



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

28th 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, 28 th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Racial Justice Sunday	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)	In Thanksgiving Cecilia Michael Carla Maria Da Costa The People of the Parish
Monday, 29 th January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Private Intention (Bintaldays)
Tuesday, 30 th January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	In Thanksgiving to Nossa Senhora
Wednesday, 31 st January Memorial of St. John Bosco	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Antonio Pereira
Thursday, 1 st February	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Doyle
Friday, 2 nd February Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) World Day for Consecrated Life	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (12.00 noon Mass at Sacred Heart) 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Anita Allen Robin McDonald
Saturday, 3 rd February Op. Memorial of St. Blaise or of St. Ansgar or of St. Werburg	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Hermenegildo do Rego Azad Joshi (Birthday)
Sunday, 4 th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass (1.00 pm Baptism at Sacred Heart) 2.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Rosemary Birmingham Kath Kavanagh (Anniversary) Theo Hussain Elijah Clement The People of the Parish
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
Josie	Anne and Robin	This Weekend	Ann	Sandra
Jackie	Asha and Sandra	Next Weekend	Fallon	Maria and Fletcher

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), this Friday, 2nd February. Mass at Our Lady's will be at 7.00 pm and at Sacred Heart at 12.00 noon. We shall start at the back of the church with the blessing of candles and process to the altar.

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. Michael Williams, Canons Giles Goward and Kevin James Good, Frs. Charles Smith, Mortimer Loftus, John Berry, David Patrick Joseph Condron, Denis Clancy and Joseph Connelly, and also Joseph Hughes, Iris Morton, Thomas (Tom) Penders, Anna (Anne) Barlow, Wayne St Clair, Patrick Tuttle, Sheila Evans and Christopher Graham. 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 Michael Knibbs RIP.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Rachel Kamiru and Family.
St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for the Salesian Family.**



Wednesday this week is the feast of St. John Bosco. Happy Feast Day to all members of the Salesian Family. We shall have Mass at Our Lady's at 9.15 am, and the children from Our Lady's school will join us. There will be refreshments available in the hall after Mass.

The Salesian Sisters would like to thank all those who came to their 'Meet the Sisters' evening. We really enjoyed your company and hope to repeat the opportunity for those who missed it this time later on in the year. Happy feast of St John Bosco, our founder. Please pray for us and for vocations to our Congregation.

Year of prayer. We had a very good introduction to our talks during the Year of Prayer from Canon Mervyn at Corpus Christi last Monday. The next talk will be HERE on Monday, 5th February, 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 this Thursday, 1st February.
- Next weekend the children will be enrolled during the Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

Today 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 this weekend for Racial Justice.

Oxford Pro-Life Rosary Witness: On Saturday 3rd February (on Our Lady's first Saturday of the Month) all pro-lifers are warmly invited to recite the Rosary for the end of abortion and in defence of life. Meet outside the Clarendon building at 48 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ at 12.00 noon. For more information contact Honor Roberts at honorroberts@hotmail.com

Cake Sale. After Masses next weekend there will be a cake sale in the Don Bosco Centre, courtesy of the Salesian Cooperators, to raise funds for the missionary work of the Salesian Sisters.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for February: The terminally ill.

Please note: For the comfort of parents with little children, livestreaming is now available on the screen in the hall during Mass on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. Parents are encouraged to use the facility if children become restless.

First Friday. This Friday is the First of the month. The Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said before Mass.

Old Palm Crosses. If you have any old palm crosses at home that you don't want, please bring them to church to be burned for the Ash Wednesday services.

Floor appeal. Thank you to every one of you. You have been so generous in support of our appeal. We set a target of £15,000, based on the original estimates that were given to us, and you will be glad to know that the work actually came in slightly under budget. The fund will officially close at the start of Lent – 14th February – so if you still wish to make a donation specifically for this project you have just two more weeks.

The Sacrament of Confirmation. Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be coming to Our Lady's on Saturday 27th April to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 5.30 pm Mass. If you wish to receive this Sacrament, please fill in an application form found at the back of church and give it to me, or apply on-line at www.olhoccowley.co.uk/sacraments/confirmation.

Lessons will be in the parish hall on Monday afternoons, at 3.30 pm, starting on Monday, 4th March.

Lent 2024 begins on 14th February - only just over two weeks away!

1. **Prayer petitions.** Please write out any petition that you would like the rest of us to pray for and post it up on the wall at the front of the church.
2. **My Day By Day** and the **Walk With Me Booklets** will be available to help your journey through Lent.
3. **Stations of the Cross.** We shall meditate on the Stations together after Mass each Friday, 7.30 pm.
4. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection,** I have plans for a parish day with a talk, prayer and Mass. It will include a Penance Service with time for Confession. More information to follow.

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