



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday of Advent

14th December, 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.

Telephone: 01865 770 910 Email: olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk

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 December Third 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 (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Doris White (Anniversary) Private Intention The People of the Parish Marian Boggis (Intentions) Mr. M.E.Connolly (JA)
Monday, 15 th December	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer	Sr. Breda (Get Well)
Tuesday, 16 th December	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Dec'd Hedgecox Family (JA)
Wednesday, 17 th December O Sapientia	No Public Mass Today	Special Intention
Thursday, 18 th December O Adonai	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 5.00 pm Reception of Kathleen Mullagh (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Emily Mary Andrews (JA)
Friday, 19 th December O Radix Iesse	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Requiem Mass 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Kathleen Mullagh Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 20 th December O Clavis David	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday 7.00 pm Carol Concert	Carlos Agostinho, Maria Sekoro, Nelia Da Silva The People of the Parish
Sunday, 21 st December Fourth Sunday of Advent O Oriens Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	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)	Private Intention Cecilia Michael Danny Lyons (Birthday) Brown and Taylor Families (JA)

Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. Also at Sacred Heart: 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
Vitalija	Anne and Rachel	This Weekend	Ann	Michelle
Nora	Sandra and Michelle	Next Weekend	Shanthi	John

Welcome to Mass at Our Lady's today, the Third Sunday of Advent, especially if you are visiting our parish for the holidays or 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)

Christmas Flowers. There will be a retiring collection after Masses this weekend to help pay for Christmas flowers for the Church.

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

Please pray for Mgr. Vaughan Morgan, Fr. David Keniry, James Thompson, Kathleen Mullagh, Justin Parker, Becky Finnerty who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Bernard Navin, Frs. Joseph Rowland, Denis Ryan, Fergus O'Connell, John Dewis, Daniel O'Connor, Michael O'Meara and Edmund Motherway, Deacons Bryan Salter and Henry Atkinson, and also Joseph William Hutchinson, Bernie O'Neill, Winifred McGrath, Robert Mervyn Gleeson, Keith Baker, Myles Quirke, Sean McMahon, Kevin McGrath, Patricia Rothery and Sarah Craig. 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 Justin RIP.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week in memory of Robyn RIP.
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Sr. Giovanna's Intentions.**

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.**



The Parish Christmas Trees. As you can see, we have two Christmas trees on the sanctuary area of the church. I invite you to decorate the trees with angels, and for every angel you hang you can also write a prayer for someone who you think needs some help this Christmas.

Christmas Cards. Please take one our parish Christmas cards for your family, and one for your neighbours.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". The second part of Advent starts this Wednesday, and is marked by the "O Antiphons" which highlight a different title each day for the Messiah and invite Him into our hearts: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*.

Readers' Practice. Thank you to the volunteers who will read at the services at Christmas. There will be a short practice this Friday at 7.30 pm to help us to prepare.

Christmas Offerings. Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes available if you want. Thank you.



Commemorative Sanctuary Candles.

For £5 you can buy a candle that will be blessed at the Christmas Midnight Mass and then will burn in the sanctuary or by the Sacred Heart, Our Lady, St. Don Bosco or St. Joseph, for any week of your choice during the coming year. It can be for any reason you want: to remember a loved one; for a special intention; or why not give one as a Christmas present and get a card to go with it?

Christmas Concert

Christmas concert
At Our Lady's church
* 20th December 2025 at 7pm *

A professional Worcester college, Oxford University boys choir will sing for us

£15

This is a real treat in the lead-up to Christmas. This 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, on sale at the back of church.

Times of Mass at Christmas: Mass at Our Lady's will be at 5.00 pm on Christmas Eve (it will be a family Mass for Christmas) and 11.00 am on Christmas Day. There will be a visiting priest to celebrate Midnight Mass (starting with a period of Carols and Readings from 11.30 pm). (There will also be 9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart on Christmas Day).

The Salesian Cooperators will be holding a Carol service this Thursday, 18th December, at 2.30 pm in Elmthorpe Convent. All welcome.

The Christmas Crib Offerings. This year's offerings will go to The Friends of the Holy Land who support Christians in the Holy Land, who are largely dependent on pilgrims to the Holy Land and are finding life very difficult at present.

Don Bosco Publications. Two boxes have arrived for us. The first contains copies of the winter edition of the *Don Bosco Today* magazine. The second has copies of the *Salesian Calendar for 2026*. Please take a copy of each from the back of the church.

Tailpiece: A woman went into a Post Office to buy some stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination do you want?" asked the lady at the counter. "Good grief!" she replied, "Has it come to that? I suppose you'd better give me twenty Catholic and twenty Presbyterian."

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