



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 2nd July 2023



The readings this week focus on hospitality and welcome, as well as the rewards we receive when we welcome others ourselves.

In the **First Reading**, Elisha, a 'holy man of God', is regularly offered bed and board. As a result he decides to reward his hosts with a much longed-for son and heir.

The **Psalm** is a song of praise to the Lord's love and mercy.

St Paul stresses to the Romans that in Baptism, we die to our old selves, and are reborn to a new life with Christ. (**Second Reading**)

In the **Gospel**, Jesus continues to instruct his disciples. Following him will not always be easy, but it will have its own rewards or blessings. Whether one welcomes a prophet, a holy person or the smallest 'little one', a good deed, even the simplest cup of water, will not go unnoticed. In welcoming others, we welcome Jesus himself.

This week we might want to reflect on the way each one of us, and society at large, welcomes those who must leave their own land for a variety of reasons.

Perhaps we can ask for the grace of realising that '*whatsoever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters, that we do unto him*' (words adapted from the hymn by Willard F. Jabusch).

Mass Intentions:

Sun 2 Jul	✠ 13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Rina Romeo Brandi RIP
Mon 3 Jul	St Thomas, Apostle	10:00am	
Tue 4 Jul	Feria	10:00am	
Thu 6 Jul	Feria	12:00pm	Edmond Gancke RIP
Fri 7 Jul	Feria	10:00am	Fr Theo Raaijmakers RIP
Sat 8 Jul	Feria	10:00am	
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Thanksgiving
Sun 9 Jul	✠ 14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Thanksgiving for the birth of Dolly Anne Furlong. First great grandchild for Anne and Frank.

* 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, Heidi Wong, Charlotte Aragon, Jane Blayney, 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 Theo Raaijmakers, Helen Campbell, Becky Lambert, Veronica Aligwo, Franca Agwara, Wally McNeela, Fr Richard Ward Marriott, Trevor Perkins, Alloma Solomons, Bernard Attridge.

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 Furlong Family.

Sacred Heart Church
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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)
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Going Forth Mass – Congratulations to all our young children who took their First Holy Communion recently. This Sunday we welcome them and their parents to the Going Forth Mass. At this Mass their First Holy Communion certificates will be issued. Please join us in the hall afterwards for Tea, coffee and cake.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Laura our Parish administrator for all the paperwork and administration involved in the preparation for the programme. We thank the catechists, the choir, the flower arrangers and all who helped in this preparation. God bless you all. Fr Joseph

Mass Intentions – 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.

Annual Berkhamsted tennis club tournament - Congratulations and our blessings to Raul and Santiago Mackie who were successful in the annual Berkhamstead Tennis club tournament. Santiago won the under 14 title and Raul the under 18 plate.

Right to Life - There has been a tragic case of a woman being sent abortion pills by the abortion provider, BPAS, who had not accurately established the gestation of her baby, Lily, who was then aborted at between 32 and 34 weeks, which is around 8 months gestation. Rather than take responsibility for sending out abortion pills 22 weeks beyond the legal limit for at-home abortions, BPAS is running a major campaign to fully 'decriminalise' abortion, which would introduce abortion up to birth! Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on their website which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to oppose the introduction of abortion up to birth and instead ask the Government to reinstate in-person appointments to ensure babies like Lily are protected in the future. For more information, please click the link below.

www.righttolife.org.uk/noabortionuptobirth

Second Collection 2nd July – There will be a second collection this Sunday for Peter's Pence.

Second Collection 9th July - Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is Sunday 9th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) to continue its important work - so please give generously. Thank you.

Sunday Lunch Club – 9th July will be a **Summer buffet** this month and includes a **bouncy castle** for the children. All families welcome, no charge, but a donation would be appreciated, suggested donation is £10 per adult. Please sign up by the 2nd July and indicate how many people per family, a sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church. This is a great opportunity to have a catch up before the summer holidays.

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.

Offertory Collections – 25/6

Weekly Loose Plate - £188.15

Weekly Contactless - £40.00

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 –

8th July Divine Mercy Retreat Wembley

9th Jul Sunday Lunch Club 1pm (Summer Buffet)

11th Jul Racial Justice Webinar

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.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate - London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at St Georges RC Church, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QE on Saturday 8 July 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Call millie on 07957594646 for more information.

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/>

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

June 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Denise Leahy

2nd (£50) Anna Hamilton

3rd (£25) Katherine Fielden

To sign up please go to:

<https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>