



Our Lady Help of Christians

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10th August, 2025

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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

Safeguarding Officer: Nav Nalini Joshi, 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, 10 th August Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass 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)		Sheila Jennings (Intentions) Private Intention Michael Cullen Eric Williams Daiva and Gregorio (2 nd Wedding Anniversary)	
Monday, 11 th August Memorial of St. Clare		No Public Mass Today		Fr Fred Sheldon (JA)	
Tuesday, 12 th August Optional Memorial of St. Jane Frances de Chantal		No Public Mass Today		Mr. M. E. Connelly (JA)	
Wednesday, 13 th August Op. Memorials of Bl. William Freeman, Martyr, or St. Pontian, Pope & St. Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs		No Public Mass Today		Dec'd Hedgecox Family (JA)	
Thursday, 14 th August Memorial of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest, Martyr		No Public Mass Today		Fr. Jacob Lewis (JA)	
Friday, 15 th August Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION		7.00 pm Mass		Ercia Guterres Andrade (safe delivery)	
Saturday, 16 th August Optional Memorial of St. Stephen of Hungary		8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer No Morning Mass Today 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday		Neil Murphy (3 rd Anniversary)	
Sunday, 17 th August Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time		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 John Joe McGroarty Paul Watts (Anniversary) Joao Bosco Maria Do Rego Soriano	
Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers	
Josie	Sandra and Michelle	This Weekend	Henry	John	
Maureen	Mabel and Jane	Next Weekend	Naomi	Doris	

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, Mary Barry.

Please pray for Hugh Allan, John Mulvenna and Dr Marie Rowlands who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. Denis Manion, Thomas Dennison, Michael Francis McGrath, Kevin Keaney and Keith Enston, and also Bridie Keane, Eric Williams, Margaret Gleeson, Brenda Browning, Paul Watts and Donna Vaughan. May they rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for peace in areas of conflict.
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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 or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Holy Day of Obligation. Please note that Friday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation when all Catholics are required to attend Mass. There will be Mass at 7.00 pm.

“Rosary, Roses and Miracles” for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, on Saturday, 16th August at 11.00 am at Eva’s house. Spaces limited; please contact Eva at evasmithson1112@gmail.com

The Annual Novena of Prayer for the Cause of Blessed Dominic Barberi begins on Monday, 18th August, and lasts for nine days up to his feast day on Tuesday, 26th August. We offer our prayers and good wishes to our neighbours in the parish of Blessed Dominic in Littlemore. The Novena Prayer can be prayed in parishes or at home.

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal and made him a powerful minister of your mercy, listen to our humble request. We pray that You will, in your goodness, grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, so that the Church may further honour him on earth and that many more people will come to know and invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope, pray for us.

Saint John Henry Newman, pray for us.

Blessed Dominic Barberi, pray for us.

Summer holidays. I am on holiday until Friday, 15th August, and the office will be closed. Thanks to Fr. Martin Flatman, who has kindly agreed to celebrate this weekend’s Masses here at Our Lady’s. If you need a priest, please contact Fr. Ziggy at Bl. Dominic Barberi, Littlemore. Tel: 01865 778454; Email: 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!

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.

The Season of Creation. Pope Francis established 1st September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. He didn’t hold back in his language: *‘The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.’* In the Season of Creation (1st September to 4th October) we recognise our role in Creation. This year’s theme is “Peace with Justice”.

Live Simply And Sustainably: For simple and sustainable school holiday activities, consider nature-based adventures like visiting local parks, observing nature around your home, or having a garden campout. Get creative with crafts using recycled materials. Explore free local resources like libraries and museums, get involved in community events.

Live In Solidarity: Refugees seeking asylum, migrants seeking a better life, have a right to do so. Our responsibility is to welcome such people, listen to their stories, and if they do have a claim to stay here, then we accept them. If not, then we help them to return to their homeland. At all times, we must treat them with respect and dignity.

For more information or to get involved in climate action in the Archdiocese, contact climateaction@rcaob.org.uk

Tailpiece: Archbishop George Patrick Dwyer was once baptising several babies at the same ceremony, and beforehand he met all the parents to make sure that he had all the names right. He came to one couple and asked the name of their baby. “Spindonna”, he was told. Rather intrigued he passed on, but when he came to do the Baptism, just before he poured the water, he couldn’t hold back his curiosity any longer and said, “You did say ‘Spindonna’, didn’t you? Is that a Gaelic name? Does it mean something?” “No, your Grace”, the parents said, blankly. “It means we put ‘er name on ‘er with a pin”.

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry