



Our Lady Help of Christians

First Sunday of Advent

30th November, 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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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, 30 th November First Sunday of Advent	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday 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 4.30 pm Mass for the Goan Community (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Kathleen Murphy (3 rd Anniv.) Private Intention Thomas Duff Sheila Jennings (Intentions) Private Intention The People of the Parish
Monday, 1 st December Feast of St. Edmund Campion	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Julio Madeira Cabral Soares (Get Well)
Tuesday, 2 nd December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Mary Cairns (Get Well)
Wednesday, 3 rd December <i>Mem. of St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	Peter Hans
Thursday, 4 th December <i>Optional Memorial of St. John Damascene, Priest</i>	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	John Cullen
Friday, 5 th December Feast of St. Birinus, Bishop <i>First Friday of the Month</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart) 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	James Thompson RIP Bernadette Edwards (Intentions)
Saturday, 6 th December <i>Op. Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	(No morning Mass at Sacred Heart today) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Sean O'g Jennings (2 nd Anniv.)
Sunday, 7 th December Second Sunday of Advent	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 1.00 pm Baptisms (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Joseph McGarry Thomas White (Birthday) John and Michelle Julia McCann

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. Also at Sacred Heart: 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
Josie	Sr. Giovanna and Mabel	This Weekend	Henry	Cecilia
Maureen	Jane and Anne-Marie	Next Weekend	Naomi	Fletcher and Maria

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

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: Bridie Barry, Kathleen Mullagh, Josie Griffiths, Claire French, Beatrice Upham, Jean Carpenter, Nicky Clarke, Terry Jackson, Mary Cross, Sheila Cuddy, Rosa Fernandes, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, Inna, John Hudgell, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle, Mary Barry, Mary Cairns, Lisa Birch, Julio Madeira Cabral Soares and Fatima Jong.

Please pray for James Thompson, Keith (Fredek) Reading and all who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Archbishops Joseph Masterson and Edward Ilesley, Frs. Reginald Anwyl, Norman Millard, Peter Rogers, Liam MacFarlane, and also Mrs Higgins, Cecilia Harris, Susan Keane, Ronald Rowles, Patrick (PJ) Finnerty, Sabina Hennigan, Kathleen Duffy and William Gardner. 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 Kathleen Murphy (3rd Anniversary).
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Margaret and Mary.**

*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.olphoc.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.***

Advent. Today we enter into the Church's new year. The Sunday Mass Lectionary Cycle is Year A, and the Weekday Cycle when we get back to Ordinary Time will be Year 2. If you use the Daily Office of the Church, we start at Sunday, Week 1 of Advent today.

The Advent Wreath. As a sign of our preparation for Christmas we have our wreath. It has three purple candles, reminding us that we need to turn away from wrong and turn to Jesus. It also has a rose-coloured candle, representing the joy of this season, and a white candle, the "Christ Candle" which will be lit at Christmas.



The Parish Christmas Trees. As you can see, we have two Christmas trees on the sanctuary area of the church. Our trees are not just decorations. On each of the Sundays of Advent I am hoping to pick out a theme: hope, peace, joy and love. To help with that I invite you in the next few weeks to decorate the tree with angels and for every angel you hang you can also write a prayer for someone who you think needs to have some hope, peace, joy or love in their lives this Christmas.

First Friday. This Friday is the First Friday of the month. Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said before Mass.

Poor Parishes Fund. There will be a second collection at Masses next Sunday to support the Poor Parishes of the Diocese. The Poor Parishes Fund was put in place to help those smaller parishes where they experience difficulty in paying their day-to-day bills.



Missio Red Boxes. If you have a Red Box at home, please bring it in today so that it can be emptied and returned to you. Thank you.

Advent Walk With Me Booklets. To help us to enter into this time of grace there are *Walk With Me* booklets available at the back of the church along with Advent calendars.

My Day By Day Booklets for Advent are also available at the back of the church, price £1. These give us the readings at Mass every day during Advent. Please leave your money in the basket where you find the booklets.

Christmas Fundraising Events Calendar for November and December

We still have two wonderful fundraising events coming up in the approach to Christmas:

Sunday, 14th December:
3.30-5.30 pm. Disco with Santa (for children 3-12 years old)
Saturday, 20th December:
7.00-8.30 pm. Christmas Concert

Christmas Concert



This is a real treat in the lead-up to Christmas. On the evening of Saturday, 20th December (7.00-8.30 pm) the boys' choir from Worcester College will sing carols and Christmas songs in the church here at Our Lady's. Tickets, £15 per person, available in the hall.

Mass for the Goan Community. Fr. Noel DCunha will be celebrating Mass for the Goan community of Oxford this afternoon at 4.30 pm here in Our Lady's. All welcome.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith. We shall meet again this Friday at 4.30-5.15 pm when the subject will be the Liturgical Year. All welcome.

Tailpiece: Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house, not long before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs, "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...I PRAY FOR A NEW ...". His older brother interrupted him, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." The boy replied simply, "No, but Grandma is!"

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