



Our Lady Help of Christians

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20th September, 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.

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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, 20 th September Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Evangelii Gaudium Day</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)	Neil Murphy Private Intention Annie O'Neil The People of the Parish Liu Moe Tjap			
Monday, 21 st September Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist	7.00 am Mass 8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	Rosario Frayna (Anniv.), and Miguel and Mikee Frayna (Thanksgiving)			
Tuesday, 22 nd September	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 9.15 am Mass	Shaheen Joshi (In Thanksgiving)			
Wednesday, 23 rd September <i>Mem. of St. Pio of Pietrelcina ("Padre Pio")</i>	No Public Mass Today	Eileen Perkins			
Thursday, 24 th September Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham	(2.30 pm Mass at Elmthorpe Convent) (7.00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart)	The Salesian Cooperators John McVeigh			
Friday, 25 th September	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer 6.00 pm Exposition and Benediction 7.00 pm Mass	The Souls in Purgatory			
Saturday, 26 th September <i>Op. Memorial of Ss. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs</i>	8.00 am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (10.00 am Mass at Sacred Heart) 5.30 pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	James McVeigh Antonietta Aprea			
Sunday, 27 th September Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Day of Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Harvest</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 Rolando Balbag John Batey 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 – 11.30 am).					
Saturday 5.30 pm Eucharistic Ministers	Sunday 11.00 am Eucharistic Ministers		Saturday 5.30 pm Readers	Sunday 11.00 am Readers	
Henry	Jane and Anne	This Weekend	Naomi	Andreas	
Josie	Rachel and Sandra	Next Weekend	Shanthi	Daniella and Ellie	

Welcome to Mass at Our Lady's today, especially if you are new to our parish or just visiting.
Evangelii Gaudium Sunday. Today is the day in the Church's calendar when we are encouraged to pray for the work of evangelisation and especially for those we know who are distant from the life of faith. There will be a second collection at Masses today which helps to fund the Church's national work of evangelisation.

*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.*

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)

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

Please pray for Andrew Scully, Joseph White, Terence Jackson, Margaret Dalton and all those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Mgr. Michael McTernan, Canons David Mellor, Albert JJ Adams and Peter Reilly, Frs. John David Steward, John Roddy, Bernard McAllister, Peter Lloyd, John Bale, Gordon Bancks and Paul Orchard, Deacon Michael McCormack, and also Thomas Bolger, James McVeigh and Rebecca Clarke. May they rest in peace.

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

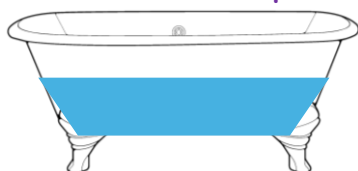
The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Marie Cullen.

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for Brenda O'Meara.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for Ellen's Intentions.

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!



For those of you who are new to our parish or who have been away, we have an ongoing appeal for money. At the start of the summer we owed the bank £25,000

- the limit of our agreed overdraft. That means our bath was full. Quite apart from owing money and being restricted in what we can do, we are paying a lot of interest to the bank each year. So the Parish Finance Committee set a target to reduce this debt by Christmas. Thanks to your generosity, we have to date received over £6,500 and the level in our overdraft bath is going down. But there have also been some nasty "ups", and we still have a long way to go.

Will you help to get the level in our overdraft bath down, please? Donations can be given to me or made on either of the contactless machines - there is one near the piety shop at the back of the church, or there is a second one in the hall - using the "Parish Overdraft Fund" option (and please Gift Aid if you are eligible). Thank you.

Harvest Thanksgiving. Next Sunday, 27th September, is a day of Thanksgiving for the Harvest. If you have any fruit and/or veg that you can spare to decorate the altar it would be welcome. Please bring any such offerings to church before Mass on Saturday evening. After Sunday Mass we shall have a shared lunch in the Don Bosco Centre. Please bring something to share and enjoy.

"The Eucharistic Miracles of the World." From Tuesday, 6th October - Sunday, 11th October, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm, in the Don Bosco Centre, we shall have an exhibition, assembled by St. Carlo Acutis, to encourage devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Entry free. All welcome. We need some volunteer welcomers (it's not strenuous - just show a friendly smile). There are timetable sheets on the table at the back of the church. Please sign up for times when you can be here.

Deanery Visitation Feedback. As part of a visitation to the North Oxford Deanery, Bishop Richard came to our parish last February. On Tuesday, 6th October, Archbishop Bernard, Bishop Richard and Canon Jonathan Veasey (the Vicar General) will come for the Closing Meeting. It will be at Blessed Dominic Barberi Church, Littlemore, starting with Evening Prayer at 7.00 pm, followed by the feedback in the parish hall. All welcome.

A Mass for the Sick, with the Sacrament of Anointing, here on Saturday, 24th October, at 1.00 pm. If you know of anyone who might like to attend if they are aided, please tell them, and let me know about them.

Confirmation. Bishop Richard will come to Sacred Heart on 31st October to celebrate this Sacrament. We shall have our own celebration here next Spring, but if anyone would like to prepare now, please let me know. Lessons start this Thursday, 4.30 pm, at Sacred Heart.

Newman Night Walk, from Oxford to Littlemore, on Thursday, 8th October, commemorating the anniversary of the reception of St. John Henry Newman into the Catholic Church by Bl. Dominic Barberi. Starts at the Oratory, 25 Woodstock Road at 7.15 pm, with a candlelight procession at 9.00 pm from 7 Courtland Road., Rose Hill. For those who don't want to walk, there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9.00 pm at Bl. Dominic Barberi Church.



Fire Drill. After Masses this weekend we shall sound the fire alarm so that you may know what it sounds like and what to do if there is a fire.

Tailpiece: A woman who had just had twins, a boy and a girl, was in a car accident and she and her husband both fell into a deep coma. Asleep for nearly six months, when she woke up she frantically asked the doctor about her babies. The doctor replied "It's alright, they're fine. Your brother has been looking after them and he arranged for them to be Baptised." The woman thought to herself, "No, not my brother... he's an idiot!" She asked the doctor, "Well, what's the girl's name?" "Denise," replied the doctor. "Wow," she said, "That's actually a good name, I like it! What's the boy's name?" "Denephew."

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