



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Second Sunday of Advent, Year B, 10th December 2023 – Psalter Week 2

Advent is a sacred time of longing and preparation for the Lord; a time for waking up to listen to the Spirit calling deep within us.

The words of Isaiah (**First Reading**) bring to this Sunday's liturgy a cry of consolation for a people desperate for peace. As we make a straight path to welcome the Lord into our lives, he gathers us up into his arms like a shepherd tenderly holding his lambs.

Our world is thirsting for this peace now, the deep peace that only Christ can bring. The **Psalms** is a prayer that speaks to the longing and yearning that is within us all.

Christ is not slow to respond to our desire for this peace. Peter's letter (**Second Reading**) to the early Christian community teaches that the Lord wants no one to be lost: he desires for all to be gathered unto himself. Since we do not know the time of the Lord's return, our prayerful preparations will draw us nearer to the peace that he promises.

The **Gospel** of Mark that we follow throughout this coming year begins the revelation of the Good News with that same call of the prophet Isaiah that began our readings: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness, calls us to repentance and renewal. He baptises with water, but tells of the time when we will be made new by the Holy Spirit.

Let us continue our Advent journey together, praying for this same spirit of renewal and preparation. Let us pray too for peace in our hearts, in our communities and especially in the Holy Land.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 10 Dec	✠ 2 nd Sunday of Advent	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Martin West RIP and Family Int
Mon 11 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Jim Curtin Int
Tue 12 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Joseph and Hilda D'Souza and All Holy Souls RIP
Thu 14 Dec	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	12:00pm	Janina Zelezik and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 15 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Janette Keary Int
Sat 16 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Catherine Ojideh Int
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Thanksgiving
Sun 17 Dec	✠ 3 rd Sunday of Advent	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Chris and Terry Moran RIP Ann

* 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

We pray especially for: Lin Thomas, Edith Dicom, Caroline Butler, Ann McDonnell, Tom Jackson, Tess Hennessy, Anthony Doolan, William Campbell, Alice Danladi, Fr John Boland, Canon Jane Bannister, Ron Harper, Tom Kemplen, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Jane Blayney, Dympna 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: Stanislaw Pawlowicz, Baby Lily Angel Brinklow, Arthur Murray, Peter Ariokiasamy, Imelda Hodkinson, Peter Hammond, Fr Timothy O'Connor, Tom O'Reilly, Bernard Gray, Fidelia Maduforo. **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 travels to and from the Parish over Christmas.

Sacred Heart Church
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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

New Altar Servers – It is indeed a great privilege and blessing to serve God in his Sanctuary at Mass. We therefore encourage our young and teen parishioners to avail themselves of the opportunity of this sacred duty at the altar. Do not worry about what you need to do. Training sessions will be given; as well as prompts where you need them. Parents please help us to encourage the young ones to offer themselves to serve God in this very important role. Please speak with Fr Joseph if you would like to offer yourself for this service.

Donations for Christmas Flowers – You can either give as you leave the Church, put your donation in an envelope indicating Christmas Flowers on it or use the contactless machine at the back of the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Celebrate Nativity – Thank you to all who worked so hard in organising; and to all those who were able to attend the parish event which took place last Saturday at St Thomas More Primary School. We hope the activities and reflections gave everyone the right start and key focus of this Holy Season of Advent.

Hall door entry code – For security reasons, we will be periodically changing the main hall door entry code, in line with each school term. Please contact Laura in the office should you require the new code. The current code will be deactivated on the 31/12/23.

Advent Giving Calendar – Please could you consider those who might need support this Christmas and give either dry food items, (excluding chocolates) or financial assistance. All donations received will be sent to those in need and foodbanks. Thank you for thinking of Jesus and coming to his aid in those most in need.

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

Our Annual Carol Concert – In aid of The Hospice of St Francis takes place on the 16th December at 6:30pm at Sacred Heart Berkhamsted. All are welcomed. 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 Thank you.

Corpus Christi Tring – Nativity & Carols, Sunday 17th December at 3.30 pm and Tea afterwards in the Hall, all are welcome.

Advent and Christmas - Fr John Deehan will be giving four online talks focusing on the Prayers and Gospels of the Christmas Masses. To register, go to: [Agency Events Page](#)

Car Park – ParkingEye, as a goodwill gesture has removed the £20 clause for any tickets cancelled following appeal till 31st Dec, and cancelled any outstanding admin fee fines. This fee will be applied from the 1st January 2024. If we do not have your registration number on the system and you forget to input it into the terminal from this date, the admin fee cannot be revoked and unfortunately the Parish office will be unable to assist.

Stop the 14-day Limit on Experimenting on Embryos Being Removed - The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is pushing to remove the 14-day limit for experimenting on embryos, despite 97% of submissions from the general public to their consultation objecting to these plans. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP asking them to oppose a change to legislation that, if passed, would pave the way for the removal of the 14-day limit. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/14days to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

Offertory Collections – 3/12/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £209.40

Weekly Contactless - £217.00

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 –

16th Dec Hospice of St Francis Carol Concert 6:30pm

17th Dec Corpus Christi – Nativity & Carols 3:30pm

24th Dec **Christmas Eve Mass – 5:00pm**

25th Dec **Christmas Day Mass – 8:30am & 10:00am**

14th Jan Sunday Lunch 12:00pm

14th Jan First Holy Programme Session – Gathering 9:00am

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.

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Married Couples – A Catholic programme designed to help couples struggling in or to enrich their marriage. It is run by trained volunteers who themselves have experienced the programme and want to share the benefits they have experienced first-hand in their own relationships. To find out more, please go to www.retrouvaille.org.uk

The Secrets of Paul: A Ten Week Course on Zoom - An opportunity to reflect on the life of St. Paul, as a model missionary disciple run by Mission Northampton from Wednesday 10th January 2024 to Wednesday 20th March 2024 (7.30-9pm) For more information, go to:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/secrets-of-paul-online/>

Child Minding Assistant Paid Job – For more details contact Caroline Reid on 07904477813 or email caroline.m.reid@live.co.uk

Vinnie Packs - The Society of St Vincent de Paul are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237** Thank you so much.