



Our Lady Help of Christians

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

5th January, 2025

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, 5 th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	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)	Martin McDonagh Private Intention Tusin Tchung Vila-Nova & Cancio Da Costa Winnie Gildea, Helen Towey & Ann Sinclair (Anniversary) Lucia F. Espritu Santo & Firmino Soares
Monday, 6 th January Christmas Feria	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	The People of the Parish
Tuesday, 7 th January Op. Mem. of St. Raymond of Penyafort	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Eileen Joyce (Intentions)
Wednesday, 8 th January Christmas Feria	No Public Mass Today	Josie McCrave (Intentions)
Thursday, 9 th January Christmas Feria	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Bill Gardner and Larry Gardner
Friday, 10 th January Christmas Feria	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Special Intention
Saturday, 11 th January Christmas Feria	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 1.00 pm Baptism 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Fernando Neves Liu, Lucia P. Lobato, Margarida Turquel, Pedro Goncalves Jude Neale Andrew and Ellen Gaughan
Sunday, 12 th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	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 Jim McCann The People of the Parish Oliver Gonzales Amancio Soares and Teresa Cortendal
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
Nora	Mabel and Jane	This Weekend	Henry	Cecilia and Sandra
Zoja	Anne-Marie and Anne	Next Weekend	Naomi	Chinaza and John

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians today, especially if you are visiting for the holidays.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Christmastide ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

*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, Aileen Kavanagh, Betty Duff, Beatrice Upham, Thomas Gaughan, Jean Carpenter, Nicky Clarke, Terry Jackson, Cheryl Jones, Mary Cross, Sheila Cuddy, Rosa Fernandes, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davies, Inna.

Please pray for Melly Balbag, Alice Phippen, Pamela Langford, Billy Gardner and Joseph Hutchinson who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Martin Power, Frs. Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, Francis Dwyer, Philip Smith, John Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley, Charles Becker, Alexander (Sandy) Brown, Philip Wyles and Patrick Farrelly, Dens Joseph Patterson and William Murphy, and Bridget McDermott, Suzanne White, John Cromey, Albina Carolina (Albina) Rossetto-Riem, Brian McCurry, Winifred (Winnie) Gildea, Barbara Maria Harrold, Veronica Khan, James O'Brien, Colleen Surman, Jane Scott, Marsella Doherty, John Shanahan, Graciana Zgambo and Columb Whelan. May they rest in peace.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for John Cromey (Anniversary).
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Maryanne and Jim.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Winnie Gildea (Anniversary).
St Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for our Parish Community.**

Christmas Decorations. Although it is traditional to take down the Christmas decorations at Twelfth Night, Christmastide in the Church's calendar doesn't end until next Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord. That being the case, we shall take the Christmas Crib and the Trees down after Mass next Sunday and put the decorations into storage for another year.

The Christmas Crib Offerings. Because the crib is being put away next weekend, there is not long to make an offering. We shall be donating any crib offerings this year to Friends of the Holy Land to help the poorest Christian families there with education, employment, health and housing.

Table of Moveable Feasts for 2025

Ash Wednesday	5 th March
Palm Sunday	13 th April
Good Friday	18 th April
Easter Sunday	20 th April
Ascension Thursday	29 th May
Pentecost Sunday	8 th June
Trinity Sunday	15 th June
Corpus Christi	Sunday, 22 nd June
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Friday, 27 th June

Dates for Our Lady's in 2025.

First Holy Communions: Saturday, 21st June.

Confirmations: Saturday, 28th June.

First Holy Communion Lessons. Parents, please register your children, 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 be here in Our Lady's on Saturday, 21st June.

We need new catechists to help prepare the children for the Sacraments. Please come and speak to me if you feel that you could do this.

Congratulations and best wishes to Tara and Frank Dillon who were married here last Monday.

Year Of Jubilee: Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a Year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Please take one of the booklets for more information.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th - 25th January. This year's theme is from John 11:26; "Do you believe this?"

Altar Servers. Congratulations to Eva and Jai who received their medals as members of the Guild of St. Stephen, the altar servers' guild, on Boxing Day, the Feast of St. Stephen. Other servers who could not be here on that day will receive their medals soon. I should like to start a series of training sessions for new servers shortly. Please let me know if you would like to become an altar server.

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.

Tailpiece: A woman with a very strong faith but a rather weak memory once locked her keys inside her car. Undeterred, she prayed to God for assistance. A man walking by saw the situation, came over, and got her car door opened in no time flat. "Thank you, God, for sending me this nice man to help," she exclaimed. The man replied, "Well, I am glad I could help, but I'm not really a very nice man. I just got released from prison for stealing cars." "Praise be to you, O God!" the woman shouted to the sky, "You even sent me a professional!"

**Thank you again for your very generous Christmas offerings and for the gifts and cards that I received.
May God bless you all in 2025.**

Fr. Harry.