



# Our Lady Help of Christians

*Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

*28<sup>th</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.*

*Telephone: 01865 770 910 Email: [olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:olhoc.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)*

*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, 28 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</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 Michael and Eileen White (Int.) Martin and Bridie Keane Yoona
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Feast of St. Thomas Becket</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Charles and Family
Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Sixth Day in the Christmas Octave</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Natalia Olo Bintaldays, Andreas Bere and family
Wednesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> December <i>Seventh Day in the Christmas Octave</i> <i>Op. Comm. of St. Sylvester</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>11.00 pm Mass</b>	In Thanksgiving for Blessings in 2025 and for the Coming Year
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> January <b>Solemnity of Mary, Mother Of God</b>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>12.00 noon Mass</b>	Jean Bradley Francesca Ward (Intentions)
Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> January <i>Memorial of St. Basil &amp; St. Gregory</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>10.00 am Mass</b>	The Boyle Family
Saturday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January <i>Optional Memorial of the Holy Name of Jesus</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	Melly Balbag The People of the Parish
Sunday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday after the Nativity</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> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention Jim McCann (Birthday) Winnie Gildea, Helen Towey and Anne Sinclair (Anniversary) Martin McDonagh (50 <sup>th</sup> B'day)
Confessions: Friday, 9.15 – 9.45 am. (And at Sacred Heart, 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
Zoja	Sr. Giovanna and Mabel	<b>This Weekend</b>	Henry	Sandra
Sandra		<b>11.00 pm New Year's Eve</b>	Andreas	
Nora		<b>12.00 noon New Year's Day</b>	Sandra and Doris	
Agnes	Jane and Anne-Marie	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Naomi	Doris

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.*

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians Church today for the Feast of the Holy Family,

**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, Lorraine Gaughan, Catherine Webb and Justin Parker,** who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Frs. Christopher Greaney, Patrick Lynch and Anthony De Vere, Deacons Paul Hender and Peter Mason, Sr. Ann Hoskison FMA and also Patrick Martin Fitzgerald, Michael Brennan, John (Johnie) Kennedy, Anacletus Prosper, Catherine Carpenter, Deidre Nolan, Ann Tobin and Melly Balbag. May they rest in peace.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Anne Sinclair.**

**The Sacred Heart Candles are burning this week for Kitty's Intentions, and also for Maryanne Borthwick.**

**Our Lady's Candles are burning this week for Helen Towey, and also for Aunt Lorna.**

**St. Joseph's Candles are burning this week for Jenny's Intentions, and also for Michael Iago.**

**St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Bernadette and John Edwards (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.***

**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.

**First Friday.** This Friday is the First Friday of the month, and the Novena Prayers to the Sacred Heart will be said during the morning Mass. (N.B. Please note that there will be no evening Mass with Confessions this Friday. There will be an opportunity for Confession before the morning Mass).

**Commemorative Candles.** For £5 you can still purchase a candle that will burn in the sanctuary or in front of one of the statues in the church for a week of your choice during the year. Please see me to book one.

**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.

#### **Upcoming Feasts:**

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January, Feast of the Epiphany;

Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January: Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

**My Day By Day** booklets for January are available at the back of the church, price £1.

**Tailpiece:** My New Year's Resolutions over the years:

2021: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.

2022: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2023: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2024: I will work out 3 days a week.

2025: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

2026: ???

*I wish you every blessing in the New Year. The church looked wonderful at Christmas and our celebrations went very well. Thank you very much to all who helped in any way: those who cleaned and prepared the church, arranged the flowers, helped to assemble the crib, polished the metalwork, read, sang or played, served at the altar, and all the many other jobs. Above all, thanks to you and your families for coming and joining in these celebrations.*

***I should also like to thank you all for your Christmas offerings and for the many individual gifts and cards that I received. May God bless you all.***

**Fr. Harry**

## **Goodbye to 2025**

As this Jubilee Year of Hope draws to an end and we look back, I thought you might be interested to see some of the things that took place in this parish. During 2025:

- ❖ There were two Parish Pilgrimages. The first, a walking Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Blessed Dominic Barberi in Littlemore, and the second, a flying Pilgrimage to Rome.
- ❖ 45 Baptisms were celebrated in the church, including two adults.
- ❖ 37 candidates received Holy Communion for the first time.
- ❖ 31 candidates were confirmed
- ❖ 8 couples were married here, and 3 other couples were prepared here and married overseas.
- ❖ 17 Funerals were celebrated: Joseph Hutchinson, Patrick Fitzgerald, Pamela Langford, Alice Phippen, Margaret Brooks, Mary Paddon, Sr. Mary Cecilia Treacey FMA, Ann Clark, Denis O'Connor, Mary Heavey, Sr. Teresa Frost FMA, Yvonne Brennan, Anne Newell, Hugh McNab Allan, Julia McCann, May Cox, Kathleen Mullagh. May they rest in peace.
- ❖ In addition, the roof over the church and hall was fixed, the church porch, piety shop and "silent" room were painted, new lighting was installed in the carpark, railings were put on the altar, and .... 1 barn dance, 1 Christmas Market, 1 Christmas Concert, and 1 Disco with Santa were celebrated.

## **Hello to 2026. Bring it on!**