



Our Lady Help of Christians

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

7th January, 2024

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, 7 th January <i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</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)	Paul Concannon Jim McCann Winnie Gildea & Helen Towey (Anniv.) The People of the Parish
Monday, 8 th January <i>Feast of The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Kitty Davies (Intentions) Osvaldo Da Silva
Tuesday, 9 th January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 7.00 pm Mass	Alarico do Regio Soares
Wednesday, 10 th January	No Public Mass Today	Deacon Chris Blackman (Intentions)
Thursday, 11 th January	6.00 pm Reception of Sean Jennings (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Felix Saulong
Friday, 12 th January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Aelred of Rievaulx, Abbot</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am Requiem Mass 1.00 pm Baptism 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sean Jennings Freya Maria Venete Kathleen Mullagh (Intentions)
Saturday, 13 th January <i>Op. Mem. of St. Hilary, Bishop</i>	5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Anita Allen
Sunday, 14 th January <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Peace Sunday</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass 2.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Lucas Da Silva Harry Thomson Oliver Philip Christopher Dell The People of the Parish
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 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
Agnes	Robin and Asha	This Weekend	Fallon	Nalini
Henry	Sandra and Mabel	Next Weekend	Bernie D	Ellie and Ella

Today we celebrate the (transferred) Solemnity of the Epiphany. Tomorrow, 8th January, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, after which Christmastide ends.

From Tuesday we return to “Ordinary Time” in the Church’s Year.

Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle B, and Weekday readings are from Year II.

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.

It is good that people feel welcome when they come to church, but the noise levels in the church before Mass have been increasing recently as people chat to one another, which is distracting for people who are trying to say their prayers and prepare for Mass.

Please remember: before Mass we talk to God; during Mass God talks to us; after Mass we talk to one another.

Prayer Before Mass

God our Father, you sent Jesus, our High Priest, to redeem us and you willed that His saving work should continue through the ministry of priests. Enlighten us to celebrate this Sunday Mass with our priest, so that, empowered by the Word of life and the Eucharist, we may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live to the full our Christian calling. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Please pray for Sean Jennings, Anita Allen, Sean Scanlon, Madeleine Watson and Michael Knibbs who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frs. Philip Smith, John P. Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley, Charles Becker, Philip Wyles, Patrick Farrelly, Patrick McSwiney and Patrick Joyce, Deacons Joseph Patterson and William Murphy, and also Suzanne White, John Cromey, Albina Carolina (Albina) Rossetto-Riem, Brian McCurry, Winnie Gildea, Barbara Maria Harrold, Veronica Khan, James O'Brien and Colleen Surman. 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 Bernadette and John Edwards (Intentions).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for John and Kathleen Pill (Intentions).

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Helen Towey.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Brenda O'Meara.

St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Our Lady's School.

The flowers in the church this week are sponsored in memory of John Cromey.

Christmas Crib Offerings. Today is the last chance if you want to make a donation. 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. We 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).

Next Sunday is the **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.** It is also designated as **Peace Sunday,** a day to pray for world peace. The theme of World Peace Day this year is: 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace', that AI should be used in the service of humanity and not to further injustice and inequality.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The traditional time for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18th-25th January, the days between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul.

Christmas Decorations. The time has come once again to take down our Christmas decorations and put them into storage for another year. Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the tree with angels carrying your prayers. It helped us to appreciate the coming of Jesus. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make the church so beautiful and prayerful this Christmas.

First Holy Communion Preparation. Children aged 8 or older are invited to start preparing to receive Holy Communion on Saturday, 25th May.

- Preparation classes will be in the Don Bosco Centre (the parish hall) on Thursday afternoons, at 3.30 pm, starting on Thursday, 1st February.
- There will be a meeting for parents on Thursday, 25th January, at 3.30 pm, with the Mass of Enrolment on Saturday, 3rd February at 5.30 pm, or on Sunday, 4th February at 11.00 am.

Parents, if you haven't done so already, please register your children's names with me by Sunday, 14th January, either with one of the application forms 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)

Tailpiece: Two men went to the church to pray; one of them was wealthy, the other was poor. The poor man beat his breast and cried aloud, "Lord, be merciful to me for I am a poor man and I am in great need." Whereupon the rich man asked him how much he needed. "£500 would get me out of my immediate difficulties," he replied. Without hesitation the rich man took out his chequebook and wrote him a cheque for £500. Then, turning to the altar, he prayed, "Now, Lord, do you think I could have your undivided attention?"

Thank you again for your very generous Christmas offerings and for the gifts and cards that I received. I hope your Christmas was as good as mine. May God bless you all in 2024.

Fr. Harry