



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 28th January 2024 – Psalter Week 4

The readings this week reflect the **Psalm** response: *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your heart.* This was the response of the Israelites when they grumbled at Meribah and Massah in the desert.

In the **First Reading**, Moses promises the tribes of Israel that the Lord will send them a prophet like himself, coming from within their midst, who will speak God's words.

We meet this prophet in **the Gospel**. It is Jesus himself, who amazes his audience in the synagogue by curing a man possessed by an unclean spirit. They are particularly impressed by Christ's quiet authority.

In the **Second Reading**, Paul seeks to reassure his audience in Corinth. They are worrying about marriage in the wider context of the end of time, which they think is imminent. They, too, must give their undivided attention to the Lord and ensure everything is as it should be.

This week, we might like to spend some quiet time with the Lord, perhaps resting in him without words and listening to his voice in the silence of our heart. He knows and understands our problems, and our great yearning for peace throughout the world.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 28 Jan	✠ 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Sister Clare Champion RIP
		10:00am*	Nora Proctor RIP Ann
Mon 29 Jan	Feria	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
Tue 30 Jan	Feria	10:00am	Joan Holland RIP
Thu 1 Feb	Feria	12:00pm	Mrs Kathleen O'Connor RIP
Fri 2 Feb	The Presentation of the Lord	10:00am	Connie Kelly RIP
Sat 3 Feb	Saints Laurence, Dunstan and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury	10:00am	Richard Fisher RIP Ann
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Filomena Capozzi RIP
Sun 4 Feb	✠ 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Ed Delaney RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Frank Furlong 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

We pray especially for: William Miller, Chris Holmes, Raza Shah, Benjamin Ezeffili, Perpetua Fernandes, 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, Dymrna O'Connor, Lucy Chapman, Hilary Sweetman, Gerry 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: Sheila Hanratty, Beatrice Mary Ezekwe, Deacon Anthony Clark, Joyce Alker, Fr Stuart Andrew Gullan-Steel.

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 Christian unity and peace in the World.

Sacred Heart Church
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(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

Racial Justice Sunday – This weekend (27th and 28th January) there will be a second collection to promote the church's work in racial justice. The theme "Seeing One Another in the Life of the Church" celebrates the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives. It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background.

Celebrate the Holy Eucharist at all Times – There are still more parishioners yet to return back to Mass, whom we are really longing to have back. It was good to see the Masses full at Christmas. The Mass is the greatest form of prayer we have been given as Catholics by God. Let us avail ourselves of this precious gift and come to offer to God our thanks, worries, families and all the intentions we may have. Please let us reach out to our brothers and sisters and invite them to come share with us the joy of the Gospel and our fellowship in Christ. Come one, come all and 'drink of the ever fresh mercy of Jesus Christ', the Word of God made flesh.

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. Parents, please help us to encourage our young ones to offer themselves to serve God in this very important ministry. Please speak with Fr Joseph if you would like to offer yourself for this service.

Prayer Request Book – Can now be found at the back of the church. All are invited to write their prayer requests in this book - parishioners, guests and visitors. These prayers will then be offered alongside the offertory to the Lord at the altar every Sunday.

Friday Holy Rosary Devotion - The Rosary is a powerful spiritual weapon and efficacious prayer. Please join us to pray the Rosary on Fridays after the 10am Mass in church for peace in the world and your private needs.

Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes - On Saturday 10th February at 2.30pm the Cardinal will celebrate the annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Cathedral which will include anointing of the sick. Please contact Laura to register your place for this event.

Annual Mass for Matrimony - The annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Full information to follow but please make a note in your diaries if you wish to attend.

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

Mary's Meals - Cakes, tea, coffee and table top treasures after 10:00am Mass next Sunday, 4th February. Please come along, a great chance for a catch up and to support Mary's Meals. No donation required but very much appreciated. If you have any unwanted bric a brac etc that you would like to donate, please bring along with you. Thank you as always for your great kindness and support.

Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread - Thank you for your continued donations to the food bank. Please continue to support the Foodbank with non-perishable food. Your kind donations, which can be placed in the food collection box at the church entrance, are going directly to help local people via the Open Door and DENS Food Bank. Thank you.

Offertory Collections – 21/1/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £223.50

Weekly Contactless - £123.00

Thank you to every one for your support 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 or the QR code below. You can also gift-aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer. THANK YOU.



QR code to enable donation via mobile devices.

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.

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.

Parishes Celebrations / Dates for your Diaries –

28th Jan First Holy Programme Session – 9am

Lord Have Mercy

4th Feb First Holy Programme Session – 9am

Celebrating our rescue

4th Feb Mary's Meals, Tea & Treasures after 10:00am Mass

Synodal Day of Discernment – Saturday 10th February 10:00am – 4:00pm. The Aula Magna, London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH. Join people from a range of parishes and backgrounds for a day of reflection, conversation, and action, to prepare for the October 2024 Synodal Assembly, in Rome.

RSVP - FarmStreetOffice@rcdow.org.uk

Tel: 020 8986 0807

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London - Is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 10 February 2024 from 1:30pm - 4:30pm at St Georges R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7HY. The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

Presentation of the Offertory – This week we welcome the Hennis family to present the offertory on Sunday 28th January at 10:00am.