



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## *Second Sunday after the Nativity*

4<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

*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, 4 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday after the Nativity</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)	Ebin (Birthday)  Private Intention Jim McCann (Birthday) Winnie Gildea, Helen Towey and Anne Sinclair (Anniversary) Martin McDonagh (50 <sup>th</sup> B'day)
Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January Optional Memorial of St. Charles of St. Andrew, Missionary	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	In Thanksgiving (Joshi Family)
Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Solemnity Of The Epiphany Of The Lord</b> Holyday of Obligation	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b> (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	The People of the Parish Jocelyn and Rolly (22 <sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary)
Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January Optional Memorial of St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Bernadette and John Edwards
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	Beatrice Upham (Intentions)
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	Winnie Gildea (Anniversary)
Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January	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 Sr. Maureen Grigg (Intentions)
Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Feast of the Baptism 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> (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Private Intention The People of the Parish Josie Coughlan (Intentions) Sr. Esther Murphy
Confessions: Tuesday, 10.00 – 10.30 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
Agnes	Jane and Anne-Marie	<b>This Weekend</b>	Naomi	Doris
Henry	Anne and Rachel	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Ann	Guisilla

### Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians Church today for the Second Sunday after the Nativity of our Saviour.

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)*

**Holyday of Obligation.** On Tuesday we shall celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a Holyday of Obligation when we are obliged to attend Mass if possible.

Christmastide ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

*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:** 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 and Julio Madeira Cabral Soares.

**Please pray for Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Sarah McCabe, Lorraine Gaughan, Fatima Jong, Catherine Webb and Justin Parker,** who died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Canon Martin Power, Frs. Martin Cassidy, Philip Garrett, Francis Dwyer, Philip Smith, John P. Davis, Brian Harding, John Bentley, Charles Becker, Alexander Brown and Philip Wyles, Deacon Joseph Patterson, and also Bridget McDermott, Suzanne White, John Cromey, Albina Rossetto-Riem, Brian McCurry, Winifred (Winnie) Gildea, Margaret Brookes, Barbara Harrold, Mary Ann Paddon, Jane Scott, Marsella Doherty, John Shanahan and Graciana Zgambo. May they rest in peace.

Sarah McCabe's funeral will be here at 2.00 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January. Sr. Esther's funeral will be here at 10.30 am on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for John Cromey (Anniversary).**

**The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Pearl Jones.**

**Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Winnie Gildea (Anniversary).**

**St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Michael Knibbs.**

**St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Nalini Joshi (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](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 Christmas Crib Offerings.** The Crib scene depicting the Nativity helps us to focus on the Incarnation of Jesus and his love for the whole of humanity. All crib offerings will go to Friends of the Holy Land, which supports Christians in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence there.

**Here is a list of the dates of moveable feasts in 2026.** (Holydays of Obligation are shown in **bold print**):

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

Ash Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February

Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Ascension Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May**

Pentecost, 24<sup>th</sup> May

The Body and Blood of the Lord, 7<sup>th</sup> June

**St. Peter and St. Paul, 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**The Assumption of Our Lady, 16<sup>th</sup> August**

**All Saints, 1<sup>st</sup> November**

First Sunday of Advent, 29<sup>th</sup> November

**The Great Awakening - A Catholic Healing and Evangelisation Service.** Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 9.00-4.30, at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich (B70 7JW). Awakening is a Catholic Evangelisation and Healing Convention organised by Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries UK. This event is to rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit and renew our commitment to the mission of the Church. The day includes Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, powerful preaching, praise, worship, and healing service. Speakers include Bishop Timothy Menezes, Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham. For more details, please see the leaflets in the porch. A coach will be going from Oxford (leaving 7.30 am). If you would like to go, let me know.

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

**Enquiries about the Catholic Faith** will start again on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January (please note, *not* this Friday) at 4.30 pm in the Don Bosco Centre.

**Car Park Lighting.** I hope that you have found the new lighting in the car park useful this winter. Several parishioners donated money specifically for this project, but in the end it was paid for entirely by a parishioner who wishes to be anonymous (thank you). I should therefore like to reassign the money that was donated to "car park maintenance" (re-painting the lines and looking forward to the time when the tarmac needs resurfacing). If you donated money for lights and are happy with this plan then you need do nothing, but if you would like your donation back then please let me know.

**Projects for 2026.** I have a few thoughts about things for Our Lady's that we can work on as a community during the coming year. But maybe you have your own ideas, and if so, I should very much like to hear from you, please. We may not be able to afford to do all of them this year – and perhaps we don't want to – but it would be nice to have an aim or two in mind. Please let me know what you think.

**Lunch Club.** One of the projects I have in mind is a lunch club, meeting once a month (initially) for a social meal and activities. For this to happen it would need someone to run it and others to help, and also people to come to it. Please speak to me or email if you would be interested in either of these things.

**Tailpiece:** I rather liked a little notice that was in a parish magazine some time ago: "We shall next meet on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, when the subject will be 'Heaven. How do we get there?' Transport is available at 7.55 pm from the bus stop opposite the Harewood Arms'." So now we know.

**Thank you all again for your Christmas offerings.  
May God bless you in 2026. Fr. Harry**