



# Our Lady Help of Christians

## *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord*

11<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.**

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**Website: [www.olhoccoxley.co.uk](http://www.olhoccoxley.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, 11 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</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)	Sr. Maureen Grigg (Intentions)  Private Intention Ruben Alexandre Guimaraes Josie Coughlan (Intentions) Sr. Esther Murphy
Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Gina (Birthday)
Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Op. Memorial of St. Hilary, Bishop</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Anton and Family (Special Int.)
Wednesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Kathleen Mullagh
Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Nora and Paddy Griffin RIP
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Memorial of St. Antony, Abbot</i>	No Morning Mass <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	Edmund Griffin (Intentions)
Sunday, 18 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Peace Day <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	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 Brian McCann In Thanksgiving (Joshi Family) Charlie and Megan (Intentions)
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. (And 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
Henry	Anne and Rachel	<b>This Weekend</b>	Ann	Guisilla
Josie	Sandra and Michelle	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Shanthi	Daniella and Ellie

### Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians Church today.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and Christmastide ends this evening.

Tomorrow we return to Week 1 in “Ordinary Time” in the Church’s Year. Sunday Mass readings are taken from Cycle A, and Weekday readings are from Year 2.

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:** 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 Fr. David Manson, Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Agustinus Bura, Sarah McCabe, Fatima Jong and Catherine Webb** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Canon Matthias (Matt) Corrigan, Frs. Patrick Farrelly, Patrick McSwiney, Patrick Joyce, Benedict O’Gorman, Gerard Peuleve, Cyril Bennett, Archie John Snell, Deacons Thomas Mark Carter, William Murphy and Brian Dockerty, and also Veronica Khan, James O’Brien, Colleen Surman, Peter Mullagh, Mary McNamee, Sean Dominic Smith, Sally Roberts and Columb Whelan. May they rest in peace.

Sarah McCabe’s funeral will be at Our Lady’s at 2.00 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Sr. Esther’s funeral will be Our Lady’s at 10.30 am on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

### The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Peace.

*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.***

**Peace Sunday.** Next Sunday is a day of prayer for peace on earth, remembering the announcement of the angels at the birth of Christ, “peace to all people of goodwill”.

**World Leprosy Day.** Each day, 475 people are diagnosed with leprosy, more than 25 of these are children. But it is curable! For over 100 years Lepra’s research has led to new approaches to healthcare programmes. [Click here to watch Lepra’s Faith Appeal Video](#) The second collection at Masses next weekend will go to support them.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is traditionally observed from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January. This year the chosen theme is: *One Body, One Spirit*. Please make sure that this intention is included in your daily prayers.

**The Christmas Crib Offerings.** Today is the last opportunity if you wish to make an offering at the Crib. 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.

**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.

**Car Park Lighting.** 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 a more general “car park maintenance”. 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.

**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 email if you would be interested in either of these things.

**First Holy Communion Lessons.** Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over they can receive their First Holy Communion next June. Parents, please register your children, using the form at the back of church, or on-line at [Application for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation | Our Lady Help of Christians | Cowley | Oxford \(olhoccowley.co.uk\)](#). Lessons will start in February.

**Enquiries about the Catholic Faith** will re-start this week on Friday at 4.30 pm, in the Hall, with “The Sacraments”.

**Flower arrangers.** At present the number of people who arrange flowers for Sunday Mass or other special occasions has dwindled to just two. I am very grateful to them for their wonderful work, but it does not seem fair to put so much on them. Would you like to help? There will be a workshop in the Don Bosco Centre on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 12.00 – 3.00 pm for people who would like to do it but lack confidence. Let me know if you want to take part.

**Tailpiece:** People give all sorts of reasons why they don’t come to church, and I wondered if their reasoning might extend to other areas of life. .... So, here are TEN REASONS WHY I NEVER WASH:

1. I was forced to wash as a child.
  2. People who wash are hypocrites – they think they are cleaner than everybody else.
  3. There are so many kinds of soap; I can’t decide which is best.
  4. I used to wash, but I got bored and stopped.
  5. I wash on special occasions, like Christmas and Easter.
  6. None of my friends wash.
  7. I’ll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
  8. I can’t spare the time.
  9. The bathroom is never warm enough in winter or cool enough in summer.
  10. People who make soap are only after your money.
- They don’t seem very good reasons for being dirty and smelly, do they?

**May God bless you and all those who are dear to you.**  
**Fr. Harry**