



Our Lady Help of Christians

Feast of the Holy Family

31st 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, 31 st December Feast of the Holy Family	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)	Michael Iagoe Jean Bradley (Anniversary) Josie Coughlan (Intentions) Dec'd McCann and Carey families
Monday, 1 st January Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 12.00 noon Mass	Blessings on the New Year David (Michelle's brother) RIP
Tuesday, 2 nd January Mem. of Sts. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	In Thanksgiving (Bridie Barry)
Wednesday, 3 rd January Op. Memorial Most Holy Name of Jesus	No Public Mass Today	Robert William Pill (24 th Anniversary)
Thursday, 4 th January Christmas Feria	(6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Martin McDonagh
Friday, 5 th January Christmas Feria	No Public Mass Today	RK & MF Joshi (60 th Anniversary)
Saturday, 6 th January Christmas Feria	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 1.00 pm Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	The People of the Parish Marcos de Assis Paul Concannon
Sunday, 7 th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	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)	Jim McCann Winnie Gildea & Helen Towey (Anniv.) The People of the Parish

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Zoja	Anne-Marie and Anne	This Weekend	Ann	Nalini
Agnes	Robin and Asha	Next Weekend	Fallon	Nalini

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians today, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Happy New Year, everyone!

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.

Goodbye to 2023



If truth be told, many of us will not be sorry to see the back of 2023. It has been a year of wars and sad news, of Global Warming, strikes and fears for the future. But there have been some glad tidings: King Charles III was crowned; the World Health Organisation declared the end of the COVID-19 global emergency; the Ashes gave us an exciting series; we have managed to keep the same Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer for a whole year.



There have been many things going on here in Our Lady's parish too, and thank you to everyone who helped our community in any way. I thought you might be interested to recall some of the highlights:

- ❖ The floor in the church was repaired and renovated;
- ❖ There was a parish day out to Bournemouth;
- ❖ We had an International Mass at Our Lady's School;
- ❖ We celebrated the Diaconate Ordination of the son of a parishioner;
- ❖ There were various fundraising endeavours, including a cream tea, a walk around the parish, a festive lunch, bingo.
- ❖ 36 people were baptised (which, as far as I can see, is a record high for this parish), of whom 34 were children and two were adults.
 - ❖ 37 children and 2 adults received their First Confession and Holy Communion.
 - ❖ 17 children and 3 adults were Confirmed.
- ❖ There were 2 marriages celebrated here and 7 from this parish that were celebrated abroad;
- ❖ 24 Funerals were held, either here or at the Crematorium (and I fear that may also be a record): Lucy Lynch, Robert Gleeson, Ryszard Kaniszewski, Sister Helen Carey FMA, Francis Billington, Barbara Harrold, Anne Delaney, Baby Sidney Francis Hunt, Dermot McMahan, Jose Do Livramento De Abreu, Tommy White, Gejjo Masih, Mary O'Hara, Patrick Hannon, Angeliqee Moona, Thomas Ghee, Sheila Kelly, Maureen McEneaney, Ursula Lillis, Dircia Da Conceicao Pedro, Archie Allen, Noreen Duffy, Patrick Finnerty, and Anne Mullagh. May they all rest in peace.

Welcome to 2024

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, Anita Allen, and Michael Knibbs who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Frs. Anthony De Vere, Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, and Francis Dwyer, and also John (Johnnie) Kennedy, Bridget McDermott and Suzanne White. 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 Winnie Gildea.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Agnes & Henry (Intentions).

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for the Barry Family.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for peace.

St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for the Sisters in Elmthorpe (Intentions).

Christmas Crib. Crib Offerings this year will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land. From FHL: "Overall, the situation for our Christian family in the Holy Land has gone from very difficult to critical, and **we face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever.** Our office in Bethlehem and contacts in Gaza, Israel and Jordan are well-placed to get urgent, direct aid to the families across the Holy Land most in need. After such a major disaster, we know that our aid is going to be needed well into next year as we help the community rebuild and recover."

My Day By Day Booklets, with the daily readings for Mass from now until Lent are available in the porch (£1).

Please note: Next Sunday will be the (transferred) Solemnity of the Epiphany. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will be on Monday, 8th January, after which Christmastide ends. This Friday is the First of the month.

Holiday. I shall be off for a few days this week, but there will be Mass as usual next Saturday.

Tailpiece:

Small daughter: "Mummy, how many days is it until Christmas comes again?"

Mummy: "It's a long time yet; a whole year. Why?"

Daughter: "I just wondered if it's time for me to start being a good little girl again!"

Thank you very much to all who helped in any way to make our Christmas celebrations so beautiful: those who cleaned and prepared the church, arranged the flowers, read, sang or played, served at the altar, and all the many other jobs. Above all, thanks to you and your families for coming and joining in these celebrations.

I should also like to thank you all for your very generous Christmas offerings and for the many individual gifts and cards that I received. May God bless you all.

Fr. Harry