



**CORPUS CHRISTI, ST. ALPHONSUS AND  
ST. MARGARET CATHOLIC CHURCH  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WHEATLEY**



[www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk](http://www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk)  
Birmingham Roman Catholic diocesan trustees, Registered Charity No. 234216

**Corpus Christi Church,  
Margaret Road, Headington, OX3 8AJ**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Church,  
Crown Road, Wheatley, OX33 1UL**

**Parish Priest: The Rev. Canon Mervyn Tower, The Presbytery,  
88 Wharton Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 8AJ.**

**T: 01865 762433; Email: catholicheadington@gmail.com**

**Deacon The Rev. Michael Walsh; Assistant Priest The Rev. Anthony de Vere**

**Parish schools St Joseph's Primary School. T: 01865 763357**

**St Gregory the Great Secondary School. T: 01865 749933**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday Our Lady of Lourdes 6.00 pm**

**Sunday Corpus Christi 9.00 am**

**Corpus Christi 11.00 am John Mongon**

<b>Feast/Intention</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>The Priory</b>
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**Sunday Christmas Eve: 6.00pm First Mass of Christmas Frank Coffey**

**11.30pm Vigil Carol Service and Midnight Mass Pilat family**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day: 9.00am For the People of the Parish**

**10.00am (Wheatley)**

**11.00am Nora Murphy**

**Weekday Masses; Cycle: Christmas Season; Breviary Week 1**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am St. Stephen Lily O'Donoghue 6.30 pm**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am St. John the Evangelist; Yebra Family 6.30 pm**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> No morning Mass; Holy Innocents 6.30 pm**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am St. Thomas Becket Jonathan O'Sullivan 6.30 pm**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 10.00 am Michael and Josephine Dore**

**Next Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Our Lady of Lourdes 6.00 pm**

**Corpus Christi 9.00 am Faith & Hope Intention**

**Corpus Christi 11.00 am Lobato, Santos, Goncalves Families' Intentions**

**Corpus Christi 6.30 pm For the People of the Parish**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions): Saturday 10.30 to 11.00 am or any time at call.**

**Baptisms by appointment, normally first Sunday of the month at 12.30 pm.**

**Marriages normally require six months' notice.**

## Scripture Reflection

Today the Liturgy of the Church asks us to focus upon Mary. The Gospel is one that is used frequently for Feasts of Our Lady but today it takes on extra significance as we await the birth of the Saviour. The name of Jesus, the Son of the Most High, the mention of David and Jacob all point to the reality that the Messiah is both fully human and fully divine. According to the eternal plan, Mary is chosen – but not forced – to be the holy Virgin Mother (Gospel: Luke 1:26-38). Nathan first allows David to build a house (Temple) for God but then the Lord announces that he will build a house for David (First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16). At the end of his Letter to the Romans Paul talks of the revelation of the mystery now revealed – Jesus Christ (Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27).

**Responsorial Psalm meditation:** ‘I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.’ (Psalm 88/89:1).

You may like to say this as a meditation on your Rosary.

### Scripture Readings for the week ahead

Monday	Midnight: Isaiah 9:1-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:15-20 Day: Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18
Tuesday	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22
Wednesday	1 John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8
Thursday	1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18
Friday	Colossians 1:24-29; Luke 22:24-30
Saturday	1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40

**A Blessed and Holy Christmas and Christmas Feasts to you all. May the Lord be born again in our hearts that we may feel and spread his peace and joy. Fr. Mervyn**

## PARISH NOTICES

**Catholic Quiz:** Last week’s answer: Sol Invictus. This week’s question: ‘What are the traditional names of the three wise men?’

**Please check each week in the Newsletter whether or not there is Mass at the Priory.**

The Christmas collections are the traditional offerings to the Parish Priest.

**Please park legally in the streets around the Church. We have had some complaints recently from our neighbours.**

**Homeless in Winter: The Gatehouse** are appealing for hats, scarves, gloves, socks, vests and women’s pants. Donations can be placed in the box under the table at the back of Church. Unfortunately owing to storage limitations the Gatehouse cannot accept any larger items.

[www.virc](http://www.virc) is a website that has the Sunday Scripture Readings in several European languages with a nice little meditation on the Readings.

**Children's Liturgy at the 11.00am Mass:** we need more volunteers to help run this. No special training is required – just a willingness to help. Please see Ruth Kennell or Fr. Mervyn if you are willing. The Children's Liturgy began on the first Sunday after the Summer break.

**Soup Link provides soup for homeless people at Gatehouse in the winter months.** If you are over 25 and could make 4 litres of soup before January 5<sup>th</sup> for this excellent cause, please contact Monika Blackwell – 07880 797009, email [mdblackwell@hotmail.com](mailto:mdblackwell@hotmail.com) Containers and instructions provided.

**World Meeting of Families: 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in Dublin:** if any family would like to go to this event, would they please see Fr. Mervyn for more details.

**Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – August 21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2018,** 5 nights in Bethlehem and 3 nights in Tiberius: 4-star hotels, full board, full programme with Mass every day in different Holy Places Cost £1,463. This is a very good price for this full package. We work with local Palestinian Christians for this pilgrimage. Details on sheets at the back of the Churches. Please write your name on the separate sheet if you are interested and take a booking form to be sent directly to Tangney with the £300 deposit.

**Eucharistic Congress 'Adoremus' in Liverpool: 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> September 2018.** This is a national event. If you would like to go to it please see Fr. Mervyn for more details.

**The Church Committees respectfully request all tax payers in the Parish if they would sign Gift Aid forms.** This means we receive 25% extra cash from the government at no extra cost to those who gift aid. Gift Aid donators do not have to give any details of their income/accounts etc. – merely sign a form to state they pay tax. It is so simple.

**Sacramental Preparation for children:** would you kindly fill in the registration forms for your child/children if they are to receive the Sacraments of Initiation this next year at Corpus Christi. Normally children in Year 6 receive Confirmation and children in Year 3 the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Bishop Kenney will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at 6.30pm on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 and First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup> 2018.

**Thursday Lunch Club** would appreciate some raffle prizes – chocolates are well received! Gifts can be left in sacristy labelled TLC. Many thanks for all your support.

**Parish Hall:** if anyone would like to book the Parish Hall, the contact for bookings is Peter Selwood in the Parish Office on 01865 762433 on Monday or Wednesday morning or email any time on [catholicheadington@gmail.com](mailto:catholicheadington@gmail.com).

**More Readers** for the 6.30pm Sunday Mass: if anyone would be willing to be involved in this important ministry for the Parish, would he/she please contact Zenobia [zenobiacarmel@gmail.com](mailto:zenobiacarmel@gmail.com) or Fr. Mervyn.

If you would like to look at some photos of the pilgrimage of the Venerable English College to Turkey, then please go to [vecrome.org/events](http://vecrome.org/events)

**Catholic Schools:** Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**There is tea and coffee** every other week after the 9.00 am Mass and every week after the 6.00 pm Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes and after the 11.00am and 6.30 pm Mass at Corpus Christi. All are welcome.

**Offertories : 17<sup>th</sup> December £635.91 Gift Aid £204.95 Poor Parishes £242.37**

**Please pray for**

The sick and the housebound: Archie Allen, Carol Ayrton, Fr. John Baggley, Patricia Barfield, Margaret Bond, Rita Booker, Christopher Browne, Pedro Busette, John Claydon, Nicholas Coote, June Dewhurst, David Diggins, Michael Dolan, Maureen Felix, Philomena Garvey, Dominic Gondreau, Yvonne Goonesekara, Mario Kim (Fr Paul Kim's father), Joan Knatt, Rene Hilland, Theresa Johnson, Cynthia & Colville Lobendhan, Sandra Lockyer, Victoria Maceda, Carmel McGarry, R.J.Matava, Pru Murray, Averil Nathaniels, Ameia Padua, Celine Peiris, Peter Perera, Alba Thorning, Jack Tilley, Ruth Tilley, Arthur Van Cuylenburg, Aileen Vangramberg, Diana Walden, Mary Wallace, Pat Walsh, Liz Ward, Louise Williams. Please pray for Caleb Lewis, John Mongan, Gerard Brady, Vincent Jambrone and for all who have recently died.

**Prayer for the Preparation of Mass**

**God our Father you call us to gather for this Sunday Mass.**

**Help us to draw strength from the Holy Scriptures and from the Holy Eucharist, so that we deepen our love for you.**

**May we be enlivened by the Holy Spirit to mirror the words and actions of your Son Jesus Christ**

**and become more clearly your instruments of mercy to others.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Parish Team Members**

**Parish Safeguarding: Kate Gills**

**Gift Aid: Pat Warnock**

**Health and Safety: John Kelly**

**Eucharistic Ministers Co-ordinators:**

**Finance Committee: Chris Barrie**

**Freda (Wheatley); Another (Corpus Christi)**

**Parish Administrator: Peter Selwood**

**Readers at Corpus Christi: Zenobia**

**Parish Secretary: Freda Duckmanton**

**Readers at Wheatley: Marc Lafferty**

**Altar Servers: Chris Barrie**

**Music: 9.00 am Kate; 11.00 Leo & Randy 6.30 pm Clare**

**Parish Hall: Peter Selwood**

**Mosaic: Francesco**

**Lunch Club: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Anna and Richard Brooke 01865 760773**