



# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 19<sup>th</sup> November

The readings in this final week of Ordinary Time, Year A, remind us again of the need to be always prepared for the coming of Christ by the way we live our lives.

The writer of today's first reading, uses very poetic and symbolic language to illustrate the virtue of fully employing the talents God gives us. Far from suggesting a recipe for 'perfect wife' at the service of her 'lord-husband.' Although using language which reflects the practice and culture of biblical times, the passage speaks powerfully of the value and dignity of manual work, the importance of charity, and respect for all, whatever their role in life. There is a depth of truth in the rather throwaway line: 'Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty.' Pause on this thought and let it linger on your mind. The final line is a wonderful expression of how the way we live our lives is the best advertisement for our faith - 'let her works tell her praises at the city gates.'

The **Psalm** speaks again of the dignity of work, of being self-sufficient, providing for one's family, and living in awe of the Lord.

St Paul reminds us in the **Second Reading** that if we live our lives in the light of Christ, we have no need to fear the coming of the reign of God.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus uses the parable of the talents to show the importance of making best use of what we have been given for the benefit of others.

This week, we might pray for those who struggle to realise where their own talents lie, and those who lack the opportunity to be recognised, valued and celebrated. We also continue to pray for peace across the world.

## Mass Intentions:

## We Pray for:

<b>Sun 19 Nov</b>	✠ 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>8:30am</b>	Maureen Murphy Int
		<b>10:00am*</b>	Rebecca Hardinge RIP Ann
<b>Mon 20 Nov</b>	Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Tue 21 Nov</b>	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<b>10:00am</b>	Kathleen D Moynihan and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Thu 23 Nov</b>	Feria	<b>12:00pm</b>	May, Jim and Freda Gillespie and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Fri 24 Nov</b>	St Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest	<b>10:00am</b>	John and Kathleen Murray and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Sat 25 Nov</b>	Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Anthony Hogan and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	<b>5:00pm</b>	Imelda Hodkinson RIP
<b>Sun 26 Nov</b>	✠ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	<b>8:30am</b>	People of the Parish
		<b>10:00am*</b>	Mary Murphy and Martin Brennan 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*

### 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: Imelda Hodkinson, Peter Hammond, Fr Timothy O'Connor, Tom O'Reilly, Bernard Gray, Fidelia Maduforo, Fr Dominic McKenna, Kerry Prendergast. **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 Tom O'Reilly RIP and the intention of Grace and Family.

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:  
[berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**New Readers Appeal** – We are appealing for more readers to join us for all the Sunday Masses.  
If this is of interest, please speak with Fr Joseph or contact Laura in the office.

**Westminster Diocese** – The Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 can be found at <https://rcdow.org.uk/about-us/>.

**First Holy Communion** – A Reminder that next Sunday (26<sup>th</sup> Nov) is the deadline for returning application forms for your child to take part in our First Holy Communion programme 2024.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> January at 12:00pm.

**Sunday 26th November** - is 'The feast of Christ the King' in the liturgical calendar of the church and is also designated 'Youth Sunday.' Families and children are warmly invited to join us at 10:00am mass at The Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted to celebrate this joyful occasion.

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

**Senior Christmas Lunch** – Saturday 9th December 12:00pm. Please join us for a full Turkey and Ham roast with all the trimmings followed by Christmas carols.  
A sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the Church.

**Celebrate Nativity Event** – our parish event with a difference Saturday 2nd Dec 2:30pm – 5pm at St Thomas More School. Join us for an afternoon of fun activities for all the family: live music, teams games, prizes, a feast, mulled wine and a take home party bag! **Deadline for purchasing a ticket is end of day on the 21<sup>st</sup> November.**

£15 for a family ticket, £7.50 per person available

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](https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy)

**Our Annual Carol Concert** – In aid of The Hospice of St Francis will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm at Sacred Heart Berkhamsted. We would welcome you all to join us for this joyful occasion. Entry/donations on the door.

We would be grateful for extra singers to join our choir (men and women). For further details of choir rehearsals please contact Caroline McLoone [cazandpatrick@live.co.uk](mailto:cazandpatrick@live.co.uk) Thank you.

**The Santa Marta Group** - Was established in 2014 by Pope Francis to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. SMG is now delivering 'Awareness and Guidance for Communities' to encourage local action and to prevent human trafficking and modern slavery taking place in our midst. **On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November the Santa Marta Group will hold an information meeting in the parish hall of Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew Catholic Church, 16, Nightingale Road, Hitchin SG5 1QS, from 7pm – 9pm.** Kevin Hyland, the UK's first Independent anti-slavery Commissioner and currently chief advisor to the Santa Marta Group will lead the meeting. All are welcome to come to learn more about the prevalence of human trafficking and modern slavery in our communities and the steps we can take to prevent it.

**Offertory Collections** – 12/11/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £230.66

Weekly Contactless - £197.00

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 –**

**26<sup>th</sup> Nov** Youth Mass 10:00am

**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

**16<sup>th</sup> Dec** Hospice of St Francis Carol Concert 6:30pm

**14<sup>th</sup> Jan** Sunday Lunch 12:00pm

**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.

**Mary's Meals** - Unfortunately the planned drop-in for Mary's Meals on Saturday 25th November at Open Door is postponed but we still have tea, coffee, cakes and toys etc. after 10am Mass on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November with donations of go-carts and tricycles and a great range of all sorts! Please come along - this will be our last event in the run up to Christmas.

If anyone would like to make or donate a cake that would be very much appreciated, please contact Anne 07773 900983. Thank you as ever for all the great support given.

**Nov 100 Club Winners**

1st (£100) Cath Hammond

2nd (£50) Suzanne Furmston

3rd (£25) Clare Trowbridge

If you would like to sign up please go

to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>

**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.