

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

First Sunday of Advent Year A, 27th November 2022



This Sunday we enter into the beautiful season of Advent. Our attitude at this time is one of watching and waiting, and the graces to pray for are joy and hope. Our weary world is in so much need of this spirit, and of the light and peace of the coming Christ.

The **First Reading** from Isaiah looks forward to the time when the whole world will be gathered together in the peace of God's kingdom.

The **Psalms** – one for pilgrims going joyfully up to Jerusalem – picks up this theme. They pray for peace: peace in the city, in their homes, and among all whom they know.

The **Second Reading** from the letter to the Romans is a reminder to 'wake up', for salvation is near. It is also an encouragement to live in the light.

Jesus tells us in the **Gospel** to stay awake – we must not become so engrossed in our daily lives that we are unprepared when the Lord comes.
Let us renew our spirit of joyful hope this week.

We also place the needs of our world before Jesus as we prepare for his coming.

Mass Intentions:

Mon 28 Nov	Advent Feria	10:00am	Hugh and Sally Toner and all Holy Souls RIP
Tue 29 Nov	Advent Feria	10:00am	Charles Dieseru Special Int
Thu 1 Dec	Advent Feria	12:00pm	Charles Sneider and all Holy Souls RIP
Fri 2 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Hugh J Munro RIP
Sat 3 Dec	St Francis Xavier, Priest	10:00am	Frank Furlong RIP Ann
Sat 3 Dec	Vigil	5:00pm	Joe Walsh RIP
Sun 4 Dec	✠ 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8:30am	Kathleen Murray RIP Ann
Sun 4 Dec	✠ 2 nd Sunday of Advent	10:00am*	Stanislaw Pawlowicz RIP Ann

* Livestream Mass ^ Public Mass + Note Mass Time change

Saturday - 9:00am – Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (and confession alongside) with Benediction at 9:45am

Confessions can also be arranged outside of these times, please contact Fr Joseph

We Pray for:

The Sick and the Housebound in our parishes

We pray especially for: Gabriel Aragon, Chris Cordova, David Cairns, Dympna O'Connor, Jacqueline Kinsey, Una Furlong, Vincent Paul Keen, Liz Salmon, Elizabeth Le Juge de Segrais, Winifred Winstone, Zachery Keehn, Lucy Chapman, Hilary Sweetman, Ann Johnstone, Michael Earls, Oliver Perrin, Fenella Stoner, Phil Kinsella, Sally Taylor, Chris Taylor, John Bromley, John O'Neill, Peter McCabe.

We commend them to God.

The Recently Deceased & Anniversaries

We pray for those who have recently died or those whose anniversaries occur at this time including: Hugh J. Munro, Richard Jafieniecki, Fr Duncan Adamson, Kyria Sherwin, Fred Gilmour, Paul McCunn, Justin Hall, Mike Watson, Margaret McDivitt, Dennis Murray, Bernie Smith, Helen McCarthy, Avril McCarthy, Her Majesty the Queen, Susan Hobson, Marie Browne, Maurice Cooper, Maura Duffy, John Slingo, Alison Page

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(Office Hours: 10:00am-2.00pm **Mon-Fri)
**Actual office closed on Wednesdays, telephone/email only

Parish Priest - Fr Joseph Okoro:
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Parish Register – Thank you for all who have already submitted a registration form. Whilst updating the register with the completed forms that came in, it became obvious that it would better if we ask all Parishioners to complete a form, even if you had done so prior to 2022. In addition, the new Parish registration form now include a section for you to register your vehicle ready for the new Parking system. If you have submitted a new form recently and have not given your car registration, please email Laura.

Car Park - Early in the New Year we will be installing a car park monitoring system in order to ensure that all parishioners and visitors have access to the car park when required. The first step will be to obtain the registration numbers of parishioners' cars so that they can gain access at all times. There will be a household limit of two cars. This can be done by completing a Parish Registration form.

Donations for Christmas Flowers – During Advent we welcome any donations towards flowers for Christmas. You can either give as you leave the Church or put your donation in an envelope and post through the Presbytery letterbox. Please indicate Christmas Flowers on the envelope.

First Holy Communion Programme Parents Meeting – Will be held after the 10am Mass on 4th December.

Confirmation Programme Parents Meeting – Will be held on Thursday 1st December at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Masses for Holy Souls – Thank you for the donations enclosed in the November dead list envelopes. Masses will be offered for all Holy Souls throughout November and at other times in the year.

Forms for the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation – If you would like to enrol for the Confirmation programme, please see Fr Joseph to collect the appropriate form.

RCIA – If you or anyone you know would like to become a Catholic, or missed making their First Holy Communion/Confirmation speak with Fr Joseph.

Youth Mass – Thank you to all our young parishioners who participated at last Sunday's Youth Mass. We are also grateful to all those who helped to organise and prepare for the Liturgy. We are looking forward to more youth participation in our Parish.

New Website – We have a new Diocesan Website. Please visit <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/berkhamsted/>

Senior Christmas Lunch – Will be held on Saturday 10th December at 12pm in the Parish Hall. Please find the sign-up sheet at the back of the Church.

Children's Room in Church – Following our health and safety report, we were strongly advised to clear out the toys that could pose a danger to a child ie. Small components, soft toys for hygiene reasons. We would be grateful for any personally owned toys to be removed before we do a clear-out in two weeks time.

Offertory Collections

Weekly loose plate 20/11 - £ 256.01

Thank you to every one of you for your generosity to our Parish.

Online Giving – Should you wish to become a regular online donor please use the Parish bank details below.

WRCDT Berkhamsted

Sort Code 40-05-20

Ac. Number 31264354

Please do include your name as your reference and if you would like to gift-aid please ask Fr Joseph or Laura for a form. Thank you for your continued generosity and support to our parish. It is greatly appreciated.

Mass Intentions - We now have more masses during the week. Either ring the parish office to book Masses for your intentions, email Laura or use the blue envelopes at the back of the church, fill it out, enclose donation and hand it in.

The Diocesan suggested offering is £10 but you are welcome to donate more if you are able. Thank you.

If making a donation online, please use 'MASS STIPEND' and the date of the mass as your reference.

Parishes Celebrations / Dates for your Diaries –

There is a lot happening within our parish over the coming weeks:

1st Dec	Confirmation Parents Meeting
4th Dec	First Holy Communion Parent Meeting
10th Dec	Senior Christmas Lunch
11th Dec	St Thomas More Christmas Fair
18th Dec	Carol Service – Hospice of St Francis

St. Thomas More Christmas Fayre – Will be held on Sunday 11th December 12:00pm - 3:00pm. Please find a poster at the back of the church with further details regarding donation of items.

Mary's Meals – A big Thank you to all who have donated and volunteered their time for the Soup drop-in at Open door throughout 2022. The last event raised £728.58! Donations are being matched from November – 31st January so this is actually £1457.16, making our total raised for the year £2892.05.

FLAME 2023 - Join us on Saturday 4 March 2023 at OVO Arena, Wembley for the largest Catholic gathering of young people in England and Wales.

The theme of Flame is 'Rise Up!' - Rise up after the pandemic, Rise Up as young Catholics.

It will be a day of great music, interesting speakers and FUN (aimed at Year 9 and above).

For more details contact Sandra on 07842163002 check out the website for more details <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame>

Carol Service - We are holding our annual Carol Service for The Hospice of St Francis on Sunday 18th December at 3pm. Everyone is welcome so please spread the word and put the date in your diary. If you would like to be part of the Choir on the day please contact Jane on janellavin@yahoo.co.uk