



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

21<sup>st</sup> January, 2024

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, 21 <sup>st</sup> January <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Sunday of the Word of God Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	<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)	Sean Jennings  Ena Maguire Newton & Clara (Wedding Anniv.) The People of the Parish
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January Op. Mem. of St. Vincent, Deacon Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Bernadette Gavin (Anniversary)
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January Memorial of Blessed Laura Vicuna Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Mary Lillis (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> January Memorial of St. Francis de Sales Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	(11.30 am Requiem Mass in Bicester)	Michael Knibbs
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> January Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Bernie Gavin and Mary Lillis
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> January Memorial of St. Timothy & St. Titus	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Winnie Gildea
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> January Op. Mem. of Bl. Edward Oldcorne, or of St. Angela Merici <b>Holocaust Memorial Day</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>12.00 noon Marriage Service</b>  <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	Special Intention Harry Kong Sen Yau & Alexandra Wong Ying Pei In Thanksgiving
Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Racial Justice Sunday	<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)	Cecilia Michael Carla Maria Da Costa The People of the Parish
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm (Confessions at Sacred Heart: Thursday, 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
Bernadette	Rachel and Anne-Marie	<b>This Weekend</b>	Naomi	John
Josie	Anne and Robin	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Ann	Sandra

**Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.**

Today is the “Sunday of the Word of God”. It is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time and it is a day when we reflect on the importance of the Bible in our faith.

During the Mass your Bibles will be blessed and our Readers will be commissioned or recommissioned for their ministry.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity Number: 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

*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.*

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

**Please pray for Mary Doyle, Anita Allen, Shean Scanlon, Madeleine Watson and Michael Knibbs** who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Peter Dao-Duc-Diem, Canons Garrett (Garry) Byrne, Bernard McKenna and Thomas Sylvester Copsey, Frs. Michael Walshe, George Jackson, John Tolkien, Joseph McKenna, David Lloyd, Charles Ross, John Garvey, Anthony Timlin and Vincent Joseph Royles, Deacon Michael Ainsworth, Sr. Helen Carey FMA, and also William (Bill) Barber, Marianna Slezak, George Sykes, Michael Grant, Mary Bridget Lillis and Bernadette Gavin. 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 Kathleen Mullagh (Intentions).**

**The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving.**

**Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Jackie and Alan and Family.**

**St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week in Thanksgiving.**

**St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Sr. Helen Carey (1st Anniversary).**

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is traditionally observed from 18<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> January. Resources are now available for the 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso. They have chosen the parable of the **Good Samaritan** as the theme for this Week.

**The Annual Novena** to St. John Bosco begins tomorrow (Monday), leading up to his feast day on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> January. Novena prayers are available in the porch. **On the feast of St. John Bosco** there will be Mass here at Our Lady's at 9.15 am, with refreshments in the Don Bosco Centre after Mass.

**Holocaust Memorial Day** is held on 27<sup>th</sup> January each year which marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives were changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The theme this year is **Frailty of Freedom**.

**Year of prayer.** There will be a talk and prayer, led by Canon Mervyn at Corpus Christi Church in Headington tomorrow, Monday, 7.00-8.00 pm. All welcome.

#### **First Holy Communion Preparation.**

- Preparation classes will be in the Don Bosco Centre (the parish hall) on Thursday afternoons, at 3.30 pm, starting on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- **There will be a meeting for parents this Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, at 3.30 pm**, with the Mass of Enrolment on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 5.30 pm, or on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00 am.
- The children will make their First Confession in March and receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**The Salesian Sisters at Elmthorpe Convent**, at the bottom of Hollow Way, would like to invite the Parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christians Church to a **'Come and Meet Us'** evening on **January 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm**

We will share a bit about ourselves, our community, work and prayer life as well as show a short video on the vision of St. John Bosco, our founder, on our call to serve the young in the Church. Please do come along. This time we can only invite adults, we hope to offer an opportunity to meet our younger members later in the year. RSVP by word of mouth or phone please on 01865 788160 so we know how many to cater for!

**CAFOD School Volunteers needed.** Do you enjoy working with children and young people? Could you help to inspire and empower children and young people in your local Catholic schools by delivering an assembly or a workshop? Do consider the role of CAFOD school volunteer. For more information contact Debbie Purfield [dpurfield@cafod.org.uk](mailto:dpurfield@cafod.org.uk) or call 07786 114 390

**Next Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday.** The theme this year is: *"Seeing one another in the life of the Church"*. It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. There will be a second collect at Masses next weekend for Racial Justice.

**Tailpiece:** A child was intrigued to see people receiving Holy Communion when he went to Mass, and he asked his parents what it was about. "It's Jesus' Last Supper," he was told. He thought about it for a while and then said, "Boy, they didn't give Him much, did they!"

**May God bless you and all those who are dear to you.**

**Fr. Harry**

