



# Our Lady Help of Christians

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

16<sup>th</sup> February, 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](mailto:sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

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Website: [www.olhoccowley.co.uk](http://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, 16 <sup>th</sup> February <b>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday</b> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b>	Bob Hinchon (Birthday)  Private Intention Gerald McDonnell Maria and Fletcher (10 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary) Thomas Conroy The People of the Parish (JA)
Racial Justice Sunday	<b>2.00 pm Baptism</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> February Op. Mem. of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servants of the BVM	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Luis Norberto Bosco Belo
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Special Intention (Jeff)
Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	The Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Michael Moloney
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> February Op. Mem. of St. Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor of the Church	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Dermot McMahon
Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	Mary Lillis and Bernie Gavin Peter Kennedy RIP
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February <b>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.00 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Ian Thompson (Get Well) Jackie Murdoch (Intentions) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm (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	Mabel and Jane	This Weekend	Naomi	Fletcher and Maria
Maureen	Anne-Marie and Anne	Next Weekend	Ann	Michelle

Welcome to Mass at Our Lady's 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.

Please pray for the sick, especially those people we know: Josie Griffiths, Keelin Trahearne, Claudino Serra Vaz, Claire French, 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.

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity Number: 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

Please pray for Deacon Pat Flanagan, Robin Parris, Paul Dolton, Michael Moloney, Aven Kavanagh, Margaret Brookes, and Mary Paddon who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canons William Roughan and Sean McTernan, Frs. William Conefrey, Joseph McEvilly, Timothy Healy, Terence McDonnell, Francis Jordan, Alexander McGavin, Francis Coyle, Sean Farrell and James Wharton, Deacon Hugh Robinson, and also Reece Knott, Margaret (Peggy) Stone, David Barnes, Paddy Griffin, José Ribeiro, Dermot Francis McMahon, Jack McGrath, John Joseph (Joseph) Quigley, Francesca Iwanczak, Lisa Marie O'Brien, William Tobin, Henrique Mgunwe, Felix Saulong, Jim McNally and Thomas Dermot Moran. May they rest in peace.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Peace and Racial Justice.  
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Sr. Maria Debono (Get Well).  
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Bob Hinchin (Birthday).**

**Lent 2025.** Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March. That's only a few weeks away. It's time to start thinking how we can make this season of grace fruitful.

- If you have any palms from last Palm Sunday that you do not need, please bring them along by Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the latest, so that we can burn them to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.
- During Lent we shall re-start our early morning Mass on Mondays (7.00 am), followed by breakfast in the parish hall. All welcome; it's a good way to start the working week.
- For the Jubilee Year there will be a walking pilgrimage to Blessed Dominic Barberi, our nearest Jubilee Church, with a Lenten Retreat Day/reflection while we are there. More details to follow.
- There is a new resource available for this Jubilee Year. **We Dare to Hope** is for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the jubilee theme of Christian Hope. Each session includes scripture, prayers, and a reflection with questions. I should like to run this in the parish hall on Monday evenings in Lent, at 7.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in. Please put this in your diaries.

**Parish Finance Committee.** There will be a meeting this Monday at 8.00 pm in the parish hall.

**Invitation.** Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2025? Are you engaged to be married this year? If so, we invite you to attend this year's Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 12.00 noon, at St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. Led by Bishop Richard Walker. Followed by light refreshments. Register at: [www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass](http://www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass)

**Booking is now open for this year's Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to go but need assistance, help is available. Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 0121 230 6288 or [admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk) The Office are also keen to hear from doctors, nurses, and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience.

*Our Lady Help of Christians Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Elizabeth Moran who can be contacted at [sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.*

**Eucharistic Ministers.** It would be good to have some new Eucharistic Ministers to join our team. I am planning to have two short training sessions after the evening Mass at 7.30 pm, this Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February and the following Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, followed by a Retreat Day during Lent that will be open to all. If you want to know more, please come and see me.



**Parish Pilgrimage to Rome.** I am hoping that for the Jubilee Year we can go on a joint parish pilgrimage to Rome with Corpus Christi parish later this year (Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> November. BA Flights from Heathrow, half board in Hotel Emmaus near St. Peter's, full daily programmes including Wednesday Papal Audience and Mass in St. Peter's. Cost roughly £1,200 sharing, £215 single supplement). Please email me if you would like to book a place, and say how many others would like to come with you.

**A message from Fr. Craig, the Diocesan Vocations Director.** *"In recent months a number of young men under the age of 18 have been in touch with me to ask about how they can discern a vocation to the priesthood. When this was only one or two, it was easy to meet with them and their parents for a look around Oscott. However, I sense that number is now large enough to warrant trying a new discernment group for boys in Years 9 to 13. The first of these discernment events will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April at St Mary's College, Oscott."* Please come and ask me if you want to learn more about this.

**Tailpiece:** One Sunday a lady in the congregation was joining in the hymns during Mass with great enthusiasm, unfortunately not matched by her tunefulness. A child standing nearby whispered to her mother, "She can't sing very well can she, Mummy." Her mother, knowing the deep faith of the lady, replied, "She sings from her heart, dear, and so it's good." The child thought about this, and then on the journey home she said to her mother, "Mummy, you sing from the heart too, don't you!"

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