emily Witherick (27 th Anniversary)
Wednesday, 6 th December Op. Mem. of St. Nicholas, Bishop	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 7 th December Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Deonpeter (In Thanksgiving)
Friday, 8 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Candle-Lit Mass in Our Lady's School) (12.00 noon Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mike Simmons Kevin Kirby (Intentions)
Saturday, 9 th December Op. Memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bero, and family Kathleen Murphy (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday, 10 th December Second Sunday of Advent	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)	Hilaria Monteiro Sean & Marion Hurley (50 th Anniv.) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.30 pm (Confessions at Sacred Heart: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 am – 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
Jackie	Anne and Robin	This Weekend	Fallon	John
Maureen	Asha and Sandra	Next Weekend	Naomi	Ella and Ellie

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

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.*

Christmas Angels



As we prepare for Christmas we cannot avoid references to angels in the Scriptures: the Archangel Gabriel brings the news to Mary; he also advises Joseph; angels announce the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. Angels are messengers. This Advent I invite you to decorate our Christmas tree by writing your prayer for Christmas – for yourself, your family and friends, for the poor, for peace, and so on - on one of the paper angels that have been specially made for us by the children at Our Lady's School, and hanging it on the tree. God's messengers can help us with our prayers to God. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas.

Please pray for the sick, especially those we know: Claire French, John Pill, Aveen Kavanagh, Iris O'Brien, Doreen Cox, Betty Duff, Beatrice Upham, Mary Doyle, Thomas Gaughan, Jean Carpenter, Inna, and Pat Mazonowicz.

Please pray for Anne Mullagh, Mike Simmons and Jean Claude Rubati who died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Liam MacFarlane, Horace Relph, Michael George Knight, Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorro, Jerome O'Flynn and Hugh Molloy, Sr. Eileen McGarry FMA, and also Susan Keane, Ronald Rowles, Sabina Hennigan and Elizabeth McGavigan. May they rest in peace.

If you wish to join us for Mass or other services from your home go to:

<https://www.mcn.live/Camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for This Archdiocese.
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Peace in the Holy Land
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Margaret Griffin RIP (Birthday).
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Piter and Benvinda.
St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Our Parish in Advent.

Our Lady's Flooring Renovation.

Target: £15,000 Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fund. We still have some way to go but the end is in sight. All donations, large and small, will be welcome.

Present level: £8879.62

Our next fundraising event will be a PARISH LUNCH next Sunday, 10th December, in the Don Bosco Centre, following the 11.00 am Mass.

Menu:

Roast pork loin with roast vegetables and steamed broccoli, *or*

Turkey casserole with dumplings, roast vegetables and steamed broccoli, *or*

Vegetarian curry with rice

Followed by: Mince or Apple pie and cream

Tickets: £12 per adult / £10 per child under 10, on sale after Mass today.

The Advent *Walk With Me* booklet, with daily reflections for the Season, is now available. Free, or if you wish to make a donation, thank you. There are also copies of the **Advent Day by Day** booklets (£1) which have the readings used at Mass for each day of Advent.

First Holy Communion Lessons. Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next May, please register them with me, using the form at the back of church, or on-line at [Application for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation | Our Lady Help of Christians | Cowley | Oxford \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](#)

Cake Sale. After Masses this weekend there will be a cake sale in the Don Bosco Centre, courtesy of the Salesian Cooperators, to raise funds for the work of the Salesian Sisters in Africa.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, next Friday. The Immaculate Conception is the Patroness of the Archdiocese. There will be a Candle-Lit Mass in Our Lady's School at 9.15 am and everyone is invited. There will also be Mass at Sacred Heart at 12.00 noon. But there will be no Mass in the evening because

.... **Diaconate Ordination.** Next Friday evening Kevin Kirby, Ursula's son, is to be ordained in Scotland as a Deacon. Please pray for him and his family. Obviously we can't go to Scotland to be with him, but we can watch the service on the livestreaming. I invite you to a party in the Don Bosco Centre on Friday evening, starting at 6.30, to watch the Ordination and celebrate with Ursula.

Congratulations to Piter and Benvinda Bintaldays who were married here this weekend. May God bless them.

All handmade Christmas cards and Scripture quotes are now available at Elmthorpe Convent at 20p each or £1.00 for any 6. Contact Sr. Margaret.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses next weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund is to help those parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.

Thank you for all your cards, presents and good wishes to me last week for my birthday. As always, I shall remember you all in my prayers. May God bless you and all those whom you love. Fr. Harry