



Our Lady Help of Christians

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11th 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

The Presbytery, 59 Hollow Way, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 2ND.

Telephone: 01865 770 910 Email: olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

Website: www.olhoccowley.co.uk (a copy of this newsletter can be found on our website)

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, 11 th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Day for the Unemployed World Day of Prayer for the Sick	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)	Kathleen Mullagh (Intentions) Briget Duncan & Roche Sebastian The People of the Parish John Flanagan
Monday, 12 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Winnie da Souza
Tuesday, 13 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Merryl Jennings
Wednesday, 14 th February Ash Wednesday LENT BEGINS	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Doyle Felix Saulong (1 st Anniversary)
Thursday, 15 th February	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Comsetha Peter
Friday, 16 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	Sean Jennings
Saturday, 17 th February Op. Commemoration of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servants of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Dermot and Josephine McMahon Nora Allen (Intentions)
Sunday, 18 th February First Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments	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)	Special Intention Ellen Gaughan The People of the Parish

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

(Confessions at Sacred Heart: 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
Maureen	Mabel and Rachel	This Weekend	Bernie	Sandra and Nalini
Vitalija	Anne-Marie and Anne	Next Weekend	Naomi	Udeme and Nalini

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

Lent starts this Wednesday! Mass at Our Lady's will be at 9.15 am and 7.00 pm at Sacred Heart. Ashes will be distributed as a mark of sorrow for our sins and a reminder of our mortality.

It is a day of fasting and abstinence when we should abstain from meat and those between 18-60 should also fast, taking only one meal and two lighter snacks.

During Lent we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "Alleluia!" There are no flowers decorating the altar or the lectern, and the statues in the church will be veiled from the fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.



*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: Mgr. Joseph Vincent Healey, Mgr. Canon Peter W. Lawler, Frs. John Paul O'Sullivan, William Connick, James McGloin, Charles Joseph O'Reilly, and William Conefrey, and also Billy Flynn, Nancy McGrath, Bridie Willoughby, Francis (Tom) Billington, Elisa Faria and Reece Knott. 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 the Unemployed.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for the Sick.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Bob Hinchon (Birthday).

St. John Bosco's Candle is burning this week for our community in Lent.

Parish Safeguarding Officer. After serving for several years as our excellent Parish Safeguarding Officer Liz Moran has asked if she could step down. A very big Thank You to her for all that she has done. It means we need a new Officer. Could YOU do it? It is an important task, and training will be provided. Please speak to me for more details if you are interested.

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 their children become restless.

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. We have raised a little over £10,000 – a remarkable effort. 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. If you would like to join our team of altar servers and take up an important ministry in our community please come and see me – age doesn't matter, if you have received your First Holy Communion.

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.

Lenten Spiritual Concert at the Oxford Oratory. The CRUCIFIXION by Sir John Stainer, with the Oratory Choir and award-winning soloists Sebastian Hill (Tenor) and Florian Störtz (bass). Friday 23rd February, 7.30 pm. Tickets £15 (students £5). Book online at [John Stainer – The Crucifixion Tickets, Fri 23 Feb 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

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. If you wish to receive this Sacrament in April, 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

- **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.
- **My Day By Day Booklets** are available at the back of church (£1.00). The **Walk With Me** booklets are on your seats. Please take a copy.
- **Stations of the Cross** each Friday, at 7.30 pm.
- **Parish Lent Day of Recollection.** More information to follow.
- **Mass on Monday mornings at 7.00 am**, followed by breakfast.

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://The Big Lent Walk 2024 (cafod.org.uk))

Tailpiece: An elderly man was coming to the end of his days and the priest and doctor had gathered at his bedside. After a while the priest said, "I think he's gone." The doctor agreed, but then the old boy opened his eyes, sat up and said, "No, I'm still alive." His wife patted him on the hand and said, "Now, now, Dear. Lie down. Father and Doctor know best."

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

Fr. Harry