



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

17<sup>th</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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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, 17 <sup>th</sup> August <b>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass</b> 9.00 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> <b>2.00 pm Baptism</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Neil Murphy (3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary) Private Intention John Joe McGroarty Paul Watts (Anniversary) Iza Alves Joao Bosco Maria Do Rego Soriano
Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> August Diocesan Novena begins today	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Dec'd Hedgecox Family (JA)
Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> August Op. Mem. of St. John Eudes	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Fr. Jacob Lewis (JA)
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> August Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> August Memorial of St. Pius X, Pope	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Sally McVeigh (Get Well)
Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> August Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Peace in areas of conflict
Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August Feast of St. John Wall, Priest, Martyr	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>12.00 noon Nuptial Mass</b>  <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	In Thanksgiving (Angela) Luiz Da Silva Soares and Beatriz Lizete Da Costa Cruz Hugh Allan
Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> August <b>Twenty-first Sunday in 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 with Baptism of Maya Hoxha) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> <b>1.00 pm Baptism</b> <b>2.00 pm Baptisms</b>  <b>3.00 pm Baptism</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Cecilia Michael  The People of the Parish Shiloh Soares Jaxon Kabwebwe and Demi Stephenson-Cox Faye Fleur Fernandes Rosa Clara Soriano Da Silva and Antonio Maria Da Silva

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. (Also at Sacred Heart on Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.)

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Maureen	Mabel and Jane	<b>This Weekend</b>	Naomi	Doris
Vitalija	Anne-Marie and Anne	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Ann	Guisilla

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.

## 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)*

**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. Paul Johnson, Hugh Allan, John Mulvenna and Dr Marie Rowlands** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Bernard William Cardinal Griffin, Frs. Terence Smith and Alan Smith, and Dcn. Douglas Taylor, and also Michael (Stephen) Keane, Joe Barrett, Annie Ryan, Gabrielle Crawforth, John Joseph Kenny, Ezra Moore and Seamus Whelan. May they rest in peace.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Valerie Perkin.  
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Robert Curtis (Birthday).  
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Nicky Clarke.**

*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 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.*

**The Annual Novena of Prayer for the Cause of Blessed Dominic Barberi** will begin on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, and go on until his feast day on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 this week. 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 may come 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.

**Please pray** for Iza Alves who will be welcomed into the family of the Church in the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend, and for Luiz and Beatriz who will be married here this Saturday. May God bless them.

**The Season of Creation.** Pope Francis established 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:climateaction@rcaob.org.uk)

**CAFOD.** Rachel Beward is running her first marathon to raise money for CAFOD! The Marathon is the Abingdon Marathon on 19<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to sponsor her, she has a sponsorship form, or to give online go to: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/rachel-beward-3?utm\\_source=EmailShare\\_SFMC&utm\\_medium=email\\_social&utm\\_campaign=LFCFRUK\\_Day5\\_Full\\_Std](https://www.justgiving.com/page/rachel-beward-3?utm_source=EmailShare_SFMC&utm_medium=email_social&utm_campaign=LFCFRUK_Day5_Full_Std)

**Tailpiece:** A mother was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake so she said to them "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" The elder boy turned to his brother and said, "You can be Jesus."

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

**Fr. Harry**