

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

Forth Sunday of Advent Year A, 18th December 2022



Arriving at the climax of Advent, today's readings show God asking for our love and our trust. They also demonstrate God's faithfulness to us, sending Jesus to save us.

Isaiah is sent to comfort King Ahaz (**First Reading**), who has turned away from God. Isaiah sees through the false humility of Ahaz, but still gives him a sign: a maiden will give birth to a son, Emmanuel – 'God-is-with-us'.

This same prophesy is echoed in the **Gospel**. Joseph also faces a difficult situation, but God speaks through an angel in Joseph's dreams, reassuring him that his son is a gift of the Holy Spirit destined to be the Saviour. Joseph follows the angel's command, placing his whole trust in God.

For us, Jesus is the King of Glory in today's **Psalms**. The earth and all within it belong to the Lord, and all who follow God's ways shall receive a blessing.

St Paul emphasises both the human and divine aspect of Jesus, who is both a descendant of David and the Son of God. It is Jesus alone who can bring us grace and peace. (**Second Reading**)

As we continue our Christmas preparations and wait in expectant hope for the Lord's coming, let's pray for the grace that, like Joseph, we might listen with the ear of faith, and respond obediently to the Lord's call.

We pray especially for peace throughout the world. Just as we welcome Jesus into our own hearts, we ask the Lord to help us embrace and welcome all those whom we encounter.

Mass Intentions:

Mon 19 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Joan Harnetty RIP Ann
Tue 20 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Peter Doran RIP Ann
Thu 22 Dec	Advent Feria	12:00pm	Michal Tyndyk RIP
Fri 23 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Dominic Dieseru Special Int
Sat 24 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Paul Strickland and All Holy Souls RIP
	Christmas Vigil	5:00pm	People of the Parish
	Night Mass	10:00pm	Dominic Dieseru Special Int
Sun 25 Dec	✕ 5 th Sunday of Advent The Nativity of the Lord	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am	The deceased members of the Finucane Family

* 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, 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: David Cairns, 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
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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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Administrator – Laura Etson:
berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk
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Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:
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Christmas Mass and Parking – We are joyfully looking forward to welcoming families, friends and all our parishioners to the parish as we gather next weekend to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, the Saviour of the world. A gentle appeal to all who can, to walk to the church for the Christmas Vigil and Night Masses on Saturday 24th December, to help us manage the volume of traffic we usually have in the church car park at this time. Thank you for your understanding with this.

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 20th, 22nd, 23rd December from 11am – 12noon; and on 24th December from 10:30 – 11:30am.

Contactless Donation Machine – We are grateful for your continuing support to the parish, which means that we are able to pay for the running costs of the parish, pay staff salaries and maintain parish property. Donations for Christmas Gift can also be made by using your contactless debit or credit card at the contactless giving machine at the church entrance. To use the machine, please tap the dona tablet and select the amount you would like to give. Then, tap your contactless card on the small card reader by the side of the tablet to give your selected amount. 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.

Parish Register – Thank you all who have already submitted a registration form. The new Parish registration form now includes a section for you to input your car registration number, ready for the new Parking system in January 2023. If you have submitted a new form recently and have not given your car registration, please email it to Laura. To collect a registration form please see Fr Joseph.

Car Park – The car park monitoring system will be switched on on the 20th January. Could all Parishioners please ensure they have registered their cars by the 3rd of January.

Offertory Collections – 11/12

Weekly loose plate - £ 111.02

Weekly Contactless - £240.00

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:

24th Dec Christmas Vigil Mass 5:00pm

Midnight Mass 10:00pm

25th Dec Christmas Day Mass 8:30am and 10:00am

Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread - Thank you if you are able to bring some non-perishable food for our Food Bank Box. Your kind donations, which can be placed in the food collection box at the church entrance, are going directly to help local people via the Open Door and DENS Food Bank. Thank you.

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>

December 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Marion Mulroy

2nd (£50) Terri Ann Nichol

3rd (£25) Jo Cosgrove

If you would like to sign up please go to

<https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>

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