

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 7th Sunday in ordinary time, Year A, 19th February 2023



"Love your enemies."



We live in times when many of our conversations exaggerate difference and division. But the scripture for this Sunday proclaims a radical message of love that overcomes hatred, and a compassion that heals and unifies.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians (**Second Reading**) teaches that the Spirit of God is within us. Together, we are a temple of God proclaiming God's wisdom. This wisdom challenges human notions of tribalism that can ultimately lead to division and hatred, when we see 'others' as our enemies.

Moses (**First Reading**) is commanded to profess God's wisdom by telling the people that holiness is based on love and forgiveness: 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.'

In the **Gospel**, Jesus reveals the full expression of the wisdom of God's Law of Love: 'love your enemies'. We are called to respond with radical non-violence to all forms of hatred and division.

The **Psalm** that sits at the centre of this week's scripture is a beautiful song of gratitude to a God full of forgiveness, who is slow to anger and abounding in compassion and love.

This week, may the words of this song of love sing out through all that we do and say. Let us pray that we will have the grace to move beyond divisive 'them-and-us' ways of thinking and relating. In God we are all One, bound together with compassion and love.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 19 Feb	✠ 7 th Sunday in ordinary time	8:30am	Nora Proctor RIP
		10:00am*	Louis Brennan RIP
Mon 20 Feb	Feria	NO MASS	
Tue 21 Feb	Feria	10:00am	Mary Morton Int
Wed 22 Feb	Ash Wednesday	10:00am	Phillip Stuart and all Holy Souls RIP
		7:00pm	People of the Parish
Thu 23 Feb	Lent Feria	12:00pm	Anne Halloran and all Holy Souls RIP
Fri 24 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	Anne Murray RIP Ann
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	10:30am	
Sat 25 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	Deceased members of the Cunningham family and all Holy Souls RIP
	Vigil Mass of Sunday	5:00pm	Barry Gratton and all Holy Souls RIP
Sun 26 Feb	✠ 1 st Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Frank Murray RIP
		10:00am*	John Shotton RIP Ann

* 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: Anne Murray, James Anthony Davey, Teresa McManus, Nora Proctor.

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

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp

Is sponsored this week for the People of Turkey and Syria.

Sacred Heart Church
Park Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 1HX
Tel: 01442 863 845

Email: 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

Administrator – Laura Etson: berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs)

Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:

berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Ash Wednesday - is this Wednesday 22nd February marking the beginning of Lent. It is also a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. There will be imposition of ashes during the Masses on this day. Please let others know who might not be at Mass this weekend.

Stations of the Cross – will be every Friday in Lent at 10:30am in church, starting Friday 3rd March.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2023 - Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

Cardinal Pastoral Letter – “My appeal to you, then, is very simple. This Lent, try to make a little more progress in prayer, in speaking of Our Blessed Lord to others, and in being a bearer to others of his compassion and love.” Full letter can be found on the notice board at the back of the Church.

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.

Nora Proctor Requiem Mass – Will be held at Corpus Christi Tring on Friday 24th February at 11:00am.

Veritas Catholic Lecture series – will take place at St Mary & St Joseph Church, Hemel West, HP1 1NR, in the parish hall on Saturdays starting from 10:00 – 15:00, with a break for a shared lunch. For more details, please visit the Hemel West website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/news/veritas-catholic-lecture-series-starting-soon/>

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

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

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 – 12/2

Weekly loose plate - £157.08

Weekly Contactless - £85.00

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

Blessed Sacrament Lamp - If you would like to sponsor the Blessed Sacrament Lamp, for a week, the diary is open. To sponsor costs just £5 for a whole week. Just let the office know your preferred week and your intention.

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.

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.

