



# Our Lady Help of Christians

Fourth Sunday of Easter

26<sup>th</sup> April, 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](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>

Happy Easter, everyone.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>	<b>5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass</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)	Annie Kennedy  Private Intention Sheila Jennings Josie Coughlan (Intentions) Eva and Maurice Smithson (Wedding Anniversary)
Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Feria of Easter</i>	<b>7.00 am Mass</b> 8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>11.00 am Requiem Mass</b>	Nancy Lyons (Birthday)  Gladys Trowell
Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Op. Memorial of St. Peter Chanel, or of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>9.15 am Mass</b>	Mary Bailey (Anniversary)
Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Feast of St. Catherine of Siena</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Europe</i>	<b>No Public Mass Today</b>	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> April <i>Optional Memorial of St. Pius V</i>	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Paddy McCartney
Friday, 1 <sup>st</sup> May <i>Op. Mem. of St. Joseph the Worker</i>  <i>First Friday of the Month</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer <b>6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction</b> <b>7.00 pm Mass</b>	Ercia Gherres Andrade and Jaffe Andrade Babo (Anniversary)
Saturday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May <i>Memorial of St. Athanasius</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) <b>5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday</b>	Valter Afonso (Intentions) Fatima Jong
Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</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)	Private Intention Peter Villar Dec'd Members of the Kirby Family Martinho Jeronimo & Jacinta Soares
Confessions: Friday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm (and at Sacred Heart on Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm; 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	<b>This Weekend</b>	Henry	Udeme and John
Josie	Rachel and Sandra	<b>Next Weekend</b>	Naomi	Guisilla

Welcome to Mass at Our Lady's today, especially if you are new to our parish.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Jean Hinchon (Birthday).

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:** 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 Gladys (“Bonnie”) Trowell, Theresa Cahill, Jose Honorio Da Costa Jeronimo and Judith Champ** who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Frs. Ronald Cosslett, Peter Cooney, Peter Heath and Thomas William O'Connor, Deacon James Fantham, Sr. Teresa Frost FMA, and also Peter Nottingham, Elisabeth Fitzgibbons, Gaspare Licata, Anne Kennedy, John Gingell, Keelin Trahearn, Igor Bogatirjov, Maureen Hinken, Iris Kathleen O'Brien, Ellen Monks, Vincent Murray, Paddy McCartney, Patrick Griffiths, Mary Whelan, Keiran Braiden, Michael Joseph O'Donoghue and L. Peter. May they rest in peace.

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*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 Andres Guerrero 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.*

A message from the Archbishop: *“Dear friends, This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, when the Church prays especially for vocations to the priesthood. I want to ask you to join me in praying today that all those whom Our Lord is calling will respond with courage and generosity to his invitation to serve their brothers and sisters as priests in our Archdiocese. If you feel that the Good Shepherd might indeed be calling you - and if you are 18 or over - I would ask you to write to me directly at [archbishop@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:archbishop@rcaob.org.uk).*

*I shall be happy to meet you, with our Vocations Director, Fr. Craig Szmidt, and to hear your story as you try to discern what the Lord is asking of you today and in the years ahead. Please pray for me and for all our priests. With my prayers and kindest wishes.*

*+Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham”*

There will be the annual second collection for the Clergy Training Fund at Masses this weekend.

**Car Parking.** When you come to Our Lady's, **please do not park in Salegate Lane.** Residents cannot get out if the Lane is blocked by people attending Mass.

**Young Discerners' Group.** Are you a young man in School Years 9-13 who wants to explore a Vocation to the Catholic priesthood? Come to St. Mary's College, Oscott, in Birmingham on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30-4.00. For more, contact Dcn Owen Gresty, [deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk](mailto:deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk) or 0121 3215135. The day is free, but booking is essential.

**Confirmations,** Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June. If you wish to apply for this Sacrament go to the parish website ([www.olhocowley.co.uk](http://www.olhocowley.co.uk)), click on Sacraments, and fill in an online application form. Alternatively, there are forms at the back of church. Lessons will be on Mondays, 4.00 pm, in the Don Bosco Centre, starting on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Legion of Mary.** Next weekend members of the Legion will give a short presentation at Mass.

### **The St. Carlo Acutis Youth Group.**

This weekend, on Saturday and Sunday after Mass, we will be holding an art contest in the Don Bosco Centre on the theme of “Love”. Please visit our exhibition after Mass and vote for the drawing you like best. Results will be announced at about 12.30 pm on Sunday.

This Wednesday there will be another craft class/workshop, this time on designing cotton tote bags. Please let Vitalia know (07558532717) if you would like to take part so that she can prepare sufficient materials.

**Salesian Cooperators' Meeting,** this Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00 pm at Elmthorpe Convent. Sr Mary FMA is giving a talk. All are welcome. Contact Chris Baker 01865 770102.

**Cowley Salesian Cooperators** warmly invite you to celebrate Holy Mass with them on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 12.00 noon in Our Lady's church for the 150<sup>th</sup> Salesian Cooperators anniversary. Please join us with an open heart to commemorate the dream and work that continues today because of St. John Bosco. There will be light refreshments after Mass in the Mornese Centre at Elmthorpe Convent. All welcome.

**Tea and Cake.** Thank you to everyone who supported last Sunday's fundraising event. It raised an amazing £480.00 and was enjoyed by all. Congratulations and thanks to those who worked so hard to organise it, bake cakes and donate raffle prizes.

**Tailpiece:** A priest was walking down the street when he saw a group of boys, standing around a dog. Worried that they might be hurting it, the priest went over and asked what they were doing. One of the boys replied, “Father, this dog is a stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog.” Of course, the priest was shocked. “You shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!” he exclaimed. “Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie.” There was dead silence for a minute, then one of the boys gave a deep sigh and said, “Oh...all right fellers, he's won. Give him the dog.”

**May God bless you and all those whom you love.**  
**Fr. Harry**