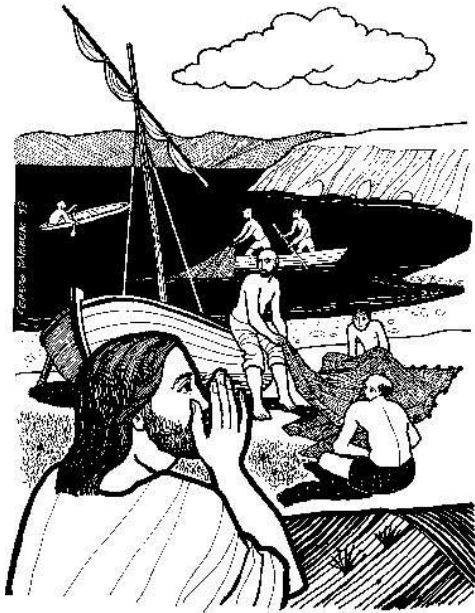


Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 3rd Sunday in ordinary time, Year A, 22nd January 2023



Today's readings on this *Sunday of the Word of God* proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, the light of the world: a beacon who draws all peoples to himself.

When the old tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali were being deported to Assyria, Isaiah promised that their land, then deeply overshadowed by turmoil and war, would one day witness a great light in their midst (**First Reading**).

In the **Gospel**, St Matthew sees the fulfilment of this prophecy. Jesus was, and is, that light. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus settles in Galilee, a region that corresponds to the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali. After proclaiming the kingdom of heaven, it is striking that his first action is to call his first disciples. The task of witnessing to the kingdom is not something to be done by Jesus alone. Rather he calls followers to share in and continue this work.

If we are to walk in the light of Jesus, Paul warns against tribalism, differences and division. Jesus alone is our light, not any of his followers. Paul's own role is to be a preacher to the humble and to proclaim the counter-cultural message of the cross (**Second Reading**).

The **Psalm** is an eloquent prayer of trust, where the psalmist calls on the Lord as *his light and his help*.

This week, we may like to ask the Lord for that light and help in our own lives, and in the lives of all humanity. We pray that we might find ways of sharing his light and compassion with all whom we meet in our suffering world

Mass Intentions:

Mon 23 Jan	Feria	10:00am	Fr Henry Hardy RIP Ann, Founder of Sacred Heart Berkhamsted
Tue 24 Jan	St Francis de Sales	10:00am	Oscar Harrow Int
Thu 26 Jan	Ss Timothy and Titus	12:00pm	Katherine Fielden Int
Fri 27 Jan	Feria	10:00am	Deceased members of the Johnstone family and all Holy Souls RIP
Sat 28 Jan	St Thomas Aquinas	10:00am	Paul Stevens and all Holy Souls RIP
	Vigil	5:00pm	Margaret Murphy RIP
Sun 29 Jan	✠ 4 th Sunday in ordinary time	8:30am	Christine McMahan and all Holy Souls RIP
		10:00am	Karol Hogan 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: Katherine Fielden, Gabriel Aragon, Chris Cordova, Dympna O'Connor, Jacqueline Kinsey, Vincent Paul Keen, Liz Salmon, Elizabeth Le Juge de Segrais, Winifred Winstone, Lucy Chapman, Hilary Sweetman, Michael Earls. **We commend them to God's healing.**

The Recently Deceased & Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently or those whose anniversaries occur at this time including: William Gribbin, Pope Benedict XVI, Margaret Kay, Rachael Church, Patricia Caddle, David Cairns, John McCarthy.

Eternal rest granted onto them oh Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Sacred Heart Church
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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
Administrator – Laura Etson:
berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs)
Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:
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Parish Outreach Mission – We are pleased to see more parishioners coming back to Mass and participating in our parish community life. It is also true that there are still more parishioners yet to return, whom we are really longing to have back. Can I commend this parish outreach mission to everyone to seek out, visit and invite back anyone whom you know who is yet to return back to the community. It is our earnest prayer that all may join us to share the joy of the Gospel and our fellowship in Christ.

The 31st World Day of the Sick - will be celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Saturday 11th February. Please see poster on the noticeboard at the back of Church. To read Pope Francis' message, please scan the QR code on the poster.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) - We are delighted to invite all adults who would like to become Catholics, or be received into full communion with the Catholic Church, or to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to contact Fr Joseph **as soon as possible** for the preparations. These celebrations will take place on Saturday 9th April at the Easter Vigil of the Holy Night.

Annual Mass for Matrimony - The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Full information and invitation will be issued shortly by the Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family Life, Deacon Roger Carr-Jones.

Contactless Donation Machine – We are grateful for your continuing support to the parish. Donations and offertory can also be made using the contactless machine. You can also gift-aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer. THANK YOU

Car Park – For the Parishioners who come to Mass in or are picked up afterwards by taxi, please do not worry about the new car park system. All non-registered vehicles will have a **10 minute** grace period, beginning from when they enter the car park.

CELEBRATE : Parenting for Faith - A new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers. Starts Thursday 23rd Feb for 5 weeks at 8pm for approximately 45 minutes. **It's on zoom so no need for babysitters!** The aim of the course is to help parents discover that they are perfectly positioned to show their children the reality of a life with God and to empower them to have their own vibrant two-way relationship with Him. Through the easily accessible and relaxed input you will receive help to introduce faith in simple steps.

To register scan the QR code
*There is a £5 fee to cover admin costs and then the opportunity to make a further optional donation during the course.
We would love you to join us and tell your friends.



Offertory Collections – 15/1
Weekly loose plate - £ 166.20
Weekly Contactless - £45.00

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 –

22nd Jan Start of the Holy Communion programme
26th Jan Start of Confirmation programme
23rd Jan Walking Football
5th Feb Sunday Lunch Club
11th Feb 31st World day of the Sick

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>

Hospice of St Francis - Thank you to all Sacred Heart Parishioners for organising the annual Christmas carol concert and for raising so much for The Hospice of St Francis. We are so delighted that this year, your wonderful concert raised a fantastic £962.70!

Missio – Thank you very much for the gift of £448.33 from your Parish to support World Mission Sunday 2022 appeal. Fr Anthony Chantry – Missio National Director.

Sunday Lunch Club - was due to take place on Sunday 8th Jan, but given that it falls very early on in the new year, we have decided to reschedule. The next event will therefore take place on Sunday 5th February. The sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church.