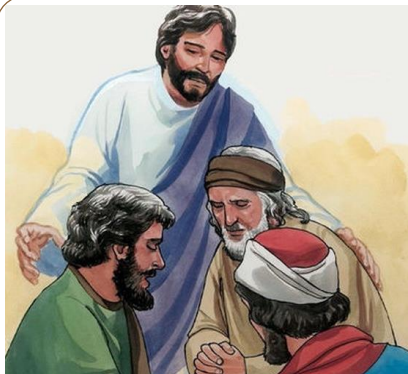


Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 10th September 2023



The theme of listening runs through today's readings. We are to listen to the word of God, to our hearts, to one another, and to our community.

We are challenged truly to love one another, speaking out where necessary. Just as Jesus became our brother and made himself responsible for us, he asks that we do the same.

God appoints Ezekiel as his sentry: a mouthpiece to sound a warning when danger appears. We, too, are to be on the look out, helping one another rather than simply looking on. **(First Reading)**

The **Gospel** echoes this. Jesus tells us what to do when things go wrong in relationships within a community. We should try to work things out one-to-one, then invite those we can trust to advise, and finally ask the community, bringing back those who stray. Jesus asks us not to give up on people, even when they do not listen to us.

In the **Second Reading** St Paul emphasizes that it is love that underpins all our relationships. The ten commandments are summed up in the phrase 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

The **Psalm** of praise urges us to listen to the Lord with open hearts. Today we also celebrate the first Sunday in the season of creation.

As we embrace the beauty of God's Kingdom, we pray for the grace to be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 10 Sep	✠ 23 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Vincent Paul and John Keen RIP
		10:00am*	People of the Parish
Mon 11 Sep	Feria	10:00am	
Tue 12 Sep	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	10:00am	Tim Murphy RIP
Thu 14 Sep	Feria	12:00pm	
Fri 15 Sep	Our Lady of Sorrows	10:00am	
Sat 16 Sep	St Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	10:00am	
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Tim Murphy RIP
Sun 17 Sep	✠ 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Peter Murray RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Bill Zeitzen RIP

* 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: Tom O'Reilly, Fr John Boland, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, 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: Fr Pat Egan, Roy Kay, Tim Murphy, Vincent Paul Keen, Fr Mark Leenane, Michael Briggs, Teresa Treacy, Elizabeth Anne Keenan, Paul Galea, Fr Theo Raaijmakers.

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 People of the Parish.

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

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.

Sunday Lunch Club (Summer Buffet) – Join us on the 17th September from 1:30pm for this fabulous buffet style meal including a BBQ if the weather allows. Everyone welcome! Please sign up using the sign up sheet at the back of the church by Sunday 10th September or email Laura.

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

John F Kennedy Catholic School – Applications for secondary transfer 2024-25 opens in September 2023 and closes on 31st October 2023.

Please view our admissions policy here:

<https://jfk.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2024-25-Admissions-Policy-v2-1.pdf> which details the application process and supplementary forms for completion and submission.

Open Evening – Tuesday 3rd October 2023, 6.00-9.00pm – tours of the school during the evening with 2 bookable presentations by the Headteacher, at [6pm](#) and [7pm](#), with limited seats and requiring booking in advance.

Open Morning – Wednesday 11th October 2023, 9.30am – an opportunity to see the school in action (limited availability and advised to only book if unable to attend Open Evening)

To book your place, please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search 'John F Kennedy Catholic School'.

Offertory Collections – 3/9/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £213.35

Weekly Contactless - £55.00

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 – 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.

Travel to Walsingham with Westminster Youth Ministry:

23rd September - Westminster Youth Ministry is taking a group of 45 young people (16-25) by coach to Walsingham as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage on 23rd September. The coach leaves at 7am from Westminster Cathedral, and should return around 8pm. The cost is £35, which includes the pilgrimage contribution.

Bookings are open until 16th September, so sign up now at <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/pilgrimage-to-walsingham/>

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/>