

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 4th Sunday of Lent, Year A, 19th March 2023



Before we enter the darker days of Holy Week, we celebrate *Laetare* ('Rejoice!') Sunday. Today we are reminded of the joy of the presence of Jesus, the light of our world, and of the love of God shining through our lives.

Both the **First Reading** and the Psalm speak of the shepherd caring for the flock. Despite David's youth and outward appearance, the Lord sees the strength of his heart, which will enable him to lead God's people.

The **Psalm** speaks of the certainty that I can rely on the Lord as *my* shepherd, keeping me safe from harm whatever happens in my life.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul reminds the Ephesians (and us) that God's light in us shines out for others when we live in *goodness and right living and truth*.

In the **Gospel**, the blind man's sight is restored and he comes into the light. Not only is he physically able to see for the first time, but he also recognises Jesus as the Son of Man. In contrast, those around him remain in the darkness of unbelief, trapped by their unwillingness to see Jesus as he really is.

This week, we pray for those who have yet to allow the light of Christ into their lives. We pray that we will carry Christ's light to others as we walk beside them, sharing their hardships and sorrows.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 19 Mar	✠ 4 th Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Teresa McManus RIP
		10:00am*	Esther McKenna RIP Ann
Mon 20 Mar	St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10:00am	Margaret Smith RIP
Tue 21 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Barbara and Desmond Partridge and all Holy Souls RIP
Thu 23 Mar	Lent Feria	12:00pm	The Dieseru Family Int
Fri 24 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Thanksgiving
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	10:30am	
Sat 25 Mar	The Annunciation of the Lord	10:00am	Jim and Mary Wall and all Holy Souls RIP
	Lent Vigil	5:00pm	John Shotton and all Holy Souls RIP
Sun 26 Mar	✠ 4 th Sunday of Lent	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Jeremiah Murphy RIP

* 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, 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: Lilian Quintana, Alphonsus Diamond, Maggie Holden, Jeremiah Murphy, Margaret Eke, Uche Nwankwo, Fr Duncan Adamson, 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 Basia Outram.

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, Tue and Thurs.)

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:
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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.

Simple Celebration of the Passion of the Lord – on Good Friday (7th April) 11am here in Church. All children Year 3 and above (accompanied by a parent) are invited to join in for an age appropriate celebration of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which we are saved. Please come and join. The celebration will last about 45 minutes.

At 3pm on the same day there will also be the Solemn Celebration of the Passion of the Lord for everybody, also in church. More details to follow nearer the time.

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. **ALL TICKETS NOW SOLD OUT**

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 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.

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 Maggie Holden – Will be held at Sacred Heart on Monday 27th March at 10:00am

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 – 12/3

Weekly loose plate - £208.57

Weekly Contactless - £86.00

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 –

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

7th Apr Simple Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

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.

Memories Café – Bereavement and loss drop-in support sessions, every Monday - 11am to 1pm at the Watford Hospital Chaplaincy.

Memories Café offers a chance to meet with others who understand the experience of loss. It is a space to talk about the pain of bereavement and find mutual support and encouragement when you need it most. For more information please email: westherts.spiritualcare@nhs.net