

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection, Year A, 9th April 2023



EASTER MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners,

It hasn't been that long since we celebrated Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Easter celebration, the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, is the fulfillment of the very reason for Christmas - that Jesus was born to save us from our sin. (Matthew 1:21) The blessings, which the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ confers on humanity, are far-reaching and beyond compare.

As I reflected on the meaning of Easter and its implication for our human race and in particular for our parish community, the passage from the Acts of the Apostles came to my mind. It reads, "All who believed were together ... And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:44-47)

It is God's design, and not a coincidence that the event of over 2000 years in faraway Jerusalem should bring us all together from various parts of the world as people of faith here in Sacred Heart Parish. Like the early Christian communities, we gather almost every day of the week to be nourished by the Lord in the Eucharist. As we partake in his saving banquet, he, the Lord continues to renew in us the spiritual and eternal benefits of his death on the cross on Calvary.

So much to praise God for – the generosity of parishioners with their time and talents which they bring to make our fellowship and community life a befitting one for God. I must say it is very encouraging to see parishioners look out for what needs to be done and in turn, lend a helping hand in the ways they can. This selflessness helped to grow the communities of the early followers of the Way that it earned them the name, Christians.

Since the beginning of this year, we have had some baptisms, more enquiries are still coming, and more baptisms have been booked for the coming months. As he did in the early Christian communities, so God continues to add to our numbers in our parish community of Sacred Heart. Thanks to the parents of our new and soon to be new members, as we pray for them to persevere in the promises they make to God in the practice of the faith and of God-centred morals.

As the Lord filled the hearts of the disciples with joy at the news of Christ's resurrection from the dead, so may he renew and fill you and your families with the joy of Easter. Happy Easter to you all.

Fr Joseph

Mass Intentions:

Sun 9 Apr	✠ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection	8:30am	Marie and Colin Swawbrick RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Wadia Narouz RIP Ann
Mon 10 Apr	Monday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	People of the Parish
Tue 11 Apr	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	William O'Connor RIP
Thu 13 Apr	Thursday within the Octave of Easter	12:00pm	Mercedes (Mercy) Stillman and all Holy Souls RIP
Fri 14 Apr	Friday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	Kathleen Mary Earls RIP Ann
Sat 15 Apr	Saturday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	Deceased members of the McDonnell family and all Holy Souls RIP
	Easter Vigil	5:00pm	James Dudley and all Holy Souls RIP
Sun 16 Apr	✠ Second Sunday of Easter	8:30am	Vincent Paul Keen Int
		10:00am*	Bridgie and Ted Nolan and all Holy Souls 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, Vincent Paul Keen, 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: Phil Kinsella, Fr Henry Patrick Thomas Young, Jacqueline Kinsey, Lilian Quintana.

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 housebound Parishioners.

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, 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:
berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Easter Offering – Please take an envelope for your Easter offering from the back of the church. Your donation goes towards the yearly stipend for the priest. THANK YOU

Divine Mercy Sunday – 16th April, 2:30-4:00pm.
The Novena of Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday the 7th April to Saturday 15th April. People around the world are being encouraged to say the Novena for peace in our troubled world.
Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated this year on Sunday 16th April here at Sacred Heart Church.
The 3 O'clock prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be followed by a quiet time for prayer and reflection.

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.

Requiem Mass for Jacqueline Kinsey - will be held at Sacred Heart Church on Monday 24th April at 10:00am.

Requiem Mass for Margaret (Phil) Kinsella - will be held at Sacred Heart Church on Friday 28th April at 11:00am.

Sunday Lunch Club - If you wish to attend the Sunday lunch club on the **16th April at 12pm**, please add your name to the sign-up sheet by **Sunday 9th April latest**. **Everyone welcome!**
The sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church.

Come to Celebrate Joy – Our Parish event with a difference. Sunday 14th May, 2:30-5:00pm. Think the Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2:1-12). An afternoon of fun activities for all including family games, live music and a feast!
Tickets £5 per person or a family ticket £10.
Registration forms will be available from the 16th April, alternatively email Laura in the office berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk or call 01442 863 845 to reserve your ticket, Tickets are limited!

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

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.
DENS – for a list of what they need most please see front of the food collection box.

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 – 2/4
Weekly loose plate - £191.30
Weekly Contactless - £55.00

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 –

14th Apr Divine Mercy Sunday, 2:30 – 4:00pm

16th Apr Sunday Lunch Club 12pm

14th May Come to Celebrate Joy – Parish Event

9th Jul Sunday Lunch Club 1pm

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>

MARY'S MEALS - The first of 2023 drop-in soup lunch, tea, coffee and cake will be on Saturday 22nd April 11.30 - 15.00, at Open Door (opposite VAH's). Do come along, the food is all homemade and lovely. There is also a table-top sale. The funds really do go a long way and there is information about Mary's' Meals at the back of the church. There will be cakes also after 10am Mass on 23rd and again money raised for Mary's meals. THANK YOU for all your support.

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

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