



Our Lady Help of Christians

Fifth Sunday of Lent

17th 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, 17 th March Fifth Sunday of Lent Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments Dementia Prayer Week	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass 3.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Carlota Maria da Costa Private Intention Methodear Method Kathleen Davey Beatrice Awe The People of the Parish
Monday, 18 th March Op. Comm. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Dementia Prayer Week	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Nalini (Silver Anniversary)
Tuesday, 19 th March Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary Dementia Prayer Week	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Eddie Wager
Wednesday, 20 th March	No Public Mass Today	Felix Saulong
Thursday, 21 st March	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mary Doyle
Friday, 22 nd March	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	Michael Jennings (50 th Anniv.)
Saturday, 23 rd March Op. Comm. of St. Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Sarah McVeigh The People of the Parish
Sunday, 24 th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Day of Prayer for Candidates for the Sacraments	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 8.45 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Cecilia Michael Sr. Mary (Birthday) Special Intention
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
Henry	Anne and Robin	This Weekend	Fallon	Ellie and Ella
Bernadette	Asha and Sandra	Next Weekend	Fallon	Nalini

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

The statues in the church. Before the liturgical reforms of the 1960s, the 5th Sunday of Lent was known as Passion Sunday because one of the Gospel accounts of the Passion of Our Lord would be read. To mark that, the statues in the church will be veiled from today until Holy Saturday. The signs of the saints in glory are removed from our sight so that we can concentrate on entering with Jesus into His Passion and death.

*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: Keelin Trahearne, Claudino Serra Vaz, Claire French, John Pill, Aveen Kavanagh, Iris O'Brien, Doreen Cox, Betty Duff, Beatrice Upham, Thomas Gaughan, Jean Carpenter, Cheryl Jones and Inna.

Please pray for Pat Mazonowicz, Lisa O'Brien, Anne Dewdney, Amelia Frances Roach, Anne McCarthy, Margaret Stevens and Madeline Dandridge who died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishops Bernard Ullathorne OSB and Francis Joseph Grimshaw, Frs. William Madden, Andrew Brennan and Laurence Crowe, Deacons Thomas Ashcroft and John Higgins, and also Martin Conroy, Joseph Ahern and Regina Mihailova. May they rest in peace.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Paul and Sandi (Intentions).

Dementia Prayer Week, 12-19th March. Please pray for those suffering with dementia, and those who care for them. Prayers, short videos, printable materials, and other resources can be found at [Dementia Prayer Week | RP Books](#)

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the Don Bosco Centre. 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).

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



The Kenelm Youth Trust will be travelling to Lourdes on the annual Diocesan pilgrimage. Over 16's have the opportunity to travel to Lourdes with the trust to serve in the Accueil and take part in all aspects of the pilgrimage. Any young people who are interested can find all the information they need at: <https://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/lourdes.html> or email Libby - libby.cox@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, which marks the start of Holy Week – the most important week in the Church's year. We shall begin at the entrance to the church with the blessing of palms, and we shall then process to the altar.

Easter Triduum. There is a list on the table at the back of church inviting people to sign up for various roles at the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday – welcoming, having feet washed, watching at the altar of repose. There is plenty for everyone so please don't be shy.

The Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday, 27th March, 11.30 am in St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation. Because 25th March this year falls in Holy Week, the Annunciation will be deferred and will be celebrated after Easter.

Easter Flowers. There will be a retiring collection next Sunday towards the cost of the flowers that will adorn our church for the coming celebration of Easter. If you would like to sponsor the flowers any Sunday of the year, perhaps in memory of someone, please speak to me.

Easter Cards. I hope you like the cards. Please take one away with you and one for your neighbour. Besides Easter greetings, it has all the times of the Holy Week Masses and Liturgies and I look forward to seeing you.

Salesian Cooperators' Meeting this Thursday, 21st March, 7.00 pm at Elmthorpe Convent. There will be a talk by Sr. Pat. All are welcome. For more information, contact Chris Baker on 01865 770 102.

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day appeal. Including a wonderful collection at Our Lady's School, our Parish raised an incredible £807.48. That's a lot of fasting!!!

Your generous donations given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families.

Tailpiece: A priest announced one Sunday that he was being moved to another part of the Diocese. He was quite touched after Mass to find an elderly man sitting at the back of the church with his head in his hands and his eyes full of tears. He tried to reassure him. "Don't get upset," he said, "there will soon be another priest here and I've no doubt he will be a lot better than me." "Oh no, he won't," said the old man. "The last priest said that when he left and it wasn't true."

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