



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday of Advent

15th 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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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, 15 th December Third 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 (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	In Thanksgiving Private Intention Sally McNally The People of the Parish Joao Paulo Liu Goncalves
Monday, 16 th December	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Private Intention
Tuesday, 17 th December	No Public Mass Today	Josephine Mary Whiston
Wednesday, 18 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.30 am Requiem Mass	Winifred Rodney
Thursday, 19 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 1.30 pm Carol Service (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Michael and Ellen White (Ints)
Friday, 20 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.30 am Marriage Service 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Melissa and Robin Mary and Patrick Bailey
Saturday, 21 st December Commemoration of St. Peter Canisius, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Gerard Murphy The People of the Parish
Sunday, 22 nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	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 (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Cecilia Michael Danny Lyons (Birthday) Armandina F. Conceda & Coltilda Montalcar
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
Jackie	Mabel and Rachel	This Weekend	Ann	Chinaza and Nalini
Maureen	Anne-Marie and Anne	Next Weekend	Fallon	Fletcher and Maria

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for Mass today.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. In Latin, the word Gaudete means “rejoice”. St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians tells us why we should rejoice: “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! The Lord is at hand!”

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 Winifred Rodney, Desmond Hopwood, Mary Barrett, Billy Gardner, who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. Michael McKiernan, Peter Kavanagh, Fergus O'Connell, John Dewis, Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara and Edmund Motherway, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, Sr. Veronica Lindsay FMA, and also Bernie O'Neill, Winifred McGrath, Robert Mervyn Gleeson, Keith Baker, Myles Quirke, Sean McMahan, Kevin McGrath, Patricia (Pat) Rothery, Mary Quigley and Sarah Craig. May they rest in peace.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Kathleen Murphy.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week in Memory of Robyn.
St Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Magdalene (Intentions).**

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, 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)). Preparation lessons will start in early February. The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on Saturday, 21st June, at 11.00 am.

Crib Offerings. Some people, when they stop to say a prayer at the Crib, like to make an offering (you don't have to). We shall be donating any crib offerings this year to Friends of the Holy Land to help the poorest Christian families, especially in Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing.

Christmas Cards. If you missed collecting a card last week, please take one from the porch for yourself and/or for your neighbours.

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

Red Boxes. If you have not already done so, please collect your emptied box from the back of the church.

Oxford's New Cardinal. It is not every Deanery in the country that can boast of having a Cardinal, but we can! Congratulations to Fr. Timothy Radcliffe of Blackfriars who received his "Red Hat" from the Pope last Sunday.

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.



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?

Carol Service, this Thursday at 1.30 pm. We shall be joined here at Our Lady's church by the choir from Greyfriars School, the KS2 children and staff from Our Lady's School and the Salesian Cooperators. All welcome.

FLAME 2025.

Fan The Flame Of Hope, Saturday, 15th March

Flame is a Catholic Congress (for those 14 and over) held in London at the Wembley Arena. The event will consist of a concert with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer and adoration. Catholics from all over the country head to Flame every year. Flame Passes (exclusive of travel) - £31pp. Let me know if you are interested. There are limited spaces so do it quickly.

Year Of Jubilee: Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It will run from Tuesday, 24th December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany 2026.

Tailpiece: A visitor to a church was intrigued when he saw a verse from the Bible (1 Corinthians 15:51) on one of the doors: "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." It all became clear when the visitor realised that it was the door to the nursery.

**May God bless you and all those whom you love.
Fr. Harry**