

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A, 12th March 2023



The readings for this Sunday centre around the themes of water and life, helping us to reflect on our true desires.

As they thirst in the desert, the chosen people of Israel begin to lose their trust in God. God responds to Moses's urgent cry for help by providing water from a rock, thus satisfying their thirst. **(First Reading)**

The **Psalmist** responds by imploring us to listen to and trust in the Lord. Whilst joyfully singing our thanks to God, the source of all life, we are called to soften our hearts for God's love to flow through

In the long **Gospel**, Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. He brings her to new life by showing her respect and compassion. Jesus invites her to trust in him and drink from the 'living water' that only he can give her, revealing himself as the Messiah. She responds by rushing back to her hometown: a new disciple excitedly sharing Jesus's message.

The **Second Reading** reminds us how great is the depth of God's unconditional love for us: though sinners, we are forgiven. The 'living water' promised in the Gospel is God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us at our baptism. Our faith in Jesus quenches our thirst and brings us hope.

During Lent, let's pray that in listening and responding with open hands and hearts to Jesus's invitation to draw and drink deeply from his well of 'living water', we may see ourselves and each other through eyes of love.

We pray too that all those preparing to be baptised at Easter may find that life-enriching faith for their lives.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 12 Mar	✠ 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8:30am	John Murray RIP Ann
		10:00am*	John Murphy RIP
Mon 13 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Mary, Michael and James McDonnell and all Holy Souls RIP
Tue 14 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Thanksgiving
Thu 16 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Cathy and David Benson and all Holy Souls RIP
Fri 17 Mar	St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	10:00am	The Dieseru Family Int
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	10:30am	
Sat 18 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Philip, Tom and Mavis Capes and all Holy Souls RIP
	Lent Vigil	5:00pm	Alphonsus Diamond RIP
Sun 19 Mar	✠ 4 th Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Teresa McManus RIP
		10:00am*	Esther McKenna RIP Ann

* Livestream Mass

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: Jane Blayney, 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: Alphonsus Diamond, Maggie Holden, Jeremiah Murphy, Margaret Eke, Uche Nwankwo, Fr Duncan Adamson, Anne Murray, James Anthony Davey, Teresa McManus.

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 Harte Family and Friends.

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

Stations of the Cross – 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. 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.

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.

St Patrick's Day Event – Sunday 19th March, 11:30am – 4:00pm. Please join us for live music, Irish home cooking including freshly made Irish soda bread and crafts after Mass. There will be a raffle on the day and a bar, all proceeds going to St Thomas More Primary School PTA. Tickets £8, Concessions £5 and family ticket £20. Tickets can be booked after Mass, via 07921 122 642 or email at claretrowbridge@gmail.com

Volunteers Needed – We are looking for volunteers to help with writing bidding prayers and welcomers for Sunday Masses, particularly at the 5pm Mass on Saturday who can also help with the offertory collection. If either of these important ministries are of interest to you, please contact: ed_murrayclan@yahoo.co.uk (07743 844257). Full training will be provided.

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 Wednesdays, 15th, 22nd and 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.

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 for your generous donations in the last weeks.

Requiem Mass for the happy repose of Maggie Holden, RIP - Will be held at Sacred Heart on Monday 27th March at 10:00am

Corpus Christi Quiz Night - Saturday 18th March from 7:30pm. Tickets are £5 per adult and £2 per child. Proceeds will go to supporting the Turkey Syrian Disaster fund. There will be nibbles and hot dogs, bring your own drinks. Contact Annabelle tring@rcdow.org.uk 01442 823 161

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 – 5/3

Weekly loose plate - £138.09

Weekly Contactless - £75.00

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

CAFOD Family Fast Day - Thank you to all who donated, a total of £767.85 was raised by 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 –

17th Mar St Thomas More Year 5 attending Parish Mass

18th Mar Quiz Night Corpus Christi

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

21st Mar Blessing of School Stations of the Cross at St Thomas More 11am. Followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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.

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>

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

St Thomas More – Year 3 and 4 are putting on an Easter Production at school, retelling the Easter story. Dress rehearsal is on Thursday 30th March at 9.30am and the evening performance is at 6pm on that evening (Thursday 30th March).

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> 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.

STM 100 Club – March Winners:

1st (£100) Lindsay Hubbard

2nd (£50) Marina Burke

3rd (£25) Michael Wall