



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ The Epiphany of the Lord, Year B, 7th January 2024 – Psalter Week 1

“The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East ... In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation.” (CCC 528)

This ‘Feast of the Manifestation of the Lord’, is not just to Israel and the wise men from east alone, but also the showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the newborn child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: “All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.” The same is true of the key word in the second reading: “Revelation”

Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God’s plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour’s birth revealed at last to us.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 7 Jan	✠ The Epiphany of the Lord	8:30am	Noreen Marum RIP
		10:00am*	Michael O’Regan RIP
Mon 8 Jan	The Baptism of the Lord	10:00am	Margaret and Tim Murphy RIP
Tue 9 Jan	Feria	10:00am	Ferga Murray RIP
Thu 11 Jan	Feria	12:00pm	Mr and Mrs Ikenna and Adaobi Chijiuka 20 th Wedding Anniversary
Fri 12 Jan	Feria	10:00am	Ann Lynn and All Holy Souls RIP
Sat 13 Jan	Feria	10:00am	People of the Parish
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Kathleen Moynihan RIP Ann
Sun 14 Jan	✠ 2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Matt and Peggy Simms RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Baby Lily Angel Brinklow 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: Perpetua Fernandes, Sheila Hanratty, 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 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: Alker, Fr Stuart Andrew Gullan-Steel, Rachael Church, Margaret Kay, Mary Wright, Michael Earls, Fr Terence Murray, Baby Lily Angel Brinklow. **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 the happy repose of Michael Earls RIP.

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

Administrator – Laura Etson: berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs)

Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:

berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Celebrate the Holy Eucharist at all Times – It was a great joy to welcome visiting families, visitors, friends and those local at the Christmas Masses. The church was so full at the various Masses, that we needed more seats in church. We hope everyone found the celebrations joyful, uplifting and prayerful. We hope and pray too that as many that came to the Christmas Masses would join us to continue to celebrate God's most precious gift to us –the Holy Eucharist - the greatest prayer and the source and summit of our life as Catholics. 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.

First Holy Communion 2024 – This years First Holy Communion programme begins next Sunday (14th January). We welcome the children taking part and their families as they begin their preparation to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Confirmation Programme Parents/Candidates Meeting – Will be held on Friday 12th January 2024 at 7pm in the meeting room at the parish centre.
Attendance is mandatory

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.

Tea and coffee - after Sunday 10am Mass. All are invited to join us in the parish hall for teas, coffees and chats.
There will be no teas and coffees next Sunday (14/1) due to Sunday Lunch.

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.

Requiem Mass – for the late Michael Earls will be celebrated on Tuesday 9th January at 1:45pm, here at Sacred Heart. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Sunday Lunch (Roast Dinner) – Join us on the 14th January from 12:00pm for a scrumptious Sunday lunch.
Everyone welcome! Please sign up using the sign up sheet at the back of the church by **Sunday 7th January** or email Laura.

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

Offertory Collections – 31/12/23

Weekly Loose Plate - £252.66

Weekly Contactless - £190.00

Thank you to every one for your support to our Parish.

Second collection - in support of those suffering from the conflict in the Holy Land. In total we raised £629.49.
Thank you for your generosity.

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 –

12th Jan Confirmation Parents/Candidates Meeting 7pm

14th Jan Sunday Lunch 12pm

14th Jan First Holy Programme Session –Gathering 9am

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.

Good Counsel Network Anniversary - On Friday 12th January, the eve of the 27th anniversary of the founding of The Good Counsel Network, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support.

www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

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/>