



Our Lady Help of Christians

First Sunday of Advent

1st December, 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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Website: www.olhoccowley.co.uk (a copy of this newsletter can be found on our website)

This church live streams Mass and other events. Please see notice in church porch for more details.

Livestreaming: <https://www.mcn.live/Camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

Sunday, 1 st December First Sunday of Advent	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday 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 2.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Kate Maguire (50 th Anniversary) Private Intention John Cullen Antonio Gomes Goncalves Figueira Elina Eboseremen Okoeguale The People of the Parish
Monday, 2 nd December Advent Feria	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Ruth and Joel Da Cunha
Tuesday, 3 rd December Mem. of St. Francis Xavier, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Elvina Gonsalves (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 4 th December Op. Mem. of St. John Damascene,	No Public Mass Today	Kathleen Boyle
Thursday, 5 th December Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Joseph McGarry
Friday, 6 th December Op. Mem. of St. Nicholas, Bishop First Friday	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (11.30 Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart) 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Matthew Perks Paul Agapito Gama
Saturday, 7 th December Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 3.00 pm Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Private Intention Sean Og Jennings (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday, 8 th December Second Sunday of Advent	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 2.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Janice Modest & Christina Treavajo Kathleen Murphy (2 nd Anniversary) Adetomisola Diane Aladejana Thomas Duff

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

(Confessions at Sacred Heart: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm)

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Bernadette	Anne-Marie and Anne	This Weekend	Henry	Sandra and Doris
Josie	Asha and Sandra	Next Weekend	Naomi	Daniella and Ellie

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

Today we begin Advent and the Church's new year (Happy New Year!).

The Sunday Mass Lectionary Cycle is Year C.

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 people we know: Josie Griffiths, Keelin Trahearne, Claudino Serra Vaz, Claire French, Aveen Kavanagh, Doreen Cox, Betty Duff, Beatrice Upham, Thomas Gaughan, Jean Carpenter, Nicky Clarke, Terry Jackson, Cheryl Jones, Mary Cross, Sheila Cuddy, Rosa and Maria Fernandes, Sharon Hinchin, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davies and Inna.

Please pray for Matthew Perks, Winifred Rodney, Desmond Hopwood and Kathleen Boyle who died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishop Edward Ilesley, Frs. Liam MacFarlane, Horace Relph and Michael George Knight, and also Mrs Higgins, Cecelia (Sheila) Harris, Susan Keane, Ronald Rowles, Patrick (PJ) Finnerty, Sabina Hennigan, Elizabeth McGavigan, Sean Jennings and Kathleen Duffy. May they rest in peace.

**Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Kathleen Murphy (Anniversary).
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Margaret Griffin RIP (Birthday).**

Christmas Market, after Mass TODAY in the Don Bosco Centre.



This is the second of our seasonal fundraising events, and it sounds a great way to get some original, handmade Christmas decorations or presents for your family and friends.

There will be food, so come and enjoy some Christmas fare. Enter the raffle and you could win an amazing Christmas present for all the family.

THEN, the third event: Breakfast with Santa.

Yes, you heard it here first! On **Saturday, 14th December, 10.30 am** Santa will be visiting Our Lady's. Come to meet Santa and have breakfast with him (waffles, pancakes, hot chocolate and more). Participate in craft class. For 4 to 11 year olds. Cost £10.00.



All children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be tea, coffee, and waffles available for adults to buy.

Statement on 2nd Reading of Assisted Suicide Bill

Following the decision of MPs to vote in favour of the Bill last Friday, Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, said:

“We are disappointed that MPs have voted in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill progressing through parliament. We believe that this bill is flawed in principle and also contains particular clauses that are of concern. We ask the Catholic community to pray that members of parliament will have the wisdom to reject this bill at a later stage in its progress.”

The Advent Walk With Me booklet, with daily reflections for the Season, is now available. Free, or if you wish to make a donation, thank you. There are also copies of the **Advent Day by Day** booklets (£1) which have the readings used at Mass for each day of Advent.

Cake Sale. After Masses next weekend there will be a cake sale in the Don Bosco Centre, courtesy of the Salesian Cooperators, to raise funds for the work of the Salesian Sisters in Myanmar (Burma).

First Holy Communion Lessons. Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over and you wish them to receive their First Holy Communion next June, please register them with me, using the form at the back of church, or on-line at [Application for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation | Our Lady Help of Christians | Cowley | Oxford \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](http://Application for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation | Our Lady Help of Christians | Cowley | Oxford (olhoccowley.co.uk))

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses next weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Fund is to help those parishes where they have trouble in paying their day-to-day bills.

Missio Red Boxes. Thank you to everyone who brought in their Red Boxes and thank you for your generosity and support. Your empty box is ready to be collected from the back of the church.

Thank you.

Today we not only begin a new year in the life of the Church, but we also have new lectionaries.



During Mass today I shall bless them before we start the Liturgy of the Word. Thank you to all who have made such generous donations for them.

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.

Carol Singing Outreach in Cornmarket Street in Oxford City Centre on Saturday 14th December, 11.45 am to 2.00 pm. There will a practice on Sunday 8th December after the 11.00 am Mass at Blessed Dominic, Littlemore.

Tailpiece: Notices in church bulletins always benefit from proof-reading. Here are a couple of examples of oddities:

“The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.”

“Our youth basketball team is back in action on Wednesday at 8.00 pm in the school recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.”

Thank you for all your cards, presents and good wishes to me last week for my birthday. As always, I shall remember you all in my prayers. May God bless you and all those whom you love. Fr. Harry