



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Third Sunday of Advent, Year B, 17th December 2023 – Psalter Week 3

The readings on this *Gaudete* ('Rejoice!') Sunday are full of encouragement, resonating with joyful hope as we draw closer to the birthday of Jesus: God's Son coming to live amongst us. Isaiah, Mary, and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people.

Isaiah (**First Reading**) announces the coming of the anointed one: a cause for rejoicing. He will bring freedom, healing and good news to the people. Images of clothing bodies and growing seeds celebrate God's activity in the world and in our lives.

Mary's Magnificat is a joyful song of praise to God, her Saviour who is rich in mercy. (**Psalms**)

St Paul (**Second Reading**) encourages us to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do; we are to give thanks for all things to God, and to pray constantly. Paul urges us to be happy always, because Christ is faithful to his promise and will not fail us.

The focus of the **Gospel** is John the Baptist, who bears witness, testifying to the true identity of 'the light': Jesus himself. John answers the priests' questions about his own identity and ministry, then announces that the Saviour they seek, Jesus, is already amongst them, though 'unknown to them'.

As we continue preparing for Christmas, we rejoice that Jesus is already in our hearts and lives. Let's pray to receive the graces needed to announce his message and presence through our attitudes, actions and words.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 17 Dec	✠ 3 rd Sunday of Advent	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Chris and Terry Moran RIP Ann
Mon 18 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Caleb Moore Int
Tue 19 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Elwiva Zelezik and All Holy Souls RIP
Thu 21 Dec	Advent Feria	12:00pm	Peter Doran RIP Ann
Fri 22 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Shanice Trinity Mugagga, God's Healing
Sat 23 Dec	Advent Feria	10:00am	Ian and Sue Tindall and Family
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Mariana Zelezik and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 24 Dec	✠ 4 th Sunday of Advent	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Kathleen and Norman Suckley RIP
		5:00pm	People of the Parish

* 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 & 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 Terence Murray, Peter Doran, Baby Lily Angel Brinklow, Arthur Murray, Peter Ariokiasamy, Peter Hammond, Fr Timothy O'Connor, Tom O'Reilly, Bernard Gray.

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
Jerry Twomey RIP Ann.

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

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Housebound – Could the housebound parishioners who would like to celebrate this sacrament in preparation for Christmas, please phone or email Fr Joseph, josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk to arrange a date and time to visit them either in their homes or nursing homes. Relatives can also help to arrange this for them with Fr Joseph.

Sacrament of Reconciliation for All – There will be opportunity for all to celebrate this sacrament on Tuesday 19th and Friday 22nd 10:30am – 11:30am, Saturday 23rd, 09:00am - 09:45am and 10:30am – 11:30am.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT SACRED HEART

Sunday 24th Dec – Christmas Eve

Sunday Mass of Advent – 8:30am, 10:00am

Christmas Eve Mass – 5:00pm

Children are welcomed to come dressed as Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds or as any other image found within the crib.

Monday 25th Dec - CHRISTMAS DAY

Mass of the Nativity of the Lord - 8.30am & 10.00am

Masses during the Octave of CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 26th 10:00am – St Stephen, The First Martyr.

Thursday 28th 12:00pm – The Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

Friday 29th 10:00am – St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr.

Saturday 30th 10:00am, Vigil Mass 5pm – 6th Day in the Octave of Christmas.

Sunday 31st 8:30am & 10:00am - ✠ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

Monday 1st Jan 10:00am - ✠ Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Christmas Gift Envelopes – Please take one from the back of the Church to place your Christmas gift inside. This is an opportunity to appreciate the work of the Priest in the Parish. You can also use the contactless machine to make your Christmas gift donation and can gift-aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer. THANK YOU.

Donations for Christmas Flowers – We will be grateful to receive donations for Christmas flowers to decorate the church. Donation baskets are at the back of the church or you can use the contactless machine. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Funeral Service – for the late Arthur Christopher Murray, known as Chris. Will be held at Hemel Hempstead Crematorium on Thursday 21st December at 2:30pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May he rest in peace.

Hall door entry code – If you regularly use the Parish hall please contact the office for the latest door entry code.

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

Offertory Collections – 10/12/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £206.75

Weekly Contactless - £10.00

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 –

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.

Chiltern Chamber Choir – Will be performing at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted on Saturday 23rd December at 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance for £18.00 or on the door for £20.00. chilternchamberchoir.com

Mary's Meals – A huge thank you for the great support given to Mary's Meals though out the year. There has been marvellous giving of time ,energy, baking ,donations and more. On Sunday 26th November another £274 was raised after Mass with teas/coffee, cake etc, with other gifts and funds added to give a total of £360 sent. Our next event will be in the New Year. Thank you again and happy Christmas

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

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

Dec 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Jacqueline Kelley

2nd (£50) Ann Moshakis

3rd (£25) Helen Jewell

If you would like to sign up please go

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