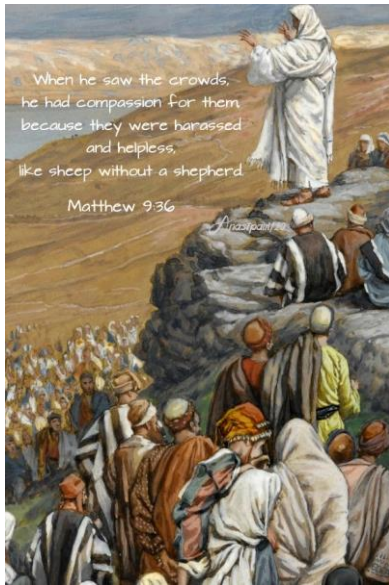


Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ The 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 18th June 2023



When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
Matthew 9:36

This week's liturgy reminds us of who we are, whose we are, what has been done for us, and then, how we might feel drawn to respond.

For the people of Israel, relations with neighbouring tribes always offered tempting religious alternatives. The Exodus story (**First Reading**) was a constant reminder of their covenant with God, in which the whole nation was called to be made holy. St Paul writes to the Christians in Rome, teaching that their concerns should not, ultimately, be about what *they* are doing for God, but about what God has done, and is doing, for them. (**Second Reading**)

That is also a sentiment echoed in this week's **Psalm** – we, the sheep, are beneficiaries of a Good Shepherd who made us, who loves us, who is faithful to us, and to whom we belong. St Matthew (**Gospel**) portrays Jesus as the compassionate shepherd of his suffering people. Jesus is concerned not only with their spiritual and practical needs, but also about ensuring there are enough 'labourers' on the ground to reach every 'lost sheep'.

As I pray this week, I might ponder: are there tempting alternatives getting in the way of my own covenantal relationship with the Lord? What has God done for me is God doing for me ... will God do for me? How is my relationship with the Good Shepherd, to whom I belong? In what ways am I able to labour alongside Christ in today's world?

Mass Intentions:

Sun 18 Jun	✠ 11 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	The Grimes Family Int
Mon 19 Jun	Feria	10:00am	Berthrand Okoro RIP Ann
Tue 20 Jun	St Alban, Protomartyr	10:00am	Anne Harte Special Int
Thu 22 Jun	Ss John Fisher and Thomas More	12:00pm	Friends and family of Anne Harte
Fri 23 Jun	Feria	10:00am	The Shotton Family
Sat 24 Jun	The Nativity of St John the Baptist	10:00am	Anne Fletcher RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Fr Joseph Ordination Anniversary – Thanksgiving
Sun 25 Jun	✠ 12 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	McMahon Family Int
		10:00am*	Esther Horkan RIP Ann

* 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: Tim Murphy, Joan Hawley, Heidi Wong, Charlotte Aragon, Jane Blayney, 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: Becky Lambert, Veronica Aligwo, Franca Agwara, Wally McNeela, Fr Richard Ward Marriott, Trevor Perkins, Alloma Solomons, Bernard Attridge, Jimmy Colclough, Maureen Kyte.
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 Alex Hall and members of the Hall family.

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

Feast of Sacred Heart – Last Friday we celebrated Mass of our parish feast. A very happy feast to all our parishioners. “O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, Good Jesus that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death.” Amen.

First Holy Communion 2023 – Congratulations to all our children who took their First Holy Communion on Saturday. May the gifts they received help them to feel God’s unconditional love in their lives and remain in their faith. Thank you to all the catechists who helped prepare them and the choir who sang at both masses. Please keep them in your prayers.

The Day of Life – There will be a second collection this weekend. The funds raised will support life projects across the whole spectrum of life. This year the Day for Life seeks to highlight the trauma caused by abortion. The theme is “Listen to Her”. The message is an invitation to listen to the voice and story of a young Catholic woman who was suffering after an abortion and found healing. With her consent, we are able to highlight the distress which she suffered and how she found healing.

Many in our society, but especially women, are affected by abortion and we want people to know they can find a welcome in the heart of the Church and the promise of hope and healing found in Christ Jesus.

A Novena of Prayer will be available on the CBCEW website which will lead up to the Day for Life. All resources, including the full message can be accessed here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/>

Mass Intentions – As we come to the end of our Masses for Holy Souls we have a large number of masses available from the end of June up until the end of the year. Please consider booking a Mass, it could be for any occasion.

To book a Mass, please contact Laura or speak with Fr Joseph after Mass.

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.

For a list of what they need most please see front of the food collection box.

Sunday Lunch Club – 9th July will be a Summer buffet this month. All families welcome, no charge but a donation would be appreciated, suggested donation is £10 per adult. Please sign up by the 2nd July, a sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church.

Racial Justice Webinar – Tuesday 11th July 14.00 – 15.30. The webinar will provide an opportunity for those working in the area of racial justice to learn from one another, share experiences and initiatives. It will also help inform the Bishops’ Conference in the ongoing mission of promoting racial justice. Anyone can register for the event by following the link below. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/webinar-racial-justice-in-the-church/>

Offertory Collections – 11/6

Weekly Loose Plate - £357.35

Weekly Contactless - £60.00

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 –

24th Jun Mary’s Meals Drop-in 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.

Mary’s Meals - A drop-in event for Mary's Meals is planned at Open Door on Saturday 24th June and again everyone is invited. Home made cakes, tea, soup and soups PLUS bric-a-brac treasures. Please put it in your diary and drop-in if you are free. A great cause and a chance to catch-up with friends. Contact Anne if you can help of have donations - mobile 07773 900983. Thank you again for all your support

Debbie Shrimpton Illustrates - a member of the parish has illustrated the Sacred Heart Berkhamsted which can be bought as framed artwork. Debbie will donate 10% of the framed illustration fee to the church funds. The framed illustration can be personalised with names, date of sacrament etc, for a unique memento of your child’s Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation or your Wedding. Framed illustrations are £55 or £65 with personalisation.

Please contact Debbie at debbieshrimpton@gmail.com for enquiries or visit her website

www.debbieshrimptonillustrates.co.uk