



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 24th September 2023



The generous love of the Lord is very close to us. The readings for this Sunday remind us that when we seek the Lord, we can be confident of receiving a warm, forgiving welcome – no matter who we are.

The prophet Isaiah (**First Reading**) invites us to seek and find the Lord who is near to us. When we do this, God will embrace us with a rich forgiveness.

The **Psalms** is a blessing song of wonder and awe to the Lord who is close to us, full of compassion, abounding in love and kindness.

St Paul's letter to the Philippians (**Second Reading**) is written by one who is confident of the closeness of Christ. We, too, are encouraged to focus our lives on the Gospel values of Christ.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard (**Gospel**) presents an encouraging image of the generosity of God. We are invited to accept this generosity for ourselves and express it towards others. If this seems too hard for us to comprehend, let us take heart that the ways of the Lord are very different from our own ways.

The words of Scripture reassure us that we need not worry, for the Lord is near to us, ever present. Our God is full of compassion and forgiveness, willing us to seek him out. Let us pray that the whole Christian community will be inspired always to seek the Lord. Together as the body of Christ, we can transform the world with the justice and generosity of God.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 24 Sep	✠ 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Margaret Flanagan and Brian Day RIP
		10:00am*	The Lynn Family Int
Mon 25 Sep	Feria	10:00am	People of the Parish
Tue 26 Sep	Feria	10:00am	Michael O'Rourke Snr. RIP Ann
Thu 28 Sep	Feria	12:00pm	Kerry Prendergast Int
Fri 29 Sep	SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels	10:00am	Bridget Basnayake Int
Sat 30 Sep	St Jerome, Priest & Doctor	10:00am	Tim and Margaret Murphy RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Terry Moran RIP Ann
Sun 1 Oct	✠ 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Eve and Peter Davis Int
		10:00am*	Ron Harper 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: Kerry Prendergast, Ron Harper, Rosemary McArdle, Tom Kemplen, Gerry Earls, Tom O'Reilly, Fr John Boland, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Jane Blayney, Dymna 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: Nicky Newman, Fr Pat Egan, Roy Kay, Tim Murphy, Vincent Paul Keen.

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 Nicky Newman RIP.

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

Parish Financial Information – A financial summary of our Parish for 2022 can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the Church. It also highlights how much we would have received on gift aid had everyone gift aided their donation. Please consider registering for gift aid if you are a UK tax payer.

Missionary Sisters of England and Wales – This weekend we welcome the Missionary Sisters to Our Parish to make an appeal and to talk about their work.

Tea and coffee after Sunday 10am Mass- all are invited to join us in the parish hall for teas, coffees and chats.

Evangelii Gaudium – Thank you to all who gave during our second collection last week raising a total of £325.09.

Sunday Lunch Club – Thank you to all who attended the most recent event last week, it was amazing to see so many of you. Thank you to all who organised and helped at the event. The next event is scheduled for Sunday 12th November at 12:30pm.

Mary's Meals - A big thank you to everyone who supported the after Mass tea and treasures on Sunday 10th September. £176 was raised, with other monies and donations over the last month bringing this total to £370. This will provide over 18,000 school meals - absolutely brilliant. It was also a lovely gathering/ chat time and recycles treasures/toys for sharing.

Westminster Diocese Mosaic publication – Please find copies of the latest issue on the bookshelf beside the noticeboard.

St Thomas More School Association Quiz Night - Friday 13th October 2023 at St Thomas More School doors open at 7pm; quiz starts at 7.30pm.

Come along to a fabulous evening of quizzing and delicious food at St Thomas More School! Ticket price is £20 per head and includes the quiz, a curry supper and one complimentary round of Heads or Tails. Drinks will be on sale at our in-house bar, and there will be fabulous prizes on offer for quiz winners and in our Heads or Tails rounds. Maximum quiz team size is 8 people. Please book for you and your team using the following form: <https://forms.gle/pUw25fjeLzpevkjA7>, and make a bank transfer to the STMSA account for the cost of your team's tickets. All proceeds will go to the St Thomas More School Association, which provides enrichment and resources for St Thomas More pupils.

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 – 17/9/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £304.45

Weekly Contactless - £90.00

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 –

20th & 27th Sep	Grand Organ Festival Westminster Cathedral
23rd & 24th Sep	Missionary Sisters Appeal
3rd & 10th Oct	JFK Open Evenings (Secondary Applications)
29th Oct	Mary's Melas, Tea & Treasures

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.

Macmillan Coffee Morning - Rachel Franc and Jenny Holden would like to thank everyone who supported their Macmillan Coffee Morning. They raised in excess of £1000.

Universe Catholic Weekly – There are some free copies at the back of the Church, please feel free to take one. Details on how to subscribe can be found within the publication.

Celebrate - are excited to be running a short series of three practical zoom evenings to help families and catechists encourage and inspire children in faith. We have invited speakers who have many years of experience, to give us new ideas to engage children of all ages. These evenings will not only assist parents, grandparents and carers but will really help those who run children's liturgy in parishes and teachers in primary schools. They will provide fresh and innovative ways to assist in bringing faith alive! Each short evening is a stand-alone session covering topics. 1. Christ-centred Families 2. Helping children to learn to love the Bible. 3. Helping children to have a personal relationship with God. 8-9pm 28th Sept/ 5th and 12th Oct. To book see www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting

Hertfordshire #WorthSaving Campaign - Research in Hertfordshire shows that a staggering 24% of an average grey refuse bin is wasted food – most of it edible. In fact, 50-70% of the food we throw away could have been eaten. Whilst most of us believe we don't waste much food, the figures show a different picture. In fact, by reducing the amount of food we throw away, each household could save up to £720 a year and we could reduce up to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions. For more details, please see the poster and booklets at the back of the Church.