



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 30th July 2023



Today's readings weave around themes of wisdom, treasure and joy.

When asked in a dream what he desires from God, Solomon chooses 'a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil.' God is pleased that Solomon does not seek riches or a long life, so gives him the gift of wisdom (**First Reading**).

The **Psalmist** asks the Lord for his consoling love. God's law means more to him than precious metals.

St Paul explains that the plan now unfolding has been there from the beginning (**Second Reading**). God chose, and called us all to become 'true images of his Son'. God wants all who love him and follow his teaching to share in his glory.

In the **Gospel** Jesus offers three images for God's kingdom: a treasure we find unexpectedly; a pearl for which we search diligently; a net that gathers us in. They illustrate the priceless value and importance of the kingdom to which all are invited. Jesus also reminds us to hold on to treasures both old and new as we seek God's kingdom.

This week, we ponder God's gift of wisdom. We pray that it will guide us to the 'treasure': the delight of knowing and loving Jesus, and the riches this brings. We ask God's help to share that with those we encounter, however we can.



Mass Intentions:

Sun 30 Jul	✠ 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	In Thanksgiving for Our Parish staff and volunteers
		10:00am*	Maurice and Stella Hoban RIP
Mon 31 Jul	St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest	10:00am	Caroline Reid Int
Tue 1 Aug	St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor	10:00am	Margaret Crichton RIP Ann Vincent Paul Keen RIP
Thu 3 Aug	Feria	12:00pm	Thanksgiving to all who have helped the Reid family
Fri 4 Aug	St John Vianney, Priest	10:00am	NO MASS
Sat 5 Aug	Feria	10:00am	NO MASS
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Pam Jones Int.
Sun 6 Aug	✠ The Transfiguration of the Lord	8:30am	Vincent Paul Keen RIP
		10:00am*	Charlotte Vella and her unborn baby Int.

* Livestream Mass

We Pray for:

The Sick and the Housebound in our parishes

We pray especially for: Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Tim Murphy, Heidi Wong, Jane Blayney, Dympna O'Connor, 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: 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 those affected by natural disasters.

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:
berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Parish Volunteers – The experience in the last ten months has been good as I got to know the parishioners and hopefully you, me. As we enter the holiday season, I will like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, as well as the parish volunteers, for all you gave to support in the work that goes on in the parish – sacristans, sacred linen cleaners, extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, readers, finance committee members, welcomers, offertory collectors and counters, parish safeguarding representative, bidding prayer writers, hospitality/social team (Sunday tea and coffee, Sunday lunch club, etc) the choir and organists, the altar servers, the flower arrangers and the catechists. We got to where we did these past months because of your support and dedication. Happy holidays if you are going away on holiday, and be assured of my prayers for your safety and safe return. God bless. Fr Joseph

Office Closure – The office will be closed from the 2nd August and will re-open on the 10th August at 10:00am. Any voicemails or emails during this time will be actioned from the 10th August

Newsletter in August – There will not be any newsletters during the month of August. Notification of Mass intentions and Mass times will still be circulated and displayed on the main doors weekly. Newsletters will start again from Sunday 10th September.

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 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.

Missio – Thank you to all who donated through your red box, in total you have raised £216.20 towards the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Friday 8 September. Rachel Franc and Jenny Holden will be holding their annual coffee morning on Friday 8 September. Please make a note of the date as there won't be a church newsletter before then. Look out for more details nearer the time in the porch, or contact either of them for details. Rachel 07981-920619 or Jenny 07989-275603.

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.

Celebrate Summer - family activity pack
Download the brand new Celebrate online family activity pack for summer! Packed full of activities to do, pray, read and watch, this online resource will give you ideas on how to connect with God, your family and others. Why not try the Celebrate Summer Psalm walk in this pack at your local park or on holiday? Use this link to download the Celebrate Summer pack for free today - <https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks>

Offertory Collections – 23/7

Weekly Loose Plate - £152.20

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 Sep Macmillan Coffee Morning

17th 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.

Run the Royal Parks Half Marathon in aid of The Passage -

Sunday 8th October 2023. This stunning autumnal route showcases the iconic sites of London through four Royal Parks – Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park. Run past some of the capital's most historic landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade and the Royal Albert Hall. Although undulating in parts, the course is not hilly and is great for both experienced and first-time half marathon runners. All money raised will go towards supporting those currently experiencing or threatened by street homelessness so that we can end homelessness for good. Registration fee: £20. Sign up here: <https://passage.org.uk/get-involved/events/royal-parks-half-marathon/>

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.

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. 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.