

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ Second Sunday of Easter, Year A, 16th April 2023



Today, with Thomas, we hail Christ as our *Lord and God*. We, too, ask to be filled with the joy and peace of the disciples in seeing the risen Lord.

The **First Reading** tells how effectively the lives of the first Christians are encouraged and transformed by their Spirit-filled faith. Their devout, generous sense of community is an inspiration to all who meet them.

Today's **Psalm** is considered '**the**' Easter psalm above all others. All Christians are invited to give thanks and praise to the Lord.

Peter, who was an eye-witness to the events of Easter (**Second Reading**), praises and encourages the faith of the new converts, even though they have never seen Jesus. Although they are persecuted and plagued by trials because of their new-found faith in Christ, they still love him deeply and are filled with a glorious joy.

The **Gospel** recounts the events of the first Sunday after Easter Day. Thomas is absent when the risen Lord appears to the other frightened disciples, offering them the resurrection gift of the Spirit of peace. But a week later, Jesus seeks out the doubting Thomas personally: an encounter that enables Thomas to proclaim Jesus as 'My Lord and my God!'

This week, we pray for a deepening personal relationship with the risen Lord that can change our lives ... and for an openness that inspires us to take our active, living faith into our suffering world.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 16 Apr	✠ Second Sunday of Easter	8:30am	Vincent Paul Keen Int
		10:00am*	Bridgie and Ted Nolan and all Holy Souls RIP
Mon 17 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Tom and Mary Concannon and all Holy Souls RIP
Tue 18 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	John Dolton and all Holy Souls RIP
Thu 20 Apr	Easter Feria	12:00pm	Gerry Campbell RIP
Fri 21 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Edwin Turner and all Holy Souls RIP
Sat 22 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Anne Fletcher and all Holy Souls RIP
	Easter Vigil	5:00pm	Jimmy and Mary Muldowney RIP
Sun 23 Apr	✠ Third Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Tony and Philip Furlong 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, 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: Fr Peter James Maher, 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
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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

Thank You – for the Easter collection, which forms the priest's monthly stipend for the year here in the parish. Continuing thank you to everyone for all for the time you gave in preparation for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations, which were a truly beautiful experience. We are grateful to Laura, our Parish Administrator for her dedication to the work she does in the parish office; to Chrissie who volunteers her time in the parish office; and to Josie for ensuring that we work and operate in a clean environment.

CHRIST HAS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!!

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 - The next Sunday lunch club will be held on Sunday 9th July at 1pm. **Everyone welcome!** A sign up sheet will be placed at the back of the Church nearer the time.

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 – 9/4

Easter Collection - £1267.07

Weekly Contactless - £225.00

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

29th Apr Catholic Community Spring Dance 1:00pm

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.

Catholic Community Spring Dance – Saturday 29th April from 1:00pm. St Leonard's Parish Hall, Near Tring, HP23 6NW. A sit down meal, bring your own food & alcohol plus some to share! Soft drinks, tea and coffee provided. Ceilidh-style dancing, bacon butties, teas & coffees, 7:00pm close.

All ages welcome, only 100 tickets available! For tickets please email: georgetyldesley@hotmail.co.uk

Adult £15, concession £10 and family £35

For more information, call Heather 07843 285 046

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