

# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time, Year A, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023



Today's readings tell us what we need to follow Christ and become more like him. Getting our priorities right in God's eyes may not be easy, nor is it always the way of the world, but it will bring happiness in God's kingdom.

At the beginning of his Sermon on the Mount (**Gospel**), Jesus teaches the Beatitudes, which focus on the qualities he expects his disciples to have. They are not 'rules' like the commandments, more a road map for discipleship, laying out the way to follow him. Jesus is calling us to learn what it really means to be 'glad and rejoice' – in him alone.

The Beatitudes are a restatement of the values mentioned in the **First Reading**. The Lord will protect those living honest and just lives: people of integrity and humility. The **Psalmist** sings of the Lord's faithfulness and kindness, praising God for his care of 'those who are oppressed': the hungry, the imprisoned, the blind and the stranger.

St Paul reminds the Corinthians (**Second Reading**) why they have been chosen by God. Their gift of faith is entirely due to God's generosity: in God they have found wisdom, holiness and freedom.

This week, we may pray to recognise all the blessings the Lord has given us, so that we might walk more closely with Jesus in his work, just as he walks with us in our lives. We continue to remember those suffering in war and conflict in Ukraine and beyond.



## Mass Intentions:

Mon 30 Jan	Feria	10:00am	Andrew Bridges RIP
Tue 31 Jan	St John Bosco, Priest	10:00am	Anamdi Nsikap Fzenwa Int.
Thu 2 Feb	The Presentation of the Lord	12:00pm	Francis Xavier Furlong and all Holy Souls RIP
Fri 3 Feb	Ss Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury	10:00am	Robert Knagg and all Holy Souls RIP
Sat 4 Feb	Feria	10:00am	Mary McInerney RIP
	Vigil	5:00pm	Alice and Stephen Danaher RIP Ann
Sun 5 Feb	✠ 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time	8:30am	Kitty (Catherine) Wesley RIP Ann
		10:00am	James Murphy 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, Anne Furlong, Gabriel Aragon, Chris Cordova, Dymna 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: John O'Neill, Andrew Bridges, 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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(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:**  
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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.

**Park Street Closure** - Park Street will be closed 31<sup>st</sup> Jan to 1<sup>st</sup> Feb inclusive to **ALL** vehicles, even residents during this time. If visiting Sacred Heart during this time, please find alternative parking.

**The 31<sup>st</sup> World Day of the Sick** - will be celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> April at the Easter Vigil of the Holy Night.

**Tea and coffee after Sunday 10am Mass**- all are invited to join us in the parish hall for teas, coffees and chats.

**Sunday Lunch Club** - If you wish to attend the Sunday lunch club on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, please add your name to the sign-up sheet by **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January latest**. The sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church.

**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.

**CAFOD Volunteers Needed** - the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people join us as volunteers here in the Westminster diocese. Find out more by joining our meeting this Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February from 2.30-430pm in Oakwood, N14 4HE. Please contact Tony at CAFOD for further details. [westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:westminster@cafod.org.uk) or 0208 449 6970

**Veritas Catholic Lecture series** - Roman Catholic Parish of Hemel West (St Mary & St Joseph Church HP1 1NR) will be hosting the Catholic Theology lecture series starting in February. We are inviting expert theologians as lecturers to look at Catholicism holistically. Let's know God so we can truly love Him! The lecture is free to attend but we would appreciate **a pot of food to share** and **a donation for the lecturers**.

All lectures are held at the parish hall at St Mary & St Joseph, on Saturdays starting from 10:00 – 15:00, stopping for a shared lunch. The program is organised so that each interlink therefore we recommend you attend as much as possible. The registration will be set up soon. Please check the Hemel West website for more details.

The first four lectures are:

18 February, Early Church History, lecturer Fr Peter Dwyer  
22 April, Later Church History, lecturer Fr Peter Dwyer  
29 April, New Testament, Fr John Deehan (Kentish Town)  
20 May, Old Testament, lecturer, Fr John Hemer (Mill Hill Missionary)

**Offertory Collections** – 22/1

Weekly loose plate - £ 225.19

Weekly Contactless - £55.00

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

**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**

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

**WRCDDT 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** –

31<sup>st</sup> Jan – 1<sup>st</sup> Feb Park Street Closed

5<sup>th</sup> Feb Sunday Lunch Club

11<sup>th</sup> Feb 31<sup>st</sup> World day of the Sick

**The Community Fridge is at Open Door** - every Tuesday morning between 10-12noon.

No charge, but donations always welcome to help fund this and other projects. Between these times, ANYONE is welcome to come to the front of Open Door (360-364 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 1HU.) Please BRING YOUR OWN BAG to take your food home in.

More info at [www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/community-fridge](http://www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/community-fridge)

**January 100 Club Winners**

1st (£100) Michael Guy

2nd (£50) Rachel Cole

3rd (£25) Jeanne Bolton

If you would like to sign up please go

to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>

**CELEBRATE : Parenting for Faith** - A new online course starting for those with Babies and Toddlers.

Starts Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

