



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday of Advent

8th 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

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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, 8 th December Second 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)	Sean Og Jennings (1 st Anniversary) Private Intention Janice Modest & Christina Treavajo Kathleen Murphy (2 nd Anniversary) Adetomisola Diane Aladejana Thomas Duff
Monday, 9 th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Albert Daniel The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 10 th December <i>Op. Mem. of St. Edmund Gennings, Martyr, or of Our Lady of Loreto</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass, followed by the Rosary	Lucy de Souza
Wednesday, 11 th December <i>Op. Mem. of St. Damasus I, Pope</i>	No Public Mass Today	Mary Barrett
Thursday, 12 th December <i>Op. Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention
Friday, 13 th December <i>Memorial of St. Lucy, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Domingas Pinto
Saturday, 14 th December <i>Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	McGarry and McVeigh Families In Thanksgiving
Sunday, 15 th December Third 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 (Baptism: Ivan Innocent) (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Sally McNally The People of the Parish Joao Paulo Liu Goncalves

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm

(Confessions at Sacred Heart: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; 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
Josie	Asha and Sandra	This Weekend	Naomi	Daniella and Ellie
Jackie	Mabel and Rachel	Next Weekend	Ann	Chinaza and Nalini

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

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.

Christmas Angels



As we prepare for Christmas we cannot avoid references to angels in the Scriptures: the Archangel Gabriel brings the news to Mary; he also advises Joseph; angels announce the news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. Angels are messengers. This Advent I invite you to decorate our Christmas tree by writing your prayer for Christmas – for yourself, your family and friends, for the poor, for peace, and so on - on one of the paper angels that have been specially made for us by the children at Our Lady's School, and hanging it on the tree. God's messengers can help us with our prayers to God. Our tree is not just a decoration: it is a focus for our hope and prayer this Advent and Christmas.

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 Fernandes, Sharon Hinchin, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davies, Inna.

Please pray for **Matthew Perks, Winifred Rodney, Desmond Hopwood, Kathleen Boyle, Mary Barrett, Pascal Kalasi**, who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon Francis Harold Drinkwater, Frs. Anthony Kane, George Rafferty, Thomas McMorro, Jerome O'Flynn, Hugh Molloy, Vincent Lucas, William Browne, John Ellis, Cyril Barlow, Joseph Rowland and Denis Ryan, Sr. Eileen McGarry FMA, and also Elizabeth McGavigan, Sean Og Jennings, Joseph Patrick Cahill, Joan Kelly and Lucy Lynch. May they rest in peace.

**Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for our Parish.
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for the Sick and Homeless.**

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses this weekend for the Poor Parishes of the Diocese.

Christmas Market. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with our Parish Christmas Market last weekend, and especially to Vitalija whose idea and drive brought it about. It raised a magnificent £931.10 for parish funds. Thank you to everyone who supported it.

**THEN, the third in our seasonal fundraising events:
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 to buy.



Welcome. This weekend we welcome members of the Friends of the Holy Land. Our Crib Offerings this year will go to supporting FHL, and I have invited them to tell us how they help our Christian brothers and sisters there.

Cake Sale. After Masses this weekend there will be a cake and Christmas Crafts 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 \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](#). Preparation lessons will start in early February. The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Saturday, 21st June, at 11.00 am.

Christmas Masses. Fr. Martin Flatman will be here to celebrate the Crib Service, (5.00 pm) followed by the First Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve. I shall be here for the Carols and Readings (11.30 pm) and the Midnight Mass (at midnight!), and for Mass on Christmas Day at 11.00 am

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.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, tomorrow, Monday, 9th December. There will be Mass in Our Lady's School at 9.15 am and everyone is invited.



Commemorative Sanctuary Candles.

For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at Christmas and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Joseph or St. John Bosco, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or even a Christmas present?

Christmas Cards. I hope you like our parish Christmas cards. If you haven't found one on your seat, please take one from the porch for you and/or your neighbours.

Carol Service. Greyfriars School Choir will be joined by Our Lady's School here at Our Lady's on Thursday, 19th December for a Carol Service. All welcome.

Tailpiece: I was very amused to overhear a mother saying in a slightly stunned voice to her very young son as they walked along, "You want to tidy your room when you get home? That's a very good boy". I couldn't help thinking there was a lad who wants to get into Santa's good books.

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry