

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 1st Sunday of Lent, Year A, 26th February 2023



This week we begin our annual observance of Lent. We may want to consider: 'How am I to celebrate this season in 2023?'

The word 'Lent' comes from the Old English word *lencten* meaning spring-time or 'the lengthening of days'; it is a time of renewal, of coming back to life in nature; a time for the birth of young animals, and of looking forward.

In keeping with the season, our Lent can be one of invitation to our own renewal in the ways of living with and for God; a time to recognise the love of God made visible to us in creation; a time to notice those ways in which we fall short of the desires that God has for each one of us and for our world, and to pray for the grace to live more fully according to God's ways.

We are familiar with 'giving up for Lent': perhaps this year our 'giving up' may be of those things in our lives that are getting in the way of valuing all that God has given us, of allowing God to deepen God's life in us. It may help to take time to notice and to speak with our Lord about what this means for me.

The readings speak of our choice to listen to the voice of God or to be tempted by evil: Adam and Eve are seen to succumb to the tempting voice, but Jesus is steadfast in his rejection of temptation. The Psalm is a prayer of one who knows their own sinfulness, but also that God's love and mercy are more powerful than their weakness. St Paul celebrates the freedom from sin that Jesus brings us.

Jesus's gift of love overcomes our sin and brings us to life. Through our Lent, we ask for the grace to become more and more aware of God's compassion and love for us, ready to journey with Jesus to his death on the cross and to celebrate his resurrection.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 26 Feb	✠ 1 st Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Frank Murray RIP
		10:00am*	John Shotton RIP Ann
Mon 27 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	Charlotte Rothery RIP
Tue 28 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	Robert McGuire and deceased members of the McGuire Family RIP Ann
Thu 2 Mar	Lent Feria	12:00pm	Margaret Crichton and all Holy Souls RIP
Fri 3 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Harry Munroe and all Holy Souls RIP
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	10:30am	
Sat 4 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Helen Campbell and all Holy Souls RIP
		5:00pm	Fr Duncan Adamson RIP
Sun 5 Mar	✠ 2 nd Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Anthony Stevens and all Holy Souls RIP
		10:00am*	John O'Neill 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: Alice Gancke, Alloma Solomons, Katherine Fielden, Anne Furlong, Dymna 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: Margaret Eke, Uche Nwankwo, Fr Duncan Adamson, 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 Happy Repose of Uche Nwankwo.

Sacred Heart Church
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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

Stations of the Cross – will be every Friday in Lent at 10:30am in church.

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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – on Friday 3 March when families are asked to have a simple meal and to donate any amount saved to the “Growing In Strength” appeal which provides aid, through local organisations, to Dristi and her mother, Rupali, and to other families in Bangladesh as they plant crops in seed beds built to protect against flooding. Details of Dristi's story and of CAFOD's other activities can be found at cafod.org.uk. Donation envelopes are available in church and can be returned next weekend. Thank you for your continued generosity and prayers.

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.

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/hemelhempesteadwest/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.

Easter Choir Practice - in preparation for our Easter Celebrations will be held on Wednesday 8th March, Wednesday 15th March, Wednesday 22nd March and Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 7.15pm - 8.15pm in the church. Everyone is welcome and invited to join us. Come and give it a try even if you have never sung before as we prepare for the most important season in the church's year. Music will be provided.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm. The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please contact Laura with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Offertory Collections – 19/2

Weekly loose plate - £147.05

Weekly Contactless - £60.00

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 –

3rd Mar CAFOD, Family Fast Day

3rd Mar St Thomas More Year 3 attending Parish Mass

8th Mar Start of Easter Choir Practice

19th Mar St Patrick's Day Event – after 10:00am 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.

Lives to Inspire - Lent Retreat – The Ignatian Spirituality Centre is offering a 30 day online retreat. You are welcome to join. For more details, please visit:

<https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html>

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School and Nursery

application - process for the September 2023 Nursery intake has opened. The application form and further information is available online

at: <https://www.stmore.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Nursery+Admissions&pid=122> We offer either morning sessions or places using 30 hours funding. Prospective parents may contact the school office on 01442 385060 if they require a paper application or would like to find out more. The deadline for applications is the 24th March.

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/>