



# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023



God's mercy and compassion are the themes running through today's readings.

The **First Reading** offers a description of God's divine nature. The author emphasises God's universal care and patience as signs of strength: characteristics that stand at odds with worldly values.

In the midst of his troubles, the **Psalmist** also reflects on the qualities of the God of mercy and compassion.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul tells of the consequences of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Christian prayer. Even when prayer is difficult for us as finite and limited human beings, Paul encourages us to hand over our struggles to the Spirit who prays deeply in our hearts to our Father.

The **Gospel** shares three parables about growth, each seen from a different perspective. The first tells of the wheat and the weeds. It challenges us to recognise that sometimes we must learn to live with situations we don't like, because the effort to remove or change them would do more harm than good. This is a shrewd picture of the patience and compassion needed to live with the ambiguities and complexities of human life.

Let us pray this week for a spirit of self-compassion in our frailty and limitations. We ask for the grace of deep humility and freedom to give of our best, and also to have faith in the God of surprises.

## Mass Intentions:

Sat 22 Jul	St Mary Magdalene	10:00am	People of the Parish
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Steve and Phyllis Metcalfe RIP Hugh and Sally Toner RIP
Sun 23 Jul	✠ 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	All the Grandparents and the Elderly Day Vincent Paul Keen RIP
		10:00am*	Ann Lynn RIP
			All the Grandparents and the Elderly Day
Mon 24 Jul	Feria	10:00am	Zachary Keehn Int
Tue 25 Jul	St James, Apostle	10:00am	Jonathan and Deirdre Hawkins 25 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
Thu 27 Jul	Feria	12:00pm	Peteria and Christopher Moran RIP
Fri 28 Jul	Feria	10:00am	John Moran RIP
Sat 29 Jul	Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus	10:00am	Pauline Beasley RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Jeremy Blood RIP Ann
Sun 30 Jul	✠ 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	In Thanksgiving for Our Parish staff and volunteers
		10:00am*	Maurice and Stella Hoban RIP

## We Pray for:

### The Sick and the Housebound in our parishes

We pray especially for: Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Tim Murphy, Heidi Wong, Charlotte Aragon, Jane Blayney, Dymna O'Connor, Liz Salmon, Elizabeth Le Juge de Segrays, 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: Vincent Paul Keen, Fr Mark Leenane, 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 Michael, Shirley and Jeremy Blood.

Sacred Heart Church  
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(Office Hours: 10:00am-2.00pm, Mon, Tue and Thurs.)

**Parish Priest - Fr Joseph Okoro:** [josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Administrator – Laura Etson:** [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Catechists Appeal** – We are always in need of volunteers, especially Catechists to help us with our Confirmation programme. If this is of interest to you, please speak with Fr Joseph.

**First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA** – Applications for First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA 2024 will open from the 9<sup>th</sup> September. Please phone or email Fr Joseph to book an appointment. [Josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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.

**Michael Briggs RIP** – Requiem Mass (Latin) 28th July at 11am. Our Lady’s, Amersham Rd, Chesham Bois. Followed by internment at Kingshill Cemetery at 12:30pm.

**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](http://www.dens.org.uk/trek) for more information head to the website, email [fundraising@dens.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/noabortionuptobirth)

**July 100 Club Winners**

1st (£100) Monica Normoyle

2nd (£50) Jacqueline Kelly

3rd (£25) Bill Readman

If you would like to sign up please go

to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZol76wpEvFc7>

**Offertory Collections – 16/7**

Weekly Loose Plate - £151.32

Weekly Contactless - £30.00

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 –**

**17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Mary’s Meals** – Thank you to the Parish for supporting the work of Mary’s Meals. With your help Anne and Caroline have raised £670.00 from the sale of soup, cakes, teas and coffees and the generosity of donations, monetary and otherwise.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org)