



# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023

In our readings today, we hear how easy it is for human pride and laxity to diminish or even falsify God's message. Instead, let us follow the invitation to honour God in humility, sincerity and truth.

In the **First Reading**, the prophet Malachi does not mince his words.

His message is hard-hitting: the priests are reproached for their spiritual negligence and failure to instruct the people properly, as well as for their half-hearted service of God.

Religious leaders are also criticised in the **Gospel**. Jesus castigates their hypocrisy: they are more concerned with drawing attention to themselves and exploiting their social position, rather than committing themselves to the message they preach. This type of self-aggrandisement and pride is the exact opposite of what the followers of Jesus should aspire to. Jesus himself is our role model: he teaches us that the route to leadership is through service of God in all things.

In contrast, the **Second Reading** presents Paul as a truly devoted pastor: enthusiastic, hard-working, full of love for his people; endlessly sharing the living word of God with this community.

To follow Christ is to serve him humbly; and humility, together with complete trust in God, is the theme of today's **Psalm**.

Let us pray this week: Lord God, you are both Father and Mother to us. We beg you: help us to be sincere and joyful in our practice of faith and prayer; to serve you in our daily lives; and to be even more alert and awake to your presence in nature all around us. We also pray with all our hearts for that peace which this world cannot give.

## Mass Intentions:

<b>Sun 5 Nov</b>	✠ 31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>8:30am</b>	People of the Parish
		<b>10:00am*</b>	Philip Capes RIP
<b>Mon 6 Nov</b>	Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Hugh J Munro RIP Ann
<b>Tue 7 Nov</b>	Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Becky Cooper & Bob Masini and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Thu 9 Nov</b>	The dedication of the Lateran Basilica	<b>12:00pm</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Fri 10 Nov</b>	St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor	<b>10:00am</b>	Antoinette Hunt and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Sat 11 Nov</b>	St Martin of Tours, Bishop	<b>10:00am</b>	Victoria Ohanaja RIP Ann
	Sunday Vigil	<b>5:00pm</b>	John McCarthy RIP Ann
<b>Sun 12 Nov</b>	✠ 32 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>8:30am</b>	Mrs Helen Campbell and All Holy Souls RIP
		<b>10:00am*</b>	Mrs Mary Murphy 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: Alice Danladi, Fr John Boland, Canon Jane Bannister, Ron Harper, Tom Kemplen, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Jane Blayney, Dymrna O'Connor, Lucy Chapman, Hilary Sweetman, Gerry and 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 Timothy O'Connor, Tom O'Reilly, Baby Edward Leonardo Murray, Bernard Gray, Fidelia Maduforo, Fr Dominic McKenna, Kerry Prendergast, Helena Ducketty.

**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  
Hugh J Munro RIP Ann.

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](mailto:josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Administrator – Laura Etson:** [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk)  
**Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs)**  
Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:  
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**Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection** - This weekend, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November is the annual collection for sick and retired priests in the Diocese of Westminster. Last year, the Diocese of Westminster provided care to 82 retired priests, at a cost of £850,000. The number of our priests over the age of 65 is steadily increasing, and caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a fundamental part of the mission of our diocese. Whilst we work with the NHS and local authorities to ensure funding gaps are met, we still rely heavily on the generosity of parishioners who contribute to this worthy fund each year. Donation envelopes are at the back of the church. Please continue to pray for all our clergy: active, retired or ill. Thank you.

**Blessing of Graves** – We will be doing blessing of graves at Kingshill Cemetery this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 12 Noon. All those who have loved ones at Kingshill cemetery are welcome to this ceremony.

**Memorial Mass for Holy Souls** – Will be celebrated on the 17<sup>th</sup> November at **6:00pm**. All those that have been bereaved in the past two years will have an opportunity during the Mass to light a candle for their deceased relatives or friends.

**Sunday Lunch (Roast Dinner)** – Join us on the 12<sup>th</sup> November from 12:30pm for a scrumptious Sunday lunch.

**Everyone welcome!** Please sign up using the sign up sheet at the back of the church by **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November** or email Laura.

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

**Celebrate** – Parish Event Saturday 2nd December 2:30pm – 5pm  
Come to Celebrate Nativity our Parish event with a difference at St Thomas More School.

An afternoon of fun activities for all the family - live music, team games, prizes, a feast and a take home party bag.

To book your tickets, [Click Here](#) or scan the below QR code.



\*Tickets are purchased via Eventbrite and therefore any details provided may be held by Eventbrite for future marketing purposes. All data is processed in accordance with the Diocese's Privacy Notice; which is available at [rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy](http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy)

**Mary's Meals** - There will be another tea and treasures for Mary's Meals on the following Sundays after 10:00am Mass on the 26th November.

**Way Inn are looking for a new Bookshop Manager** - 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](mailto:bookshop@wayinn.com)  
Hours and Pay flexible according to experience.

**All Saints' Church Berkhamsted** – are seeking a Church Administrator on a fixed-term contract with possibility for continuation. 10 hours per week, £12.50 per hour.  
For further details and application form contact Rev Rachael Hawkins on 01442 866324 or [rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk](mailto:rachael.hawkins@methodist.org.uk)

**Veritas Catholic Lecture series** - 10am – 3pm end (approx)  
St Mary and St Joseph Boxmoor, Parish Hall.  
11<sup>th</sup> November, Advent New Testament, lecturer, John Deehan.  
**For more details, please contact Boxmoor Parish:**  
Telephone - 01442 391759  
Email - [hemelwest@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:hemelwest@rcdow.org.uk)

**Offertory Collections** – 29/10/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £152.20

Weekly Contactless - £142.00

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 –**

**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Nov** Sick & Retired Priests Second Collection

**5<sup>th</sup> Nov** Blessing of Graves 12:00pm

**12<sup>th</sup> Nov** Sunday Lunch Club 12:30pm

**17<sup>th</sup> Nov** Memorial Mass for Holy Souls **6:00pm**

**18<sup>th</sup> Nov** Mass for The Catenian deceased members 11:00am

**26<sup>th</sup> Nov** Mary's Meals Tea & Treasures after 10:00am Mass

**2<sup>nd</sup> Dec** Celebrate Event (St Thomas More)

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec** Seniors Christmas Lunch

**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.

**The Good Counsel Black Tie Ball** - will take place at 6pm Saturday 18th November 2023 in Kensington, London. Live Band. Silent Auction. London's Catholic Pro-Life Ball raising money to help save lives and change lives. Tickets £125 each.  
For bookings and enquiries email [GCNBall@gmail.com](mailto:GCNBall@gmail.com) or telephone 07795205117.

**St Thomas More** - Support our local primary school St Thomas More by signing up to their fundraising incentives. Club 100, Help the school and be in with a chance of winning £100, £50 or £25 every month!  
<https://forms.gle/oKuVaHML8fqLimYD9>  
Supermarket vouchers, buy gift cards from STMSA to spend at Waitrose or John Lewis and the school receives commission on these sales! [Tinyurl.com/SMVouchers](http://Tinyurl.com/SMVouchers)

**St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Reception Tours – September 2024 start** - Come and see our wonderful school! School tours for Reception children beginning September 2024 will be running on:  
- Friday 1st December @ 9.15am  
Please contact the school office via [admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk) if you wish to attend any of our tour dates.