



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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Website: [www.olhoccowley.co.uk](http://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, 21 <sup>st</sup> December <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>  Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers <b>O Oriens</b>	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday</b> 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 8.45 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	The People of the Parish  Private Intention Cecilia Michael Danny Lyons (Birthday) Brown and Taylor Families (JA)
Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December <b>O Rex Gentium</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	John Edwards (Get Well)
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December Commemoration of St. John of Kanty <b>O Emmanuel</b>	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	M. E. Connolly (JA)
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>5.00 pm Crib Service, followed by the First Mass of Christmas</b> (5.00 pm Mass of Christmas at Sacred Heart) 7.30 pm Syro-Malabar Community Mass <b>11.30 pm Carols and Readings</b> <b>12.00 Midnight Mass</b> (12.00 Midnight Mass at Sacred Heart)	Andres and Mary Ann (5 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary) Harvey Beesley Private Intention  In Thanksgiving McCann and Carey Families
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>CHRISTMAS DAY: SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	<b>7.45 am</b> Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 8.45 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 am Mass</b>	Private Intention John and Michael Cullen Nossa Senhora de Fatima
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Feast of St. Stephen, the first Martyr</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>12.00 noon Mass</b>	James Thompson Kathleen Mullagh
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Feast of St. John, Apostle</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	Martinho Joao Soriano Jeronimo The People of the Parish
Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Feast of The Holy Family</b>	7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 8.45 am Syro-Malabar Community Mass (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart)  <b>11.00 am Mass</b> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bere and family Martin and Bridie Keane Yoona

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Nora	Sandra and Michelle	<b>This Weekend</b>	Shanthi	John
Vitalija and Zoja		<b>First Mass of Christmas</b>	Andreas and Michelle	
Mabel and Maureen		<b>Carols &amp; Readings, 11.30 Midnight Mass, 12.00</b>	Guisilla, Jane and Doris	
Asha and Rachel		<b>Christmas Day, 11.00 am</b>	Cecilia and Daniella	
Zoja	Sr. Giovanna and Mabel	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Henry	Sandra

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity Number: 234216

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Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians today, especially if you are visiting for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Happy Christmas, everyone!

*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:** Mary Collins, 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 Fr. David Keniry, Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Kathleen Mullagh and Justin Parker,** who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop Francis Thomas, Mgr. Patrick O'Mahoney, Mgr. Canons William Flint and Thomas Gavin, Canon Gerald Breen, Frs. Brian Doolan, Patrick Wall, Anthony Ireland, Thomas Meagher, Denis Murphy, Colum McCabe, Seamus McInerney and David O'Callaghan, Sr. Veronica Lindsay FMA, and also Mary Quigley, James Kenny, Shean Scanlon, Bridie Barnes, Paul Foster, Pamela Langford, Alice Phippen, Robert Craig, Cherry Judith Smith and Stephen Motherway. May they rest in peace.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Ellie Healy RIP.**

**The Sacred Heart Candles are burning this week for Pat Atherton (Intentions), and also in Thanksgiving and for a Special Intention (Joshi).**

**Our Lady's Candles are burning this week for Antonietta and Peppe Aprea, and also for Eoin Barry.**

**St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Josie and Eddie Griffiths.**

**This week's flowers in the church have been sponsored for Sonia and Rony Azavedo's Intentions.**

*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 Parish Christmas Trees.** As you can see, we have two Christmas trees on the sanctuary area of the church. I invite you to decorate them with angels with a prayer written on them for someone who needs some help this Christmas.

**New Year's Eve Party.** Are you doing anything special for New Year's Eve? If not, why not come to Mass at 11.00 pm to thank God for the blessings of the last year and to pray for His blessing on the coming year? We can then "see in" the New Year together with a party. All welcome.

**Christmas Offerings.** Traditionally the collection at the Christmas Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes available if you want, and the contactless machines have an option for Christmas Offerings. 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, or why not give one as a Christmas present and get a card to go with it?

**Times of Mass at Christmas:** I shall celebrate Mass at Our Lady's at 5.00 pm on Christmas Eve and 11.00 am on Christmas Day. Fr Tony Bassey is coming from St. Anthony's to celebrate Midnight Mass (with Carols and Readings from 11.30 pm). (There will also be 9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart on Christmas Day).

**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.

**Getting the Church Ready for Christmas.** Cleaning the church for Christmas will begin at 10.00 am on Christmas Eve (Wednesday). All offers of help are very welcome.

**Upcoming Feasts:**

Next Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family;  
Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;  
Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January, the Epiphany;  
Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

**Tailpiece:** I *think* I am grateful to the parishioners who have sent me these early Christmas cracker jokes:

Q.: How does Good King Wenceslaus like his pizzas?

A.: Deep pan, crisp and even.

Q.: How do Mary and Joseph get their Christmas groceries?

A.: On a Lidl donkey.

...ouch!

*I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your friendship and help this year, and may God bless you and all those who are dear to you.*

Fr. Harry