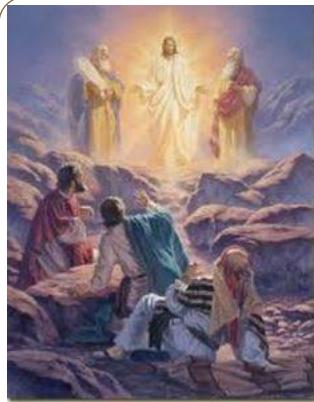


Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A, 5th March 2023



Today's readings encourage us to think about our journey of faith in the company of the transfigured Lord, and the importance of trusting in the call and grace of God our Father.

The **First Reading** tells of God's astonishing call to Abram to abandon his land, his family and his nation, and Abram's generous response. With divine blessing and guidance, Abram (who becomes Abraham) finds a new home and a new life, serving as an example to us all.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul makes it clear that we are called to holiness: a holiness not of our own making, but of God. Like Timothy, we are reminded that we are not alone.

We are invited to rely on the divine power and grace revealed by the life and death of Christ Jesus. Like Abraham, we, too, must learn to live by trusting in God's grace and his calling of us. (**Second Reading**)

Trust in God the Father is exemplified above all in the life of Jesus.

Today's **Gospel** shows him transfigured on the mountain top, radiant with divine light. The Father proclaims Jesus as his Beloved Son, and adds the all-important invitation: '*Listen to him*'. The **Psalm** meditates on the creative power of the Lord, encouraging us to put our trust in the One who fills the earth with his love.

This week, we may like to pray for a deepening personal relationship with Christ Jesus. We ask to listen to his voice, to hear his call to personal ministry, and to feel his touch in our daily lives.

We also continue to pray for peace in our troubled world.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 5 Mar	✠ 2 nd Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Anthony Stevens and all Holy Souls RIP
		10:00am*	John O'Neill RIP
Mon 6 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Dymphna O'Connor Int
Tue 7 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Mamie O'Brian RIP
Thu 9 Mar	Lent Feria	12:00pm	John Ignatius Dicom RIP
Fri 10 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	The Dieseru Family Int
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	10:30am	
Sat 11 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Eddie Lynch and All Holy Souls RIP
	Lent Vigil	5:00pm	Alice Walker and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 12 Mar	✠ 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8:30am	John Murray RIP Ann
		10:00am*	John 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: Alice Gancke, Alloma Solomons, Katherine Fielden, Anne Furlong, Dymphna 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: Maggie Holden, Jeremiah Murphy, 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 protection of unborn babies.

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.

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 Saturday 9th April at the Easter Vigil of the Holy Night.

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 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.

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.

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/hemelhempsteadwest/news/veritas-catholic-lecture-series-starting-soon/>

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 – 26/2

Weekly loose plate - £195.50

Weekly Contactless - £95.00

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 –

5th Mar CAFOD, Family Fast Day, second collection

7th Mar St Thomas More Year 4 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.

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

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 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.

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