



Our Lady Help of Christians

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th 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

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>

Sunday, 25 th January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	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 1.00 pm Baptism (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Bernadette Edwards (Intentions) Private Intention Cecilia Michael Jean and Bob (Intentions) Eliza Fransuzka Blewaska The People of the Parish
Monday, 26 th January Memorial of St. Timothy & St. Titus	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.30 am Requiem Mass	Sr. Esther Murphy FMA
Tuesday, 27 th January Op. Mem. of Bl. Edward Oldcorne, or of St. Angela Merici	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Jenny Parker (Intentions)
Wednesday, 28 th January Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church	No Public Mass Today	Sr. Teresa Bergadana FMA
Thursday, 29 th January	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Tomas de Aquino Castro de Araujo & Rosa Bonaparte Soares
Friday, 30 th January	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.15 am Mass at Our Lady's School) 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Dermot and Josephine McMahon The Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 31 st January Memorial of St. John Bosco, Priest	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Donstephen The People of the Parish
Sunday, 1 st February Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Racial Justice Day	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)	Private Intention Comseeta Peter Pat Atherton (Intentions) Antonio Pereira
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. (And at Sacred Heart, Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; and 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
Maureen	Sr. Giovanna and Mabel	This Weekend	Michelle	Nalini
Vitalija	Robin and Asha	Next Weekend	Naomi	Andreas

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians Church today.

Sunday of the Word of God. Today, the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, is a special day devoted to “the celebration, study and spread of the Word of God”.

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 at this time: Canons Thomas Sylvester Copsey, Kevin James Good and Giles Goward, Frs. Vincent Joseph Royles, Charles Smith, Mortimer Loftus, John Berry and David Patrick Joseph Condon, Deacon Michael Ainsworth, and also Maria Victoria (Vicky) Martinez Blanco Styles, Joseph Hughes, Iris Morton, Thomas Penders, Anna Barlow, Wayne St. Clair, Sarah McVeigh and Anne Marie Kelly. May they rest in peace.

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

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Chrissy Hughes (Private Intention).

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for the Roberts Family and Friends.

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for our Parish Community.

*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 or the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.***

Ash Wednesday. Christmas is barely over and yet Lent starts three weeks on Wednesday (18th February)! As usual, I should like to appeal for your help: if you have any old palms that you no longer want, please bring them in so that we can burn them on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday to make our ashes.

Dates for Our Lady's in 2026.

First Holy Communions: 10.00 am, Saturday, 6th June.

Confirmations: 10.00 am, Saturday, 27th June.

This Saturday is the Feast of St. John Bosco, the founder of the Salesians. On Friday morning there will be a Mass at 9.15 am in Our Lady's School, to which all are welcome. For the Novena prayers, please look at our Facebook page (Our Lady's, Cowley).

Lunch Club. A project I have in mind for the new year is a lunch club, meeting once a 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.

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 \(olhocowley.co.uk\)](#). There will be a meeting for parents at 4.00 pm on Thursday, 12th February.

Lessons will start after half term at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 26th February.

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith will continue on Friday, 4.30 pm, in the Don Bosco Centre, with "Holy Communion".

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. To start this project, there will be a craft class, 'How to make your own Rosary', on Wednesday, 4th February, 4.30-6.00 pm for children and adults (price: £3). Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Bishop Richard's Visitation. You may remember from before Christmas that the Archbishop and our area Bishop, Bishop Richard Walker, are carrying out a pastoral visitation of each of the parishes in the North Oxford Deanery at this time. That means that one of them will come to each parish in turn for a weekend, to meet parishioners, to listen to their concerns and to speak to them about the plans of the Diocese, to celebrate Mass, and to visit some sick parishioners at home. Bishop Richard will be coming to visit Our Lady's Parish and Sacred Heart Parish on the weekend of 21st/22nd February. There will be meetings in the Don Bosco Centre after each of the Masses. Please try to come to one of them if you possibly can.

Church cleaners needed, one hour a 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).

Flower arrangers. Would you like to help to decorate our church? There will be a workshop in the Don Bosco Centre this 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: "I hope you didn't take it personally, Father, when my husband walked out during your sermon," said an embarrassed woman to her parish priest after Mass one Sunday. "I must admit I did find it rather disconcerting," the priest replied. "It's not a reflection on you, Father," insisted the churchgoer. "He has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

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

Fr. Harry