



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th February, 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

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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, 4 th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	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 (1.00 pm Baptism at Sacred Heart) 2.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Azad Joshi (Birthday) Rosemary Birmingham Kath Kavanagh (Anniversary) Theo Hussain Elijah Clement The People of the Parish
Monday, 5 th February Memorial of St. Agatha, Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Dolores Connolly (Anniversary)
Tuesday, 6 th February Mem. of St. Paul Miki & Comps.	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Thanksgiving, Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday, 7 th February	No Public Mass Today (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Charles (Anniversary)
Thursday, 8 th February Op. Mem. of St. Josephine Bakhita Day of Prayer for the Victims of Human Trafficking		Mary Doyle
Friday, 9 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Special Intention (LP)
Saturday, 10 th February Memorial of St. Scholastica, Virgin	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Florrie Murphy Kathleen Mullagh (Intentions)
Sunday, 11 th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Day for the Unemployed World Day of Prayer for the Sick	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)	Briget Duncan & Roche Sebastian The People of the Parish John Flanagan
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
Jackie	Asha and Sandra	This Weekend	Fallon	Maria and Fletcher
Maureen	Mabel and Rachel	Next Weekend	Bernie	Sandra and Nalini

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

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, Madeleine Watson and Maria Styles who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishop Frederick William Keating, Mgr. John Heslin, Frs. Thomas O'Carroll, John Watkins, John Gibb and Matt Brady, and also Christopher Graham, Carlos Da Costa, Speranza Mirto, Kath Kavanagh, Philomena Surman, Dolores Connolly, Nora Esther (Noreen) Hayes, Norman Gurl, Maria Giduch and Luciano Giovanni Luigi Magnasco. 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 peace in the world.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Jenny Parker (Birthday).
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Eve Glover RIP.
St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for the Salesian Family.**

Year of prayer. The next Deanery talk about Prayer will be here at Our Lady's tomorrow evening, Monday, 5th February, 7.00-8.00 pm. All welcome.

Cake Sale. After Masses this 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.

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.

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. (We shall burn them after Mass next Sunday, weather permitting).

Alert!!! If you are planning a romantic evening on St Valentine's Day, please note that this year it falls on Ash Wednesday - a day of fasting and abstinence. Why not go for Shrove Tuesday instead?

Floor appeal. Thank you to every one of you for your generous support for our appeal. We set a target of £15,000, 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 a few more days.

Altar Servers. It is nice to welcome several new altar servers at Sunday Masses. It would be good to welcome more onto the team so that we can build up and develop over time. If you would like to join and take up an important ministry in our community - age and experience don't matter, as long as you have received your First Holy Communion - please come and see me.

Catenians are looking for Catholic men to join their Oxford Circle. They also have news of a Bursary Fund which makes awards to young Catholics aged between 16-24 who volunteer to work on development projects and as helpers on HCPT and Diocesan pilgrimages. See the poster at the back of church for more details.

40 Hours Of Eucharistic Adoration in Saint John Henry Newman's Chapel at The College in Littlemore from Friday, 9th February at 9:00 am, until Sunday, 11th February 9:00 pm. All are welcome.

Community Kitchen Surplus Curry. Volunteers are needed to help cook and serve a free curry on Thursdays at the Corner House pub on Hollow Way. For more information please contact the organiser, Dr. Saman Jamshidifard, at cadrsaman@gmail.com. You can find a BBC report about the project at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-67949269>

The Sacrament of Confirmation. We shall celebrate Confirmations at Our Lady's on Saturday 27th April. If you wish to receive this Sacrament, please fill in one of the forms at the back of church and give it to me, or go to www.olhoccowley.co.uk/sacraments/confirmation.

Lent 2024 begins on 14th February - only a week and a bit away! There will be a few ways you can take part:

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** each Friday, 7.30 pm.
4. **Parish Lent Day of Recollection.** More information to follow.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk. Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Walk, run, skip, or stroll, when and where you choose over 40 days, as a school or a parish group, alone or with friends. To sign up or for more info go to [The Big Lent Walk 2024 \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://TheBigLentWalk2024.cafod.org.uk)

Tailpiece (a religious in-joke): A Franciscan and a Jesuit were walking and they noticed that there was an echo. Thinking to play a prank on his companion, the Jesuit shouted out in Latin: "*Quod est Franciscanorum regula?*" ("What is the Rule of the Franciscans?"). And the echo replied: "...*gula, gula, gula.*" ("Gluttony, gluttony, gluttony."). In a heartbeat the Franciscan shouted out: "*Fuitne Judas Jesuita?*" ("Was Judas a Jesuit?"). And the echo replied: "...*ita, ita, ita.*" ("Yes, yes, yes.").

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

Fr. Harry