



Our Lady Help of Christians

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th 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.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>

<p>Sunday, 18th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Peace Day Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Edmund Griffin (Intentions) Private Intention Brian McCann In Thanksgiving (Joshi Family) Charlie and Megan (Intentions)</p>
<p>Monday, 19th January Feast of St. Wulstan, Bishop Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass 2.00 pm Requiem Mass</p>	<p>Sheila Jennings (Special Int.) Sarah McCabe</p>
<p>Tuesday, 20th January Optional Memorials of St. Fabian, or St. Sebastian, Martyrs Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass</p>	<p>Perpetua and Gregorio (25th Wedding Anniversary)</p>
<p>Wednesday, 21st January Memorial of St. Agnes, Martyr Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>No Public Mass Today</p>	<p>The People of the Parish</p>
<p>Thursday, 22nd January Op. Mem. of St. Vincent, Deacon Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)</p>	<p>Joseph and Mary McGarry</p>
<p>Friday, 23rd January Op. Mem. of St. Nicholas Owen Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Our Lady's School) 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass</p>	<p>Aveen Kavanagh (Anniversary) Newton and Clara (Wed. Anniv.)</p>
<p>Saturday, 24th January Memorial of St. Francis de Sales Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 12.00 noon Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</p>	<p>Ena Maguire Venacio Soares (Month Mind) Bernadette Edwards (Intentions)</p>
<p>Sunday, 25th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p>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 1.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)</p>	<p>Private Intention Cecilia Michael Jean and Bob (Intentions) Eliza Franuszka Blewaska The People of the Parish</p>
<p>Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. (And at Sacred Heart, Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; and Saturday, 10.30 – 11.00 am.)</p>		

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Josie	Sandra and Michelle	This Weekend	Shanthi	Daniella and Ellie
Maureen	Sr. Giovanna and Mabel	Next Weekend	Henry	Nalini

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians Church today.

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, 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, Nicky Clarke, Agustinus Bura, Sarah McCabe and Catherine Webb who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Peter Dao-Duc-Diem, Canons Garry Byrne and Bernard McKenna, Frs. Timothy Dinan, Cecil Keane, Bernard Robertson, Edward Kirner, Michael Walshe, George Jackson, John Tolkien, Joseph McKenna, David Lloyd, Charles Ross, John Garvey and Anthony Timlin, Sr. Helen Carey FMA, and also Margaret Hodson, Johnny Evans, William (Bill) Barber, Marianna Slezak, George Sykes, Michael Grant, Mary Bridget Lillis, Bernadette Gavin, Jimmy Doyle, Mary Cleary, Mary Doyle, Thomas Braiden, Patrick Philbin, Patrick Whelan, and Mary McGarry. May they rest in peace.

Sr. Esther Murphy FMA, Sister of Elmthorpe. Funeral Mass at Our Lady's, 10.30 am, Monday, 26th January. All welcome.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Christian Unity.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for World Peace.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for people suffering from leprosy.

The Church flowers have been sponsored this week in memory of Mary Cromey (Birthday).

*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.olfhoc.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.***

Peace Sunday. Today 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! Leprosy works to help. For over 100 years Leprosy's research has helped healthcare programmes. The second collection at Mass this weekend will go to support them. [Click here to watch Leprosy's Faith Appeal Video](#)

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

The Great Awakening - A Catholic Healing and Evangelisation Service. This Saturday, 24th January, 9.00-4.30, at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich (B70 7JW). The day includes Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, preaching, praise, worship, and healing service. For more details, see the leaflets in the porch. If you would like to go, let me know.

Lunch Club. A project I have in mind for the new year is a lunch club, meeting once/month (initially) for a simple meal and activities (I am thinking Fridays, 12.30-2.30 pm). I am grateful for the offers of help I have already received (more would be welcome, please), but would anyone come? Please let me know.

Church cleaners needed, one hour/month. We have a dedicated but small team of people who take it in turns to clean the church. If you would like to join the team please contact Vitalija (07557552717).

First Holy Communion Lessons. Parents, if your children are aged 8 or over they can receive their First Holy Communion next June. 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 \(olfhoccowley.co.uk\)](#). Lessons will start in February.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith will continue on Friday, 4.30 pm, with "Baptism and Confirmation".

St. Carlo Acutis Youth Fundraising Group. We are planning a trip to Assisi in Italy this October for members of the parish aged 15-18. To pay for this the young people will run several fun, fundraising events, such as crafting, a sports tournament, parties, movie nights, sales, social challenges and music events. If you are interested, text Vitalija on 07557552717. For more information go to Our Lady's Church, Oxford on Instagram or Facebook (link [\(19\) Facebook](#)).

Oxford Pro-Life Coffee Social. Saturday, 24th January, 2.00 pm, Colombia Coffee Roasters, Summertown (267 Banbury Road, OX2 7HT). Come along and keep connected with the pro-life community in Oxford. Visit <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk/> for more info.

Flower arrangers. Would you like to help? There will be a workshop in the Don Bosco Centre on Saturday, 31st 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: A man went to visit the priest. "Father," he said in a broken voice, "I wish to draw your attention to the terrible plight of a poor family in this district. The father is dead, the mother is too ill to work, and the nine children are starving. Their landlord is about to turn them out into the cold, empty streets unless someone pays their rent, which amounts to £800." "How terrible!" exclaimed the priest. "May I ask who you are?" The visitor applied his handkerchief to his eyes. "I'm their landlord," he sobbed.

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