



Our Lady Help of Christians

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15th February, 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, 15 th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Day for the Unemployed</i>	5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday 7.45 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (9.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 11.00 am Mass (6.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Anthony Raj (Anniversary) Eduardo Esteban Bob Hinchin (Birthday) Felix Saulong (Anniversary)
Monday, 16 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Maria Blanca (Special Intention)
Tuesday, 17 th February <i>Op. Mem. of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servants of the BVM</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Allsworth Family (Intentions)
Wednesday, 18 th February Ash Wednesday THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS	9.15 am Mass (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	The People of the Parish Vasco Do Rego Martins & Family
Thursday, 19 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Mickey Butler (Get Well)
Friday, 20 th February	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Sr. Breda (Get Well)
Saturday, 21 st February <i>Commemoration of St. Peter Damian</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 12.00 noon Baptisms 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Robert Nunley Mila and Luca Baboo-Burgon Mary Clarke RIP (Birthday)
Sunday, 22 nd February First Sunday of Lent	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 Ansel Netto Winnie De Souza (Get Well) The People of the Parish
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm. (And at Sacred Heart, Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; and Saturday, 10.30 – 11.00 am.)		

Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers
Zoja	Anne and Rachel	This Weekend	Ann	Michelle
Agnes	Sandra and Michelle	Next Weekend	Henry	John

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 and John Durkin, Tony Davis, John Hudgell, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle, Mary Barry, Mary Cairns, Lisa Birch and Julio Madeira Cabral Soares.

Please pray for Nicky Clarke and George (Seamus) Hannon who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Mgr. Canon Peter W. Lawler, Canons William Roughan and Sean McTernan, Frs. Charles Joseph O'Reilly, William Conefrey, Joseph McEvelly, Timothy Healy, Terence McDonnell, Francis Jordan, Alexander McGavin, Francis Coyle and Sean Farrell, Dcn. Hugh Robinson, and also Francis (Tom) Billington, Reece Knott, Margaret (Peggy) Stone, David Barnes, Paddy Griffin, Jose Ribeiro, Dermot Francis McMahon, Jack McGrath, William Tobin, Henrique Mgunge, Felix Saulong, Jim McNally and Thomas Dermot Moran. May they rest in peace.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Josie Griffith (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.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.***

Enquiries about the Catholic Faith. We'll take this week off for half term. We shall restart on Friday, 27th February, when (appropriately for Lent) the subject will be "Right and Wrong; Confession".

St. Carlo Acutis Youth Fundraising Group. We invite young people aged 13 to 18 to join our group! Our group organizes creative events and workshops, and we are raising funds for a trip to Italy, Assisi. This Wednesday at 4.30 pm, we will be decorating a cross with rhinestones. We warmly welcome both children and adults to join our creative event! This Sunday after the service, we invite everyone to support our group — we will be selling freshly made waffles. Every purchase helps bring us closer to our trip!

Lent 2026.

1. **This Wednesday will be Ash Wednesday, the start of our Lenten journey towards Holy Week and Easter. It is a day of fasting and abstinence.** That means that everyone over the age of 14 should abstain from meat and that those between 18-60 should also fast, taking only one meal and two lighter snacks.
2. **There will be Mass with the imposition of ashes at Our Lady's on Wednesday at 9.15 am, and also at Sacred Heart at 7.00 pm.** After Mass this weekend (weather permitting) we shall burn palms to make our ashes.
3. **Stations of the Cross.** Each Friday, after Mass.
4. **Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament,** Fridays, 6.00–7.00 pm, with the opportunity for Confession.
5. **"My Day by Day" booklets are available (£1).** They contain the Mass readings for each day of Lent.
6. **Walk With Me booklets are also available, with Lent calendars.** They are an aid to prayer and reflection.
7. **CAFOD Lent Fast Day** will be Friday, 27th February
8. **Parish Penance Service.** Friday, 20th March 6.00 pm.

First Holy Communion Lessons. Lessons will start at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 26th February.

Bishop Richard Walker will be coming for a Pastoral Visitation to Our Lady's Parish next weekend. There will be meetings with him in the Don Bosco Centre after each of the Masses. Please try to come to one of them if you possibly can.

Annual Diocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage. Married couples who are celebrating a milestone anniversary, and couples preparing to marry this year are invited to the Diocesan Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham on Saturday, 2nd May, at 12.00 noon, followed by light refreshments. For info, and to register please visit www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass

Tailpiece: Last week I printed some questions for you to think about. They seem to have attracted a fair bit of head-scratching and thank you to all who submitted their answers. However, there were only a small number who got them all correct, so here are the answers:

- 1) Some months have 30 days; some months have 31 days. How many months have 28 days? **They all do!**
- 2) If a doctor gives you 3 pills and tells you to take one pill every half hour, how long will it be before all the pills have been taken? **One hour. You take the first now, then the second after half an hour and then the third after an hour.**
- 3) Do they have the Fifth of November in Australia? **Yes, although they might not call it Guy Fawkes' Day.**
- 4) Divide 30 by $\frac{1}{2}$ and add 10. What do you get? **70 (30 divided by 2 is 15, BUT 30 divided by $\frac{1}{2}$ is 60).**
- 5) A farmer had 17 sheep. All but 9 died. How many did he have left? **If all but 9 died then he had 9 left.**
- 6) If you had only one match and entered a cold, dark room, where there was an oil heater, an oil lamp and some kindling wood, which would you light first? **The match!**
- 7) A man builds a house with four sides of rectangular construction, each side having a southern exposure. A big bear comes wandering by. What colour is the bear? **The only place on earth where you could have a square building with all the sides facing south would be at the North Pole, and any bear wandering by would be a Polar Bear. So the answer is WHITE (alright, cream!).**
- 8) Take 2 apples from 3 apples. What do you have? **You have the two apples that you have taken.**
- 9) How many animals of each species did Moses take into the Ark? **None. It was Noah, not Moses, who took the animals into the Ark.**
- 10) If you drove a bus with 42 people on board from Oxford and stopped at Kidlington to pick up 7 more people and drop off 5 passengers, and again at Banbury to drop off 8 passengers and pick up 4 more, and eventually arrive at Edinburgh 20 hours later, what is the driver's name? **You are the driver, so it's your name.**

Remember, it's only for fun (and a box of chocs for the winner). Congratulations to you all.

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