



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Second Sunday of Advent

10<sup>th</sup> December, 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](mailto:sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

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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](mailto:sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass</b> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Kathleen Murphy (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary) Hilaria Monteiro Sean & Marion Hurley (50 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.) The People of the Parish
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December Op. Mem. of St. Damasus I, Pope	<b>7.00 am Mass</b> 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Special Intention
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass, followed by the Rosary</b>	Aveen Kavanagh (Get Well)
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	Special Intention (MB)
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December Memorial of St. John of the Cross	(5.30 pm Penance Service, followed by 7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	In Thanksgiving to Nossa Senhora de Fatima
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>5.30 pm Penance Service, Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Josephine and Dermot McMahon
Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (12.00 noon Nuptial Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	Eugenio and Nelia Cecilia Smith (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Conoco Eilis Kirwan (Get Well) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Friday, 5.30 – 6.30 pm (Confessions at Sacred Heart: Thursday, 5.30 – 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
Maureen	Asha and Sandra	<b>This Weekend</b>	Naomi	Ella and Ellie
Vitalija	Mabel and Rachel	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Bernadette	Sandra

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, Sean Jennings and Patrick Finnerty who died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Drinkwater, Frs. Vincent Lucas, William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Fergus O'Connell and John Dewis, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and also Joseph Patrick Cahill, Joan Kelly, Lucy Lynch and Bernie O'Neill. 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 Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Peace in the Holy Land.  
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Kathleen Murphy (Anniversary).  
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.

Present level: £9099.62

All donations, large and small, will be welcome.

Our next fundraising event will be a PARISH LUNCH today, 10<sup>th</sup> December, in the Don Bosco Centre, following the 11.00 am Mass.

Tickets: £12 per adult / £10 per child.

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).

**Commemorative Sanctuary Candles.** For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at Christmas and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Joseph or St. John Bosco, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present?



**Christmas Flowers.** There will be a retiring collection after Masses next Sunday to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year in memory of someone or for a special occasion, please speak to me.



**Advent Penance Service.** To help us prepare for Christmas there will be a short penance service on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, at 5.30 pm, followed by the opportunity for Confessions.

**Poor Parishes Fund.** There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese where they cannot pay their day-to-day bills.

**First Holy Communion Lessons.** Parents, if you wish your children 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 \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](#)

**Congratulations to Deacon Kevin Kirby who was ordained last Friday evening.** Deacon Kevin will be here at the 11.00 am Mass next Sunday.

**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.

**Christmas Cards.** I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please take one from the porch for you and/or your neighbours.

**Tailpiece:** In the days before mobile phones, a priest travelled into the city to order a banner to hang outside his church for Christmas. But he forgot to take the details with him, so he sent a telegram to his housekeeper. The clerk at the telegraph office was staggered to receive the reply: "Unto us a Child is born; seven feet six by one foot eight."

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

**Fr. Harry**