



Our Lady Help of Christians

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

16th August, 2026

Rev. Canon 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, 16 th August Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	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)	Filomeno Martins Private Intention Fernando Neves Liu and Luzia Pereira Paul Watts (4 th Anniversary) Maggie Durkin's Intentions
Monday, 17 th August	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	Michelle (5 th Birthday)
Tuesday, 18 th August <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Claire Watts (Intentions)
Wednesday, 19 th August <i>Op. Mem. of St. John Eudes, Priest</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 20 th August Memorial of St. Bernard <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	Paul Chapman (Get Well)
Friday, 21 st August Memorial of St. Pius X, Pope <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	Elvina D'Souza
Saturday, 22 nd August Memorial of the Queenship of Our Lady <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 11.00 am Nuptial Mass 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Carla and Francisco Kathleen and Mick Mullagh
Sunday, 23 rd August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	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 Jaime Luz Pires and Maria Da Costa Freitas Claire French John Barrett

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
Maureen	Mabel and Asha	This Weekend	Naomi	Michelle
Vitalija	Jane and Anne	Next Weekend	Ann	Guisilla

**Welcome to Mass at Our Lady's today,
especially if you are new to our parish or just visiting for the holidays.**

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: Bridie Barry, Claire French, Jean Carpenter, Terry Jackson, Mary Cross, Inna, Sheila Cuddy, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, John Hudgell, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle, Mary Barry, Mary Cairns, Lisa Birch, Dantas Luis Galucho Rosa, Julio Madeira Cabral Soares and Thomas Durkin.

Please pray for Antonietta Aprea, Andrew Scully, Florence McCormack, Sr. Hanora O'Brien and all those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: HE Bernard William Cardinal Griffin, Frs. Kevin Keany, Keith Enston, Terence Smith, Deacon Douglas Taylor, and also Margaret Gleeson, Brenda Browning, Paul Watts, Michael Keane, Joe Barrett, Annie Ryan, Gabrielle Crawford, John Joseph Kenny and Seamus Whelan. May they rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Neil Murphy (4th Anniversary).

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Nalini's Intentions.

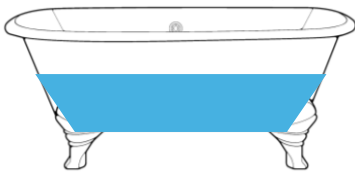
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Keith (Fredek) Reading (Birthday) RIP.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Robert Curtis (Birthday).

St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for Dave RIP.

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 Andres Guerrero 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.

Please help to empty our bath!



Thanks to your generosity, the level in our overdraft bath is going down, despite some nasty "ups" as we go along. Will you help it on its way, please?

Today we are celebrating the transferred Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

After the 11.00 am Mass today a parishioner has very kindly provided sandwiches and other refreshments so that we can celebrate the Assumption together.

Please join us in the hall.

Kenelm Youth Trust. It is not too late for those aged 18-25 to apply to join the Kenelm Youth Trust Mission Team this year. Whether you are thinking about deferring university, taking a gap year, joining the Diocesan Mission Team could be the perfect opportunity. Contact Hannah: hannah.smith@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk 01538 703224.

Accommodation needed. Theodora, a member of our community, urgently needs new accommodation. Please see her letter on the church noticeboard for information.

Citizens UK is an organisation that deals with the social welfare of local people. We should like to launch a group in this deanery, and we hope to have 2-3 volunteers from each parish to kickstart this project. If you would like to help please come and see me. Thank you.

Assisted Suicide Bill. On Friday, 11th September the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. We believe this is wrong for many reasons. Please contact your MP, urging him/her to attend the debate and vote against the Bill.

The Annual Diocesan Novena to pray for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi, starts this Tuesday, 18th August, until his feast on 26th August.

Novena Prayer

for the Canonisation of Blessed Dominic Barberi

O God, who so lovingly raised Blessed Dominic to the heights of holiness, learning and apostolic zeal and made him a powerful minister of your mercy, listen to our humble request.

We pray that you will in your goodness, grant a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Dominic, so that the Church may further honour him on earth and that many more people will come to know and invoke the help of this faithful servant of the Church.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Mother of Holy Hope, Pray for Us.

Saint John Henry Newman, Pray for Us.

Blessed Dominic Barberi, Pray for Us.

Marriages. Congratulations to Aida and Olivio who were married here a few days ago. Please pray too for Carla and Francisco who will be getting married here this week.

The Season of Creation 2026: "Make Living Water Flow". Each year from 1st September to 4th October, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

Early notice: a Mass for the Sick, with the Sacrament of Anointing, will be celebrated here on Saturday, 24th October, at 1.00 pm.

Tailpiece: A surgeon, a civil engineer, and a computer scientist were arguing about which of their three professions was the oldest. The surgeon remarked, 'Well, in the Bible it says that God created Eve from a rib taken from Adam. This clearly required surgery, so I can rightly claim that mine is the oldest profession.' The civil engineer said, 'But even earlier in the book of Genesis, it states that God created the heavens and the earth by bringing order to chaos. This was the first application of civil engineering. Therefore, doctor, you are wrong; mine is the oldest profession.' The computer scientist leaned back, smiled and said, 'Ah, but who do you think created the chaos?'

May God bless you and all those whom you love.

Fr. Harry