



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday of Lent

16th March, 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, 16 th March Second Sunday in Lent Dementia Prayer Week	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)	Bernadette Edwards and Family Private Intention Paul Dolton Susan Barnes The People of the Parish
Monday, 17 th March Feast of St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland Dementia Prayer Week	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass (11.00 am Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart)	Josie Griffiths (Intentions) Maria Gomes
Tuesday, 18 th March Op. Com. of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Dementia Prayer Week	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Nalini and Pawan (Wedding Anniv.)
Wednesday, 19 th March Solemnity of St. Joseph	No Public Mass Today	Andrew and Patti Hyland (Ints.)
Thursday, 20 th March	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart, followed by Stations of the Cross)	John Doherty
Friday, 21 st March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross	For Peace
Saturday, 22 nd March	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 2.00 pm Baptism 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Laurentina Serra Perreira & Family Malachy Ruane Regina Mihailova (Anniversary)
Sunday, 23 rd March Third Sunday in Lent	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 Sarah McVeigh Winnie Gildea (Birthday) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm (and at Sacred Heart: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; Saturday, 10.30 – 11.00 am)		

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Zoja	Anne-Marie and Anne	This Weekend	Henry	John
Asha	Rachel and Sandra	Next Weekend	Naomi	Doris

Welcome to Mass at Our Lady's today, especially if you are visiting or new to our parish.

We are a parish with a clear identity and purpose: to be a Catholic community, formed by the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus, for the glory and praise of God the Father and the service of His Kingdom, and also for the mutual building up and support of its members. The core message that we feel called to live is contained in Jesus' words:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

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>

*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.

Please pray for Sr. Mary Cecilia Treacy, Maria Salome Coelho Gomes, Paul Dolton, Luis Pires Borges, Frederick Reading who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishops Bernard Ullathorne OSB and Francis Joseph Grimshaw, Frs. William Madden, Andrew Brennan and Laurence Crowe, Deacon Thomas Ashcroft, and also Antonio Iorio, Sissie McManus, Agustinha Dos Santos, Martin Conroy and Joseph Ahern. May they rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Pope Francis (Get Well).

CAFOD Lent Fast Day. The second collection today is for the money you saved last Friday by giving something up for the hungry and needy of this world. CAFOD is working with poor communities around the world on our behalf. Thank you for your generosity.

Lent 2025 in Our Lady's:

1. **Stations of the Cross.** Each Friday, after Mass.
2. **Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament,** Fridays, 6.00–7.00 pm, with the opportunity for Confession.
3. **Walk With Me** booklets are available, with Lent calendars. They are an aid to prayer and reflection.
4. **Parish Penance Service.** Friday, 4th April, 6.00 pm.
5. **Early morning Mass** on Mondays (7.00 am), followed by breakfast in the parish hall.
6. **A walking pilgrimage** to Blessed Dominic Barberi, our nearest Jubilee church, with a Lenten Retreat Day/reflection. Saturday, 29th March. Leave Our Lady's at 10.00 am. There will be Mass, prayer, a talk and a tour of the College. Bring a packed lunch. The Day finishes at 3.30 pm. If interested, please email Geraldine (olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk).
7. **We Dare to Hope.** In the parish hall on Monday evenings, at 7.00 pm, starting this Monday. We can explore the jubilee theme of Christian Hope through scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. Everyone is welcome to join in.
8. The statues in the church will be veiled from the 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) until Holy Saturday.
9. During Lent we do not have flowers in church, and we do not say the Gloria during Mass on Sundays, nor the joyful word "A*****Al!" We shall save it all up and let rip at the Easter Vigil.

Dementia Prayer Week runs annually from 12 -19 March to raise awareness and a deeper understanding of the spiritual needs of people living with dementia.

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 or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

A Prayer for Pope Francis.

Almighty and Eternal God, you are the everlasting health of those who believe in you. Hear our prayers for your sick servant Francis for whom we implore the aid of your tender mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, pray for him.

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the back of church. If you no longer need them or if your circumstances have changed please let Geraldine, the Parish Secretary, know (olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk).

Cowley Salesian Cooperators' Retreat Day. This Saturday 22nd March at Elmthorpe Convent. 10.30 am - 3.30 pm. Led by Fr. John Dickson SDB. All welcome. For more info. Contact Chris Baker 01865 770 102.

Young Discerners' Group Event. The Diocesan Vocations Office is hosting an event on Saturday, 5th April for young men who wish to explore a Vocation to the Catholic priesthood. For those in school years 9 - 13 (ages 13 to 17). Come to St. Mary's College, Oscott in Birmingham for a chance to meet Fr. Craig Szmids (the Vocation Director). There will be a tour of Oscott and an opportunity to speak with seminarians, joining them for Mass and lunch. Fr. Craig emphasises that he will not be handing out application forms – it is just about 'testing the water' and a chance to ask questions. Booking is essential, so please book by e-mailing Deacon Owen (deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk).

Tailpiece: One Sunday the regular church organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. He asked the Parish Priest what he should play. The priest was a bit rushed and said, "Here's the order of Mass, but you'll have to think of something to play after I do the announcements." During the service, the priest paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need £4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge £100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the organist struck up the National Anthem. And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

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