



Our Lady Help of Christians

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14th September, 2025

Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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

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, 14 th September <i>Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> <i>Education Sunday</i>	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 8.45 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Patrick Mullins (<i>Month Mind</i>) Private Intention Tony Donovan Pat Atherton (<i>Birthday</i>) Jenelcia AnnaMaria Andrade Babo (<i>In Thanksgiving</i>)
Monday, 15 th September <i>Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Eric and Family
Tuesday, 16 th September <i>Memorial of St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bere, Angel Maxanches Bintaldays
Wednesday, 17 th September <i>Op. Mem. of St. Robert Bellarmine, or of St. Hildegard of Bingen</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 18 th September	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Andrew Antonio Sr.
Friday, 19 th September <i>Optional Memorial of St. Theodore of Canterbury, or of St. Januarius</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 20 th September <i>Mem. of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Comps.</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Breege Nunnelly The People of the Parish
Sunday, 21 st September <i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Evangelii Gaudium Day</i>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 8.45 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass 2.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Annie O'Neil Thanksgiving (<i>Joshi Family</i>) Bella-Virginija D'Ferraro Mejias The Cuddy Family (<i>Intentions</i>)

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm.

(Also at Sacred Heart on Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm and 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
Asha	Jane and Anne-Marie	This Weekend	Naomi	Andreas
Agnes	Anne and Rachel	Next Weekend	Shanthi	Cecilia

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

Today is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a Feast of the Lord which takes precedence over the ordinary Sunday. It is also Education Sunday, and there will be a second collection during Mass for the Catholic Education Service.

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.

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, Inna, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle and Mary Barry.

Please pray for Barbara Holland and all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishop George Patrick Dwyer, Canons David Mellor and Peter McKenna, Frs. Patrick Meagher, Richard Dinnis, William Oddie, Alan Leslie Holtham, John David Steward and Peter Lees, and also Baby Oliver Michael Knott, Antonio Abreu, Daniel Lyons, Archie McKenzie Allen, Brian Peter Harper, Mary Manning, Andrew McGregor and Thomas Bolger. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Mary Manning (Anniversary).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Fr. Pat Armstrong (Intentions).

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Scarlett.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Sapphire Edwards.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Staff and Children at Our Lady's School.

*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.***

Music at the 11.00 am Sunday Mass. Can you sing? Can you play any musical instrument? Would you like to be more involved in our weekly worship of God as a community? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes!" then please feel welcome to come and join in. Just come up to the corner by Our Lady's statue.



Mass for the Sick. There will be a special Mass for the sick on Saturday, 11th October, in Sacred Heart Church, Blackbird Leys, at 11.00 am. It will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All welcome.

Facebook and Instagram.

We have a new Facebook account and Instagram account. The name of each account is "Our Lady's church, Oxford". If you scan the QR code it will take you to the Instagram account, which is also linked to Facebook. Vitalija would welcome items for inclusion on the site. Please send them to her ☞ the parish email address.



'40 Days for Life' (24th September-2nd November) is an international campaign to end abortion and to offer an alternative to women seeking it. Opening at the Cafe Neri of the Oxford Oratory, on 20th September at 7.30 pm.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith: The meetings started last week in the Don Bosco Centre (the Parish hall). If you missed the first meeting but would like to attend other meetings you are welcome, at 4.30 pm each Friday. If you know someone who may be interested, please let them know. This week we shall ask "How can we know God?"

Education Sunday.

An Invitation from Archbishop Bernard Longley

Today we give thanks for the gift of Catholic education. Our schools have a mission to form *Christ-centred pilgrims of hope*, with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice.

We urgently need more Foundation Directors and Governors to help guide our schools and keep Christ at the heart of their mission. This is not simply an administrative role, it is a true vocation and a way to serve Christ and His Church. If you are a practising Catholic, committed to our mission, and willing to share your time, skills, and faith, you can make a lasting difference for thousands of children and young people. No prior experience is required as full training and support are given. The Holy Cross teaches us that service is not always easy, but it is always fruitful when rooted in love. Please speak to your Parish Priest or visit the Diocesan Education Service's website for further details: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/could-you-be-a-foundation-governor-or-director-at-your-local-catholic-school> and <https://www.bdes.org.uk/governor-online-application-forms.html> for an online application.

Oxford Pro-Life Community Launch, this Saturday, 20th September, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm, St Anthony of Padua Church Hall (next to the JR, OX3 7SS). Email Ed.ox.prolife@gmail.com or visit <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk>

Banns of Marriage. Nosa Osawaru and Debbie Sota are getting married in Nigeria in January. If anyone knows of any just reason why this may not happen, please see me.

Tailpiece: One night a lady came home from her weekly Bible Study meeting and discovered a burglar in her house. Fresh from her prayers she cried out, "Acts 2:38: 'Repent and be baptized and your sins will be forgiven.'" To her great surprise and relief, the robber promptly put his hands in the air and waited quietly while she rang the police. While handcuffing the criminal, a policeman said, "You gave up very easily, didn't you. Why didn't you try to get away?" The robber replied, "Are you joking? She said she had an axe and two 38s! I'm not going to risk those odds."

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry