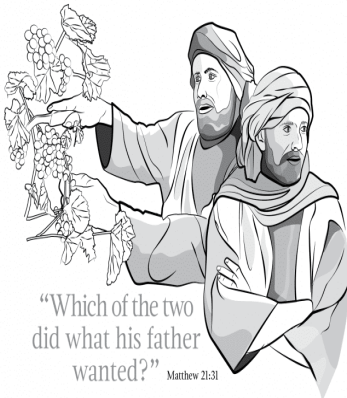


Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 1st October 2023



This week's readings call us to turn to the Lord, modelling our actions and words on Christ Jesus.

The **First Reading**, from the prophet Ezekiel, gives hope. Those who think better of their situation and renounce it are given life.

The **Psalm** reveals the heartfelt prayer of someone turning away from their sin and embracing the gift of new life.

The apostle Paul shows what it is to give up sin and take on the mind of Christ (**Second Reading**). The Church at Philippi was on the whole a source of joy for Paul, but here he appeals for greater unity. This is reached only by imitating the humility of Christ, who became obedient even unto death. Out of love for us, Christ even gives up his divinity, freely and without reservation.

Amidst growing tension following the overturning of the money changers' tables in the Temple, the religious leaders confront Jesus, demanding to know the source of his authority. Jesus tells the parable of the two sons, and poses a question, causing the chief priests to reflect on the difference between putting self or others first. By answering correctly, thereby aligning themselves to the boy who said he would do his Father's will but then doesn't, they convict themselves (**Gospel**).

This week, let us keep close to Christ, who obeyed the Father perfectly in word and deed. And let us remember that it is never too late for us to turn to God and follow God's will.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 1 Oct	✠ 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Eve and Peter Davis Int
		10:00am*	Ron Harper Int.
Mon 2 Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels	10:00am	People of the Parish
Tue 3 Oct	Feria	10:00am	Helena Duckett RIP
Thu 5 Oct	Feria	12:00pm	Pat Thew RIP
Fri 6 Oct	Feria	10:00am	
Sat 7 Oct	Our Lady of the Rosary	10:00am	Anne Furlong Int (Birthday)
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	
Sun 8 Oct	✠ 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Teresa Sharp 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: 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: Kerry Prendergast, Helena Duckett, Denis Murray, 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
The Convery Family.

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

Month of the Holy Rosary - The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary. The Rosary is a powerful spiritual weapon, which we all will do well to have. We strongly encourage families to find time to gather frequently, if not everyday, to ask for the intercession and protection of our Blessed Mother Mary, for our needs and for peace in our world. Please also join our Parish Rosary Group on Mondays in the Lady Chapel at 2pm to pray the Rosary.

Everyone Counts – Last week we started the national annual Mass count that will continue up to and including Sunday 15th October. The total Mass counts will then be submitted to the Bishops Conference England and Wales and then the Vatican. The purpose of this is to obtain Pastoral statistics around the world.

Thank you message from Fr John Boland – “Hello everybody, Fr John here. Thank you for your cards and good wishes. I am getting better, slowly. You are in my prayers all the time. Goodbye” Please see below link should you wish to watch the video.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MBJlqqsBV5ZDE2eF3x-MzkGuuRdR_Dga/view

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.

Alzheimers Society memory walk – On the 8th October, Marie Capes and her Daughter Laura will be taking part in the Alzheimers Society memory walk. Please see below link for anyone who would like to sponsor Marie and Laura in support of the Alzheimers Society. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/marie-capes-1695562631248>

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

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’.

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/pUw25fjeLzepvkjA7>, 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.

Offertory Collections – 24/9/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £305.01

Weekly Contactless - £91.00

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 –

3rd & 10th Oct	JFK Open Evenings (Secondary Applications)
29th Oct	Mary's Meals, Tea & Treasures
12th Nov	Sunday Lunch Club 12:30pm

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.

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

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.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London - is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at St Anthonys RC Church, 5 Garrat Road, Edgware, London HA8 9AN on Saturday 14 October 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm . The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus.
Please call Millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for more information

Pact – A charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families. If you wish to donate to Pact, envelopes can be found at the back of the church along with further details of their work.

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. 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/>