

# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

Second Sunday of Advent Year A, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022



As we take another step into Advent, the **First Reading** introduces one of the main themes of this period of the year: Peace. Isaiah paints a picture of the whole world, of people and animals living together in harmony, led by a King who has all the qualities to rule justly.

The **Psalm**, too, speaks of this hope for peace and justice for all. St Paul, when he writes to the Romans, also mentions the hope that can be found in Scripture. All the more reason, then, for us to be tolerant of one another, so we can all give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Second Reading**)

In this week's **Gospel**, John the Baptist appears by the River Jordan to entreat people to repent and prepare a way for the one who is to come. He tells them that being a son or daughter of Abraham will not be enough to be sure of being saved. There is no room for complacency. People are to repent; to change their way of life.

Mindful of this week's readings, we can perhaps look around us and, by word or deed, encourage people to set out on their journey to meet Jesus at Christmas.

We continue to pray for all those who live in countries where there is no peace

## Mass Intentions:

Mon 5 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Hugh J. Munro RIP
Tue 6 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Hugh J. Munro RIP
Thu 8 Dec	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	12:00pm	Teresa Lee RIP
Fri 9 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Charles Dieseru – Special Int.
Sat 10 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Ann Lynn and All Holy Souls RIP
Sat 10 Dec	Vigil	5:00pm	Kathleen Mary Earls and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 11 Dec	✠ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	8:30am	Peter John Murray and All Holy Souls RIP
		10:00am	Patrick Quinn - Quick Recovery

\* 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: Francis Xavier Furlong, 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 Slings

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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:**  
[josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Administrator – Laura Etson:**  
[berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs)**  
Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:  
[berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Housebound** – Could the housebound parishioners who would like to celebrate this sacrament in preparation for Christmas, please phone or email Fr Joseph to arrange a date and time to visit them either in their homes or nursing homes. Relatives can also help to arrange this for them with Fr Joseph.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation for All** – There will be opportunity for all to celebrate this sacrament on 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 11am – 12noon; and on 24<sup>th</sup> December from 10:30 – 11:30am.

**Contactless Donation Machine** – As many now carry less cash around, we now have a contactless machine located on the way into the church. You can still give your offering to support our parish when you come to Mass using your contactless debit or credit card. Simply tap on the tablet, select the amount you would like to give and tap your card on the small card reader. You can also gift-aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer. THANK YOU

**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. THANK YOU.

**Walk With Me Advent Edition** – Can be found at the back of the Church for anyone who would like a copy. Recommended donation £1.00.

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

**Carol Service** - Annual Carol Service for The Hospice of St Francis on Sunday is on 18th December at **1pm**. Everyone is welcome. 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](mailto:janellavin@yahoo.co.uk)

**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 be 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.

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

**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. This week is the last opportunity to do this. Thanks for your understanding.

**Offertory Collections** – 27/11

Weekly loose plate - £ 261.81

Weekly Contactless - £35.00

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** – Please call or visit the parish office to book Masses for your intentions, email Laura or use the blue envelopes at the back of the church.

The Diocesan suggested donation is £10.00. 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:

<b>10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Senior Christmas Lunch
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	St Thomas More Christmas Fair
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Catholic Women's League Meeting
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Carol Service – Hospice of St Francis

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

**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>

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

**Adeyfield Catholic Women's League** - Cordially invite you to our next meeting and Christmas Celebration on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December starting at 12.30. Come along and see what fun we are.

Pam Moore is our Chairperson - +447501 234478 and we can be found here every 3rd Thursday.

Our Lady Queen of All Creation Church, HP3 8PG.

**Berkhamsted to Ustron** – Last April, the Berkhamsted community, our family and friends helped to raise £24,700 and in the supply of five vans of essential supplies for Ukranian refugees in Ustron. A big THANK YOU to all for your support and donation. See aid update information on the noticeboard.