



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 17th September 2023



The readings for this Sunday remind us again of God’s boundless love and compassion. God’s unconditional love for us, and the sacrifice of Jesus’s death, means there is no limit to the mercy we receive; nor can there be to the compassion and forgiveness we show to others.

The **First Reading** from Ecclesiasticus exhorts us to avoid resentment, anger and hatred, and live by God’s commandments. Showing true forgiveness and having compassion for others, whatever the hurt we have experienced ourselves, will set us free.

The **Psalm** is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. We are reminded that we are not treated according to our sins: *we receive* the unimaginable depth and breadth of God’s love and forgiveness.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul teaches the Romans how the life we live influences those around us. We belong to Christ, Lord of the dead and the living, and it is through the way we live and die that we lead others to him.

The **Gospel** parable of the merciful king and his unforgiving servant reiterates the key message that we must love and forgive others because of the love and compassion God has shown us, in spite of the depth of our sins.

This week, perhaps we can pray for those who are unable to forgive. We think of those who remain trapped in the cycles of bitterness and division, which in so many parts of the world, lead to violence and war.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 17 Sep	✠ 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Peter Murray RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Bill Zeitzen RIP
Mon 18 Sep	Feria	10:00am	People of the Parish
Tue 19 Sep	Feria	10:00am	Nadine Dickinson RIP
Thu 21 Sep	St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	12:00pm	Heather Donovan RIP
Fri 22 Sep	Feria	10:00am	James Murphy RIP Ann
Sat 23 Sep	St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest	10:00am	Mary Oladimeji RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	
Sun 24 Sep	✠ 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Margaret Flanagan and Brian Day RIP
		10:00am*	The Lynn Family Int

* 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 McArdle, Tom Kemplen, Gerry Earls, 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 all effected by natural disasters.

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 are now open. 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.

Missionary Sisters of England and Wales – On the 23rd and 24th September we welcome the Missionary Sisters to Our Parish to make an appeal and to talk about their work.

Second Collection – There will be a second collection this Sunday for Evangelii Gaudium to support the home mission in England and Wales.

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'.

Loreto College Secondary Transfer Open evening - Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3RQ

The Open Evening for prospective pupils applying to Loreto College for September 2024 will take place on TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2023 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. Guided tours will be organised from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Mrs Lucy Thompson, Headteacher, will address parents at 4.45pm, 5.45pm, and 6.45pm. The school achieved Grade 1 (Outstanding) in its most recent Ofsted Inspection.

Tours during the school day will take place between 2nd – 13th October (by appointment only). Appointments can be made by calling 01727 856206. Please note that there are no parking facilities available at the school, and that parking locally is restricted. Public car parks are located nearby at the Civic Centre (Upper Marlborough Rd) and at The Maltings (Victoria St)

Way Inn are looking for a new Bookshop Manager - We are looking for someone with a love of God, a passion for christianity, preferably with retail experience, who could lead the team and lead the shop, alongside the trustees into whatever the future God has planned for it. Please ask a member of the team for a job description

Telephone 01442 870 768 or email bookshop@wayinn.com
Hours and Pay flexible according to experience.

Grand Organ Festival – Westminster Cathedral, starting at 7:30pm.

20 September - Martin Schmeding

27 September - Johann Vexo

Tickets are available on the door, poster with further details can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the Church.

Offertory Collections – 10/9/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £217.40

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 12:30pm

17th Sep

Second collection Evangelii Gaudium

20th & 27th Sep

Grand Organ Festival Westminster Cathedral

23rd & 24th Sep

Missionary Sisters Appeal

3rd & 10th Oct

JFK Open Evenings (Secondary Applications)

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.

Aug 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Daniel Trowbridge

2nd (£50) Caroline McLoone

3rd (£25) Michael Wall

Sept 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Marina Burke

2nd (£50) Frances Flynn

3rd (£25) Sarah Hennis

If you would like to sign up please go to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>

The St Columba Chesham's branch of the Union of Catholic Mothers - has organised a talk on 'Women in Ministry: Fresh Perspectives' to be given by Helen Burgess, Chair of the Diocesan Ministry Group. It will be held on Saturday 23rd September 10-11.30 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary church hall, Great Missenden (arrive from 9.45).

It promises to be a very interesting morning - this topic was a key point during the recent Northampton Diocese Synod Assembly discussion.

All are warmly invited to attend - **not only women!**

To help with practicalities or to attend please email;

stcolumbasucm@gmail.com.

Please see poster on noticeboard.