



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2025

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

Parish Secretary (also Giving and Gift Aid): Geraldine Griffin

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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>

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| Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> August<br><b>Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                                                   | <b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass</b><br>7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br>9.00 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass<br>(9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart)<br><b>11.00 am Mass</b><br>(6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart) | The People of the Parish<br><br>Private Intention<br>Brian Nolan<br>Hugh Allan<br>Teresa Dorego Soriano, Manuel Lobato Soriano, Tiborcio Soriano |
| Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> August<br>Memorial of<br>St. John Mary Vianney, Priest                                                | <b>7.00 am Mass</b><br>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer                                                                                                                                                   | In Thanksgiving                                                                                                                                  |
| Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> August<br>Op. Mem. of the Dedication of<br>the Basilica of St. Mary Major                            | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>9.15 am Mass</b>                                                                                                                                                   | Steve Walker (Birthday)                                                                                                                          |
| Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> August<br><b>Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord</b>                                          | 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer<br><b>9.15 am Mass</b>                                                                                                                                                   | Abhimanyu Joshi<br>(We also remember Tiyara Miriam)                                                                                              |
| Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> August<br>Optional Memorial of<br>St. Sixtus II & Companions,<br>or St. Cajetan, Priest             | <b>No Public Mass Today</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          | Sabas and Lourdes Balbag                                                                                                                         |
| Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> August<br>Memorial of St. Dominic, Priest                                                             | <b>No Public Mass Today</b>                                                                                                                                                                                          | Tiyara Miriam (2 <sup>nd</sup> Birthday)                                                                                                         |
| Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> August<br><b>Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), Martyr, Patron of Europe</b> | <b>No Morning Mass Today</b><br><b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>                                                                                                                                                 | Sheila Jennings (Intentions)                                                                                                                     |
| Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> August<br><b>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>                                                  | 9.00 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass<br>(9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart)<br><b>11.00 am Mass</b><br>(6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)                                                                                      | Private Intention<br>Michael Cullen<br>Eric Williams<br>Daiva and Gregorio (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary)                                 |

| Saturday 5.30 pm<br>Eucharistic Ministers | Sunday 11.00 am<br>Eucharistic Ministers |                     | Saturday 5.30 pm<br>Readers | Sunday 11.00 am<br>Readers |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Henry                                     | Anne and Rachel                          | <b>This Weekend</b> | Michelle                    | Sandra                     |
| Josie                                     | Sandra and Michelle                      | <b>Next Weekend</b> | Henry                       | John                       |

**Welcome to Mass at Our Lady's today, especially if you are visiting during the holidays.**

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 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 people we know:** Kathleen Mullagh, Alejandro Estuita, Josie Griffiths, Claire French, Beatrice Upham, Jean Carpenter, Nicky Clarke, Terry Jackson, Mary Cross, Sheila Cuddy, Rosa Fernandes, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, Sr. Maria Debono, Inna, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle, and Mary Barry.

**Please pray for Fr. Tony Rohan, Deacons Brian Cox and Adrian Davies, Gabriel Drumm, Hugh Allan, Dr. Marie Rowlands and Betty Duff** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. David Ford, Cuthbert Brown and Francis Gwinnett, Deacon John Lynch, and also Nora Griffin, John (Sean) O'Meara, Ursula Teresa Lillis, John Hennigan, Doreen Reilly, Tony Reilly, Brian Nolan and Jimmy Doyle. May they rest in peace.

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| <b>The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.</b> |
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*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 Nav Nalini Joshi 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.*

**St. John Henry Newman is declared a "Doctor of the Church".**

The Archdiocese of Birmingham is rejoicing because St. John Henry Newman has been declared a Doctor of the Church. Pope Leo made the official announcement – Conferral of the Title of Doctor of the Church – last Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July. The title of Doctor of the Church is given to Saints who have made a significant contribution to theology or doctrine through their research, study or writing. St. John Henry is very much "one of our own": In Littlemore there is 'the college' where he lived from 1842 to 1846 and was received into the Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi. In Birmingham, Maryvale House was his first home as a Catholic; he was confirmed in the Chapel at St. Mary's College, Oscott, and also preached his famous Second Spring sermon there. He was the founder of the Birmingham and Oxford Oratories, the Oratory School and The Oratory Preparatory School in South Oxfordshire.



**Children's Liturgy.** If you would like to help on Sunday mornings after the holidays, please contact Mary Ann on 07999460769 or email on [charmane0820@gmail.com](mailto:charmane0820@gmail.com).

**Called and Gifted** – a journey of discovering your spiritual gifts – is coming to Corpus Christi, Headington, starting on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. It is a process which helps you discern more clearly the particular spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given you. Contact John Kirwan, [johnkirwan1a@gmail.com](mailto:johnkirwan1a@gmail.com) or 07985098544 for more information and/or to register. **If you are interested in joining please contact John TODAY (the deadline).**

**"Rosary, Roses and Miracles"** for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, at 11.00 am at Eva's house. Spaces limited; please contact Eva at [evasmithson1112@gmail.com](mailto:evasmithson1112@gmail.com)

**Summer holidays.** I shall be on holiday from Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> August until Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> August. The office will be closed during this time. I shall offer Mass for the intentions listed and I thank Fr. Martin Flatman, who has kindly agreed to come to celebrate next weekend's Masses here at Our Lady's. If you need a priest during this time, please contact Fr. Ziggy at Blessed Dominic Barberi, Littlemore. Tel: 01865 778454; Email: [bdb.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:bdb.oxford@rcaob.org.uk).

**Prayer Wall.** Thank you to everyone who has put a prayer on our "prayer wall" in the church. They are precious testaments to faith. However, some of them have been on the wall for a long time and it is time for a tidy-up. If you have prayers that you still wish us to pray for, please move them to the section near to the doors into the Don Bosco Centre. I shall take down the rest in a couple of weeks. Then we can start again!

**My Day By Day Book** for August is now available at the back of church (price £1).

**Congratulations to** Charlie and Mary McDonagh who were married here on Saturday. May God bless them in their life together.

**Enquiries about the Catholic Faith:** I am planning a series of meetings, starting in the Autumn, for anyone who wants to find out more about our Faith, either with a view to becoming a Catholic or returning to the practice of the Faith. If you know someone who has drifted away but who might return if invited, please pass on an invitation.

**Altar Servers:** It would be great to have more children (or adults) involved in serving, so parents, please encourage your children in this. You can start serving if you have made your First Holy Communion. In the autumn there will be some training sessions.

**Tailpiece:** A doctor and a priest were attending a party when the doctor was approached by a man who asked advice on how to handle his ulcer. The doctor mumbled some medical advice, then turned to the priest and remarked, "I never know how to handle that sort of situation when I'm asked for medical advice during a social function. Is it morally acceptable to send a bill for such advice?" The priest replied that it was morally acceptable to do so. The next day, the doctor sent the ulcer-stricken man a bill. The priest also sent a bill to the doctor.

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