



Our Lady Help of Christians

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

23rd 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, 23rd August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	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)	Kathleen and Mick Mullagh Private Intention Jaime Luz Pires and Maria Da Costa Freitas Claire French John Bartlett
Monday, 24th August <i>Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	Fr. Pat Armstrong (Birthday)
Tuesday, 25th August <i>Optional Memorials of St. Louis or St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Siobhan Smith (get well)
Wednesday, 26th August <i>Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi</i> <i>Diocesan Novena to Bl. Dominic Barberi</i>	No Public Mass Today	The People of the Parish
Thursday, 27th August <i>Memorial of St. Monica</i>	(7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	John Soares Madeira (Birthday)
Friday, 28th August <i>Memorial of St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	The Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, 29th August <i>Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist, Martyr</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 12.00 noon Baptism 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	Marian Boggis (Intentions) Leo Ferrao Winston Borthwick
Sunday, 30th August Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	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 Jim McCann Kitty Ryan (Anniversary) Felix Saulong Jr. (Birthday)

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
Vitalija	Jane and Anne	This Weekend	Ann	Guisilla
Nora	Rachel and Sandra	Next Weekend	Fallon	Romy

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 Lady Help of Christians Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity Number: 234216

To see the Diocesan Privacy Notice go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy>

*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.*

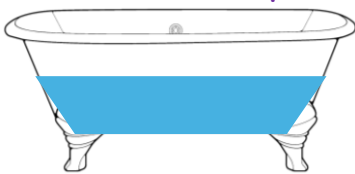
Please pray for the sick, especially: Bridie Barry, Claire French, Jean Carpenter, Terry Jackson, Mary Cross, Inna, Sheila Cuddy, Maggie Durkin, Tony Davis, John Hudgell, Pat Walsh, Doreen Teagle, Mary Barry, Mary Cairns, Lisa Birch, Dantas Luis Galucho Rosa, Julio Madeira Cabral Soares and Thomas Durkin.

Please pray for Andrew Scully, Florence McCormack, Sr. Hanora O'Brien, Joseph White, Terence Jackson and all those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Mgr. Canon Laurence Emery, Mgr. Richard J. Foster, Canon Laurence Hogarty, Frs. Alan Smith, Patrick Branagan, Peter Blundell, Francis Rowe, James Downey, Isaac William Savin and Francis Toole, Deacons Peter Kilgallon and David McCarroll, and also Ezra Moore, Elizabeth (Betty) Piercy, Rose Thomas, Adam Dennis Quelch, Peter King, Catherine Rita Sheridan, Michael McManus, Pietro Lindo and James Turnbull. May they rest in peace.

**The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for Mick McManus RIP.
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Nalini's Intentions.
Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Beverley and Family.
St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for John Hudgell (Get Well).
St. Don Bosco's Candle is burning this week for The Hinchin Family.**

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?

A big "Thank you" to everyone who made our celebration of the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady such a special occasion last Sunday (with the emphasis on "Feast").

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 and call her if you can help.

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, started last Tuesday and ends on his feast on Wednesday, 26th August.

Marriages. Congratulations to Carla and Francisco who were married here this weekend. And also to Virna and Tito who were married recently in Dili, East Timor. May God bless them throughout their married lives.

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.

News for Young Parishioners. On Saturday, 26th September, the Kenelm Youth Trust will be doing a Pilgrimage Walk from St. Michael's Church in Penn, Wolverhampton, to St. Francis of Assisi Church, Shelfield, Walsall. The Walk (about 12 miles) is for the Jubilee of St. Francis. All are welcome. Please ask me for more details.

Beware of the tree! Apparently, the hot, very dry weather is causing trees everywhere to become brittle and occasionally branches drop off. This has happened to the tree in front of our church. Please do not try to climb in it or even linger under it while this continues.

Tailpiece: Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson were on a camping holiday. One night they had a conversation:

Holmes: "Watson, look up there. What do you see?"

Watson: "I see thousands of stars and galaxies. I see planets and a beautiful moon. I even see a shooting star."

Holmes: "And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson: "I deduce that there must be a God. Furthermore, it makes me think how wonderful God must be to have created such a vast and awe-inspiring array."

Holmes: "Very good. Anything else?"

Watson: "Well, I suppose it also makes me realise how small and insignificant human beings are in comparison to such splendour. What do you deduce, Holmes?"

Holmes: "I deduce, my dear Watson, that someone has stolen our tent."

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