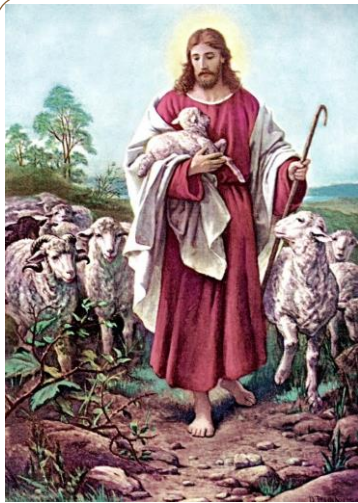


Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A, 30th April 2023



On this Good Shepherd Sunday, the Gospel for each yearly cycle is always taken from St John, chapter 10, where Jesus speaks of himself as a Good Shepherd.

In today's **Gospel** (Year A), Jesus is comparing and contrasting himself with those religious leaders who lack any real commitment or sense of responsibility to the ones in their care. The sheep do not recognise such leaders, but they do know, and are ready to follow, the Good Shepherd who alone enters by the gate. Jesus is warning his listeners to be discerning about those they listen to and those they follow.

The **Psalm**, 'The Lord is my Shepherd', tells us that God is always caring for us, as a shepherd cares for the sheep. In the **First Reading**, from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear Peter calling all to conversion, while the **Second Reading** is a reminder that when we do stray, we can always return to the Lord.

Today is also known as Vocations Sunday. So perhaps this week, I could ponder the following questions: On what am I spending my energies? Who do I listen to and follow? How am I giving witness to my faith? What contribution am I making to the building up of truth, love, justice and tolerance? How, and from where, do I hear the Good Shepherd in my daily life?

Let's pray for the grace to trust the gift of the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us, that we might have faith in the One who has called and is calling us. Amen.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 30 Apr	✠ Fourth Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	George Holt RIP
Mon 1 May	Easter Feria	10:00am	May and Toby McLintock and all Holy Souls RIP
Tue 2 May	St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor	10:00am	Jimmy Colclough RIP
Thu 4 May	The English Martyrs	12:00pm	Margaret and Danny Wong and all Holy Souls RIP Coronation of King Charles III
Fri 5 May	Easter Feria	10:00am	Margaret Eke RIP Coronation of King Charles III
Sat 6 May	Easter Feria	10:00am	Margaret McMahon and all Holy Souls RIP Coronation of King Charles III
	Easter Vigil	5:00pm	John Muldowney RIP Martin Joseph Donohoe RIP Coronation of King Charles III
Sun 7 May	✠ Fifth Sunday of Easter	8:30am	Phil Kinsella RIP
		10:00am*	People of the Parish

We Pray for:

The Sick and the Housebound in our parishes

We pray especially for: Trevor Perkins, Heidi Wong, Charlotte Aragorn, Jane Blayney, Alice Gancke, Alloma Solomons, Katherine Fielden, Anne Furlong, Dymna 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: Bernard Attridge, Jimmy Colclough, Maureen Kyte, Fr Peter James Maher, Phil Kinsella, Fr Henry Young, Jacqueline Kinsey.

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 peace in Sudan and the protection of lives.

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

Priest Training Fund - This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. The Diocese currently has 18 men studying for the priesthood. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests.

If you do not have a donation envelope, you can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit

www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

Thank you for your generosity.

St George, Martyr and Patron of England – This year, the feast day of St George fell on a Sunday – 23rd April. As with all other moveable feast in the liturgical calendar, the celebration was moved to the 24th. In the words of St Peter Damian, “St George was a man who abandoned one army for another: he gave up the rank of tribune to enlist as a soldier for Christ. Eager to encounter the enemy, he first stripped away his worldly wealth by giving all he had to the poor. Then, free and unencumbered, bearing the shield of faith, he plunged into the thick of the battle, an ardent soldier for Christ.”

A belated **HAPPY FEAST TO EVERYONE.**

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.

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!

CAFOD - Thank you to all parishioners at Sacred Heart Church for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donation of £837.85 which we received on 19 April 2023. Thank you so much for being there for our global family.

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 for your continuing generous donation of non-perishable food to support local people via DENS Food Bank.

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

Veritas Catholic Lecture series - 10am start – 3pm end (approx)

20 May, Old Testament, lecturer, Fr John Hemer (Mill Hill Missionary)

To attend please register:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/events/>

For more details, please see Hemel West Website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hemel Hempsteadwest/news/veritas-catholic-lecture-series-starting-soon/>

Offertory Collections – 23/4

Weekly Loose Plate - £222.26

Weekly Contactless - £105.00

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 May Coronation Cream Tea – Open Door

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>

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

Coronation Cream Tea at Open Door – Wednesday 3rd May 1-3pm at Open Door, 360-364 High Street, Berkhamsted. RSVP to 01442 768 120 or caitlin@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk including any dietary requirements.

Bible Alive – is a catholic magazine with daily Mass readings reflections and real life faith testimonies, with wide readership. You can subscribe it monthly. A free trial version can be ordered by phoning 01782 745600 or email booksales@alivepublishing.co.uk or visit www.alivepublishing.co.uk