



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday of Advent

17th 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

The Presbytery, 59 Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2ND.

Telephone: 01865 770 910 Email: olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.olhoccowley.co.uk

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, 17 th December Third Sunday of Advent	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)	Cecilia Smith (1 st Anniversary) Conoco Eilis Kirwan (Get Well) The People of the Parish
Monday, 18 th December	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Special Intention (LP)
Tuesday, 19 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Mary and Patrick Bailey
Wednesday, 20 th December	No Public Mass Today 6.00 pm Reception of Anne Mullagh	Bridie Barry (Intentions)
Thursday, 21 st December Comm. of St. Peter Canisius	2.00 pm Requiem Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Anne Mullagh Sr. Monica (Birthday)
Friday, 22 nd December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sean Jennings
Saturday, 23 rd December Comm. of St. John of Kanty, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Mary O'Mahoney (Get Well) Deceased Lyons & Kennedy Families
Sunday, 24 th December Fourth Sunday of Advent Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers Christmas Eve	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass 3.00 pm Baptisms 5.00 pm Crib Service & Carols 5.30 pm First Mass of Christmas 11.30 pm Carols and Readings 12.00 Midnight Mass	Rita Da Silva Kathy McGurn Alessandro & Jamaya Somtochukwu Blaise Stephen Ifemeje Private Intention
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm (Confessions 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
Vitalija	Mabel and Rachel	This Weekend	Bernadette	Sandra
Nora	Rachel	Next Weekend	Bernadette	Udeme
Zoja and Vitalija		First Mass of Christmas		
Mabel and Maureen		Midnight Mass		

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians on the Third Sunday of Advent.

Today is traditionally known as “Gaudete Sunday”, which means, “Rejoice, Sunday”. It is a slightly different day of Advent, when we remember that the birth of Jesus is news of great joy.

*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 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 whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Gerald Patrick Breen, Frs. Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara, Edmund Motherway and Brian Doolan, Sr. Veronica Lindsay FMA, and also Bernie O'Neill, Winifred McGrath, Robert Mervyn Gleeson, Keith Baker, Myles Quirke, Sean McMahon, Kevin McGrath, Patricia Rothery, Mary Quigley and James Anthony Kenny. 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 Judy Benson.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Bridie Barry.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Kathy McGurn.

St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Our Parish in Advent.

The flowers in the church this week are given in memory of Robyn.

Crib Offerings. As you can see, the construction of our Crib has begun with the figures of the Annunciation this week. As usual, your crib offerings will be divided between a local charity and an international charity. This year we are supporting Emmaus (Oxford) and the Friends of the Holy Land.

Our Parish Lunch. An enormous THANK YOU to all those who made last Sunday's lunch such a great occasion, and thank you to the donor of the hamper for the raffle, to those who made donations, or simply came along.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of Church to use if you wish. Thank you.

Salesian Cooperators' Carol Service this Thursday, 21st December, in the Chapel at Elmthorpe Convent, at 3.00 pm. All are welcome. Contact Chris Baker 01865 770 102 for more information.

Next weekend I shall be grateful for the help of two other priests while I am at Sacred Heart:

Fr. Martin Flatman will be here to celebrate the Sunday morning Mass (11.00 am).

Friar Gerard Mary will be here for the Carols and Readings (11.30 pm) and the Christmas Midnight Mass.

I shall be here (God willing!) for the other services on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning.



Commemorative 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 this weekend to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year please speak to me.

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 \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](https://www.olhoccowley.co.uk)

Welcome to Deacon Kevin Kirby who was ordained last week and will be at the 11.00 am Mass here today.

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.

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry