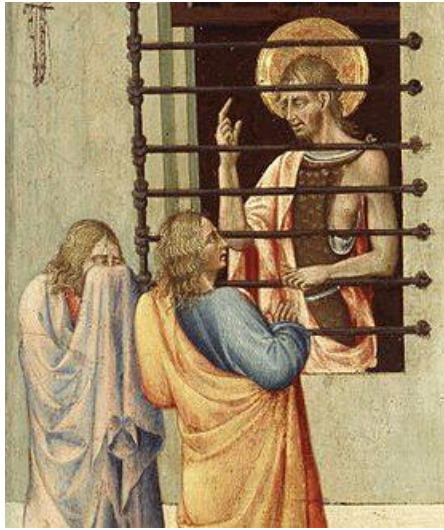


# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

## Third Sunday of Advent Year A, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022



On this 'Gaudete' Sunday, the liturgy begins with an invitation to 'rejoice!' Just as in the darkness of midwinter we long for light, so in the darkness of a world suffering the consequences of war and human greed, we long for the transforming light of Christ. But all around us are prophetic signs of God's love at work, bringing us hope in darkness, and reminding us of the joyful life we are called to live. Today the Scriptures encourage us to listen, and to see the prophetic voices and signs of our times.

In the **First Reading**, Isaiah acclaims a joyful vision of Christ's coming. Dimmed eyes will be opened; the lame will leap for joy; and we can have courage because the Lord is near.

The **Psalmist** shares a vision of the Lord overcoming our human hardship, bringing justice and healing to the world.

The **Second Reading** is a letter of encouragement, counselling us to be watchful and patient. The Lord is close at hand.

The **Gospel** describes a meeting between Jesus and the followers of the imprisoned John. Jesus answers their questions by referencing both the prophecies of Isaiah and today's Psalm. John is a prophet of their time, and Jesus encourages John's disciples not to lose faith. Jesus himself is the one of whom the ancient prophets spoke.

As followers of Christ, let us take courage, and prayerfully support one another to be patient and faithful to the liberating message of the Good News. We belong to a loving community that longs for, and trusts in, the light of Christ, even in the midst of long winter nights and during these challenging times.

### Mass Intentions:

<b>Mon 12 Dec</b>	Advent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Alison Pullan RIP
<b>Tue 13 Dec</b>	St Lucy, Virgin and Martyr	<b>10:00am</b>	Mr & Mrs Antonio Rodrigues and all Holy Souls RIP
<b>Thu 15 Dec</b>	Advent Feria	<b>12:00pm</b>	Sir Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa RIP Ann
<b>Fri 16 Dec</b>	Advent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Catherine Ojideh Intention
<b>Sat 17 Dec</b>	Advent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Phil Kinsella Intention
<b>Sat 17 Dec</b>	Advent Vigil	<b>5:00pm</b>	Peggie Teresa Ann and all Holy Souls RIP
<b>Sun 18 Dec</b>	✠ 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	<b>8:30am</b>	Tess Dowse RIP
		<b>10:00am</b>	David Hunt RIP

\* 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.

**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: John McCarthy, Francis Xavier Furlong, Hugh J. Munro, Richard Jafieniecki, Fr Duncan Adamson, Kyria Sherwin, Fred Gilmour, Paul McCunn, Justin Hall, Mike Watson, Margaret McDivitt, Bernie Smith, Helen McCarthy, Avril McCarthy, Her Majesty the Queen, Susan Hobson, Marie Browne.

Sacred Heart Church  
Park Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 1HX  
Tel: 01442 863 845  
Email: [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk)  
Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/berkhamsted/>  
(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 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 (Note Time Change)** - 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. Please see Fr Joseph to obtain a form.

**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/>

**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:

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec** Catholic Women's League Meeting

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec** Carol Service – Hospice of St Francis

**24<sup>th</sup> Dec** Christmas Vigil Mass 5:00pm

Midnight Mass 10:00pm

**25<sup>th</sup> Dec** Christmas Day Mass 8:30am and 10:00am

**Food Bank** – At the back of the church you will find a plastic box for any dry or tinned food donations for DENS Foodbank.

**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>

**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 Ukrainian refugees in Ustron. A big THANK YOU to all for your support and donation. See aid update information on the noticeboard.

**The Universe Catholic Weekly** - Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE trial supply by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)