



Our Lady Help of Christians

First Sunday of Lent

18th 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.

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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, 18 th February First Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments	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)	Nora Allen (Intentions) Cecilia Michael Ellen Gaughan The People of the Parish
Monday, 19 th February	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass in Our Lady's School	Lourenco Viani Garry Heaney
Tuesday, 20 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Claudino Serra Vaz (Get Well)
Wednesday, 21 st February Op. Comm. of St. Peter Damian	No Public Mass Today	Helen Towey and Winnie Gildea
Thursday, 22 nd February Feast of the Chair of St. Peter	(10.30 am Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart) (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Doyle Nossa Senhora de Fatima
Friday, 23 rd February Op. Comm. of St. Polycarp, Martyr CAFOD Lent Fast Day	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	Clara (Birthday)
Saturday, 24 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Henriqueta Capeola Lui & Family The People of the Parish
Sunday, 25 th February Second 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)	Lucia Josephat In Thanksgiving Clare & Robert Curtis
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
Vitalija Nora	Anne-Marie and Anne Robin and Asha	This Weekend Next Weekend	Naomi Ann	Udeme and Nalini Ella and Ellie

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

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.

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>

*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: Claudino Serra Vaz, 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, Brigida da Costa Vong and Lourenco Viana who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons William Roughan and Sean McTernan, Frs. Joseph McEvilly, Timothy Healy, Terence McDonnell, Francis Jordan, Alexander McGavin, Francis Coyle, Sean Farrell, Michael McCabe, Martin Meagher, John Collins and Oliver Kemp, Deacon Hugh Robinson, and also Margaret (Peggy) Stone, David Barnes, Paddy Griffin, José Ribeiro, Dermot McMahon, Jack McGrath, John (Joseph) Quigley, and Francesca Iwanczak. May they rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Dermot McMahon (Anniversary).

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. The appeal has now closed, but thanks to some very generous last-minute donations, the final amount raised was £11,404.

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](#)

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).
- **Stations of the Cross** each Friday, at 7.30 pm, following the evening Mass.
- **Parish Lent Day of Recollection.** More information to follow.
- **Mass on Monday mornings at 7.00 am**, followed by breakfast. Start the working week with our Lord.

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))

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal. Next Friday is the CAFOD Family Fast Day when we are asked to save some money from our food bills and put it in the second collection next Sunday. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please use the envelopes provided, or



Year of prayer. Thank you to everyone who came to the talk here a couple of weeks ago. The next talk and prayer will be led by Fr. Nicholas Edmonds Smith C.O. at the Oxford Oratory Parish Centre this coming Saturday, 24th February, at 11.00 am. All welcome.

Tailpiece: From a Parish Magazine:
“We would like to express our thanks to Mrs Hill for acting as the subject during the Wolf Cubs' recent Class in First Aid, and we are pleased to report that she is now out of hospital.”

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

Fr. Harry