



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday of Lent

3rd March, 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, 3 rd March Third 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)	Special Intention (LP) Joe Durkin The People of the Parish Martinho Amaral
Monday, 4 th March Op. Commemoration of St. Casimir	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Pat O'Connell
Tuesday, 5 th March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Bernadette & John Edwards (Ints)
Wednesday, 6 th March	No Public Mass Today	Special Intentions (Exams)
Thursday, 7 th March Op. Comm. of Ss. Perpetua & Felicity	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Doyle
Friday, 8 th March Op. Comm. of St. John of God	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	Madeline Dandridge
Saturday, 9 th March Op. Comm. of St. Frances of Rome	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Mary Doyle Ruth Joshi (Birthday)
Sunday, 10 th March Fourth 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)	Dominic Durkin The People of the Parish Ansel Netto
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
Zoja	Sandra and Mabel	This Weekend	Ann	Udeme
Agnes	Rachel and Anne-Marie	Next Weekend	Fallon	Fletcher and Maria

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.

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 and Inna.

Please pray for Pat Mazonowicz, Lisa O'Brien, Anne Dewdney, Anne McCarthy and Madeline Dandridge who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canons Peter Taylor, Anthony Allport, Frs. Douglas Carter, John Pinkman, Robert Wright, Terence Luxon and Francis Johnson, Deacons James Rowe and Philip Prince, and also Baby Sidney Francis Hunt, Elizabeth Perry, Basil (Les) Winter, Catherine (Kathleen) Quirke and Stephen (Steve) Fontaine. May they rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for those preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation.

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.

The Sacrament of Confirmation. At Masses this weekend we shall have a short service to enrol the candidates for Confirmation. Lessons start this 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, talks, and a chance for quiet prayer. Please sign the sheet in the porch if you would like to take part.

Maintenance of St. Chad's Cathedral. There will be a second collection at Masses today for St. Chad's in Birmingham, the mother church of our Diocese.

Easter Duties. All Catholics who have made their First Holy Communion should receive the Holy Eucharist sometime between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter Communion.

Wanted: Minutes Secretary. The St Francis de Sales Charitable Trust, dedicated to financially supporting pro-life and Catholic causes, seeks a voluntary Minutes Secretary to start asap. Would suit someone seeking a flexible hybrid/remote role to fit around their schedule. Commitment: ~ 3 hours work per 6 weeks. For more info: <https://prolifecommunityoxford.org.uk/sfds/>

Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land. Cardinal Vincent Nichols writes: "I ask that on Friday, 8th March, there is a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land. This could take the form of a dedicated time of prayer, perhaps before the Blessed Sacrament, for peace in the Holy Land." This will be the focus at our Holy Hour.

National Novena to St. Joseph, 10-18 March. Join St. Joseph's Missionary Society (Mill Hill Missionaries). You are invited to send in your petitions to the Mill Hill Missionaries. Novena Masses will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Maidenhead, at 10.00 am weekdays and Saturday (16th), and 11.00 am Sunday (10th & 17th). Evening Prayer will be held at the Mill Hill Community Chapel at 6.00 pm daily during the Novena. These will be on Zoom, www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

Cake Sale. After Masses this weekend the Salesian Cooperators will be selling cakes to raise funds for the missionary work of the Salesian Sisters.

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes will be put out for collection next weekend. If you no longer need them or if your circumstances have changed (e.g. you no longer pay income tax or you have changed your address) please let Geraldine, the Parish Secretary, know (olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk).

We do need more people to be involved in the Gift Aid scheme, please. If you don't already gift aid your donations to Our Lady's could we ask you to consider doing so, please?

- To gift aid your donation you will need to complete a gift aid declaration form. This is a simple form (name, address, and signature) that gives us permission to reclaim tax that you have paid from the Inland Revenue.
- There is no cost to you to gift aid your donations.
- To be eligible to gift aid you must be a UK tax payer.
- For every £1.00 you donate we can claim back 25p.
- You need to have paid enough tax to cover what we will claim back. For example, if you donate £10.00 to Our Lady's we can claim back £2.50. So, you will have needed to pay a least £2.50 in tax.
- You can donate using weekly envelopes or by standing order.
- This doesn't commit you to giving a regular amount every week. You can give a set amount on a regular basis or be flexible in what you give and when.
- You can leave the scheme at any time.

If you would like to sign up for gift aid, please see Fr. Harry or contact Geraldine in the parish office by email or phone for further information. Thank you.

Tailpiece: A priest was preaching a powerful sermon about Death and Judgement and he had just said, "To think that all of you living in this parish will one day die and face judgement", when he was interrupted by a man who starting laughing. The priest said sternly, "My good man, why do you find such a subject so funny?" The man replied, with tears of joy rolling down his face, "I don't live in this parish!"

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