

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 6th Sunday in ordinary time, Year A, 12th February 2023



The readings today are all concerned with the law and commandments of Moses. They reflect on the happiness which can be ours if we keep to the spirit of the law and not just its letter.

In the **First Reading** from the book of Ecclesiasticus, the author stresses that we are given absolute freedom to choose to keep the commandments or not.

In the **Psalm** we are assured of happiness if we keep God's law. The psalmist addresses God in trusting words, as one friend would to another.

St Paul is keen to tell the Corinthians that wisdom comes from God. We cannot fully understand God's purpose for us, but need the help of the Spirit to really appreciate the depths of God (**Second Reading**).

Finally, in the **Gospel**, we hear Jesus telling his disciples that he has come to complete the law, not to abolish it. He is the fulfilment of the law. Using a few everyday examples, he shows how we need to go beyond the letter of the commandments and truly understand what is behind them.

This week, we might pray for all law makers, ecclesiastical or secular, that they always work for the greater good of all. We also pray that the Spirit will be with all those who have the power to bring greater peace in the world.

Mass Intentions:

Mon 13 Feb	Feria	10:00am	Tony Furlong RIP Ann
Tue 14 Feb	SS Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop	10:00am	Edward and Mary McEnaney RIP Ann
Thu 16 Feb	Feria	12:00pm	Molly Rice and all Holy Souls RIP
Fri 17 Feb	Feria	10:00am	Margaret O'Neil RIP Ann
Sat 18 Feb	Feria	10:00am	Deceased members of the Lyons family and all Holy Souls RIP
	Vigil	5:00pm	James Anthony Davey RIP
Sun 19 Feb	✠ 7 th Sunday in ordinary time	8:30am	Nora Proctor RIP
		10:00am*	Louise Brennan 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: Uche Nwankwo, Alloma Solomons, Katherine Fielden, Anne Furlong, Dympna O'Connor, Jacqueline Kinsey, Vincent Paul Keen, Phil Kinsella, 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: James Anthony Davey, Teresa McManus, Nora Proctor, Louise Brennan, 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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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:
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Ash Wednesday Masses – 10am and 7pm in the Parish, 2:15pm at St Thomas More Primary School.
No Mass Monday 20th February.

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 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.

Sunday Lunch Club - A big Thank you to everyone who took part in organising the latest Sunday Lunch club. It is such a great and welcomed event for our parish.

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

Racial Justice – Thank you to all who donated to Racial Justice last Sunday, we raised £377.35.

Earthquake Appeal - CAFOD is liaising with its partner organisations in Turkey and Syria who are assessing the needs of those affected by the earthquakes and it has launched an Earthquake Appeal. Donations can be made online at cafod.org.uk
A list of other UK humanitarian charities can be found at dec.org.uk the Disasters Emergency Committee website.
We also ask for your prayers for those who have lost their lives and for the people of Turkey and Syria as they deal with the devastation caused by the earthquakes.

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)

Governors for St Thomas More School - St Thomas More School are looking for new foundation Governors in line with the latest Ofsted report and very good KS1 and KS2 results. This will ideally suit those with some middle to senior management experience and a real desire to put catholic education at the centre of the developing child's life. Full training will be provided, Please contact either Fr Joseph or David Swarbrick (Chair of Governors) 07789 538648
Latest report can be found on their website:
<https://www.stmore.herts.sch.uk/>

Offertory Collections – 5/2

Weekly loose plate - £213.70

Weekly Contactless - £45.00

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 for Mass stipends, votive candles, building maintenance fund, flowers for the Church 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.

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 Feb Ash Wednesday (Sacred Heart) 10am & 7pm

22nd Feb Ash Wednesday (St Thomas More) 2:15pm

24th Feb St Thomas More Year 6 attending Parish Mass

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

School Cleaning Vacancy - Please help keep our school sparkling! Please get in touch with the school office if this is something which might be of interest to you or anyone you know. Working hours Monday to Friday, 3pm-6pm. Contact admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk or call 01442 385060.

St Thomas More Nursery Tour – The next tour is taking place on the 20th February at 2.30pm. To book a place, parents need to contact us on 01442385060 or email us at admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk

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.

