



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 16th July 2023



The word of God is proclaimed throughout the whole of creation. All of the readings in the liturgy this Sunday are filled with images drawn from nature.

The word is like rain refreshing the earth, bringing goodness and growth wherever it falls. **(First Reading)**

The **Psalm** is a prayerful song of thanks after a time of drought. It reminds us of the bountiful love that pours out from the Lord, filling us with joy and good things.

Paul (**Second Reading**) writes of a deep longing within us – and within the whole of creation – for the fulfilment of God’s promise. The word of God will give us the freedom we long for.

Jesus shares the parable of the sower casting seeds upon the land to teach us to cherish the word of God. The parable reminds us of the many things that can distract and prevent us from fulfilling all that we are called to be. When we learn to truly listen, the word of God is an abundant source of growth. It provides rich fruit for the benefit of all.

In this coming week, we might want to look around us and notice the different ways in which creation speaks to us of the love of God. Let us pray for the courage and grace to sow, nurture, grow and harvest the Word of God wherever we may be.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 16 Jul	✠ 15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Elizabeth O’Rourke RIP Ann
Mon 17 Jul	Feria	10:00am	
Tue 18 Jul	Feria	10:00am	
Thu 20 Jul	Feria	12:00pm	
Fri 21 Jul	Feria	10:00am	
Sat 22 Jul	St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Steve and Phyllis Metcalfe RIP Hugh and Sally Toner RIP
Sun 23 Jul	✠ 16 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	All the Grandparents and the Elderly

* 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: Rosemary Goacher, Tim Murphy, 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: Michael Briggs, Teresa Treacy, Elizabeth Anne Keenan, Paul Galea, Fr Theo Raaijmakers, Helen Campbell, Becky Lambert, Veronica Aligwo, Franca Agwara, Wally McNeela, Fr Richard Ward Marriott. **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 all our Catechists .

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)
Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:
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World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – Sunday 23rd July

“May the elderly never be cast aside – not just because they have much love and wisdom to share with younger generations but because it’s God’s plan that spans past, present and future. *‘It embraces and connects the generations. It is greater than we are, yet includes each of us and calls us at every moment to keep pressing forward.’*” – Pope Francis.

Through the intercession of Saints Joachim and Anne, the earthly grandparents of Jesus, may God bless all the grandparents and the elderly with his peace and joy. Perhaps you could spend some time on this day to visit and appreciate your grandparent(s) and the elderly, if possible.

Summer Buffet (Sunday Lunch Club) – A big Thank you to all who helped organise the Summer buffet event last Sunday. The food was fantastic and it was wonderful to see so many young families. The next Sunday lunch club will be on the 10th September. A sign up sheet will be placed at the back of the Church nearer the time.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2024 – Applications for both First Holy Communion and Confirmation will open from the 9th September. Please phone or email Fr Joseph to book an appointment. Josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk

Mass Intentions – We have a large number of masses available 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.

Second Collection 9th July – Thank you to all who donated at our second collection for Stella Maris, in total we collected £358.96.

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.

The Jurassic Coast Trek - taking place from 20-22nd October 2023. Join like-minded individuals on a breathtaking and unforgettable journey from Lulworth to Studland, covering 25 miles across 2 days. A worthy fundraising challenge for anyone who is reasonably fit and has bucket-loads of determination! www.dens.org.uk/trek for more information head to the website, email fundraising@dens.org.uk or call 01442 800268

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

Offertory Collections – 9/7

Weekly Loose Plate - £233.62

Weekly Contactless - £85.00

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 –

10th Sep Sunday Lunch Club

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.

Creative Talents of Open Door - During August, Open Door is inviting the community in to experience the wealth of Creative Talent amongst its artists, tutors, volunteers, hirers and pupils! Open Door is awash with talent, with regular exhibitions and a range of creative classes and workshops taking place each month for the local community to benefit from.

To showcase this talent, from 31st July – 26th August 2023, Open Door’s gallery walls will be filled with work from a breadth of people in the Open Door family. Featuring drawings, pottery, needle felting, crochet, paintings – the list goes on...

To further exhibit the vast creativity that goes on at Open Door, tutors and hirers are laying on a variety of free workshops throughout the month – they are all suitable for children and adults, and all free of charge – a brilliant way to try new things, or keep the kids occupied this summer!

A full list of dates can be found on the notice board at the back of the Church.

Young Adults Formation - The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 - 35 to live alongside their community in Norfolk for a week this summer. As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham. There are two choices of dates: 14th - 21st August or 30th August - 6th September. To find out more, please enquire by 31st July by emailing the COLW Sisters at freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org