



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday of Lent

25th 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, 25 th February Second 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)	The People of the Parish Lucia Josephat In Thanksgiving Martinho Amaral
Monday, 26 th February	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 7.00 pm Mass	Special Intention Private Intention
Tuesday, 27 th February Op. Comm. of St. Gregory of Narek	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	MaryAnne
Wednesday, 28 th February Op. Comm. of St. Oswald, Bishop	No Public Mass Today	Clare & Robert Curtis
Thursday, 29 th February	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Paul Simmons
Friday, 1 st March Feast of St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales Women's World Day of Prayer	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	George Rhodes (Anniversary)
Saturday, 2 nd March Feast of St. Chad, Bishop, Patron of the Archdiocese	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Thomas Gaughan Special Intention (LP)
Sunday, 3 rd March Third 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)	Joe Durkin The People of the Parish Martinho Amaral
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
Nora	Robin and Asha	This Weekend	Ann	Ella and Ellie
Zoja	Sandra and Mabel	Next Weekend	Ann	Udeme

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.

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.

Statement

A situation has developed in our parish which is very troubling, and I want to address it, not simply as a member of the community, but as the shepherd of this flock, *in Persona Christi*. If you are not aware to what I am referring I am glad.

The original cause involved a very small number of people, but the effects have spread out to a wider circle of friends.

In a few weeks' time we shall be celebrating the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the time to recognise our unity in Christ around the altar. How can we do that if we are divided by such anger and hatred? Anger and hatred are foul things, and they can destroy a community in the same way that a cancer can destroy a body. I ask each of you to examine your conscience, to look into your heart, and if you find bitterness there to ask the Lord to heal it. Please, let there be no more gossip or hateful feelings of any sort.

It is through struggle that we grow – that is the meaning of Lent. May God bless us all with strength to overcome all evil, that this Lent may be such a time of growth.

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>

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, and Pat Mazonowicz.

Please pray for Mary Doyle, Anne Dewdney, Anne McCarthy and Michael Carroll who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishops Joseph Francis Cleary and Kevin Dunn, Frs. George Brewster, George Henry Tarrant, John Flynn and William Diver, and also Eddie Kelly, Joseph Roddy, John Gerard Flanagan, George Simpson, Bridget Salter, Mary Benadel and Baby Sidney Francis Hunt. May they rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Gabriel (Special Intention).

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

On Monday evening we welcome the Deacons of Southern part of the Diocese for Mass with Canon Paul Fitzpatrick. Everyone is welcome to come to the Mass.

The Sacrament of Confirmation. Next weekend we shall have a short service during Mass to enrol the candidates for Confirmation this year. Next Sunday is the last chance to register, so 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.

Lessons will start on Monday, 4th March, in the Don Bosco Centre, at 3.30 pm.

Parish Lent Day of Recollection. Saturday, 16th March, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm at Boars Hill Carmelite Convent. £10 per person, and bring your own lunch. There will be Mass, a reflection, and a chance for quiet prayer. Please sign the sheet in the porch if you would like to take part.

Cake Sale. After Masses next weekend there will be a cake sale in the Don Bosco Centre, courtesy of the Salesian Cooperators. **Salesian Cooperators' Meeting** this Thursday, 29th February, 2.30 pm at Elmthorpe Convent. There will be a talk by Sr. Breda and Sr. Pat. All are welcome. For more information, contact Chris Baker 01865 770 102.

Mass on Monday mornings at 7.00 am, followed by breakfast. Start the working week with our Lord.

First Friday. This Friday is the First of the month. We shall pray the Prayers to the Sacred Heart before Mass.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal. You will be able to put whatever you saved by fasting last Friday into the second collection at Masses this weekend. Please use the envelopes provided, or give online at cafod.org.uk

Pope's Prayer Intention for March: For the new Martyrs. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

Oxford Pro-Life Rosary Witness Saturday 2nd March (Our Lady's first Saturday of the Month) all pro-lifers are invited to recite the Rosary for the end of abortion and in defence of life. Meet outside the Clarendon building, 48 Broad Street, OX1 3AZ at 12.00 noon. For more info contact Honor at honorroberts@hotmail.com

Tailpiece: An old legend tells us that when God was creating the world the angels were in awe and they asked Him if they could give it a try. God agreed, so the animal-creation committee set to work and designed the platypus – a creature with the bill of a duck, the fur of a dog, the tail of a beaver, and the feet of a frog. ... Since that day there have been no committees in heaven.

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