



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 21st January 2024 – Psalter Week 3

Today, as the Roman Catholic Church celebrates this ‘Sunday of the Word of God’, Pope Francis reminds us: Christ Jesus is knocking at our door in the words of sacred scripture. If we hear his voice and open the doors of our mind and hearts, then he will enter our lives and remain ever with us.

In the **First Reading**, Jonah takes the word of God to the people in Nineveh. They hear it, are inspired to change their evil ways, and God shows them his mercy.

God’s love and forgiveness are at the heart of the **Psalm**, as we pray for better understanding of the ways in which the Lord invites us to live our lives.

St Paul issues a challenge to the Christian community in Corinth in this week’s **Second Reading**. At the centre of this, though, is an encouragement to us to free our minds and hearts from reliance on the things of this world, and to place our hope in the reign of God.

In the Gospel, Jesus calls the people to repentance, which simply means a call to have a change of heart, to make a U-turn or to live differently and in a particular way. The manner of the disciples’ respond to the call by Jesus to follow him is an example of what our response should be; whether it be in changing our ways of life or in untangling ourselves of anything that impedes us from growing in our discipleship.

Repentance has had something of a bad press - we tend to think of it as an old-fashioned concept. But every age needs to hear this call: to look at what we do and say and assume, and realise that there are such things as right and wrong, and that sometimes we follow the wrong path. To follow Jesus, and to accept the Kingdom of God, demands that we make a radical choice, which might well change our lives.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 21 Jan	✠ 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Georgina and Raymond Brennan RIP
		10:00am*	Doreen Smyth Int
Mon 22 Jan	Feria	10:00am	Vivienne and Malcolm Browne Int
Tue 23 Jan	Feria	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
Thu 25 Jan	The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle	12:00pm	Brian Kerrigan and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 26 Jan	Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
Sat 27 Jan	Feria	10:00am	<u>NO MASS</u>
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Alice and Stephen Danaher RIP Ann
Sun 28 Jan	✠ 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8:30am	Sister Clare Champion RIP
		10:00am*	Nora Proctor 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: Raza Shah, Benjamin Ezefili, 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: 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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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

Racial Justice Sunday – Next weekend there will be a second collection on the 27th and 28th January to promote the church's work in racial justice.

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.

Hospice of St Francis - Thank you to all Sacred Heart Parishioners for organising the annual Christmas carol concert and for raising so much for The Hospice of St Francis. We are so delighted that last Christmas, the carol concert raised a fantastic £535.81!

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

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.

Sunday Lunch (Roast Dinner) – Thank you to all who helped to organise this last Sunday. The next one will be held on Sunday 10th March at 12pm. **Everyone is welcome!** A sign up sheet will be placed at the back of the Church nearer the time.

Offertory Collections – 14/1/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £322.10

Weekly Contactless - £210.00

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 –

21st Jan First Holy Programme Session – 9am

Beginning of the Mass

28th Jan First Holy Programme Session – 9am

Lord Have Mercy

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

Mary's Meals - A huge thank you for the great support given to Mary's Meals throughout 2023. We will have more cakes, soda bread and treasures after 10:30 Mass on Sunday 4th February. Please come along if you are free, for a chat and perhaps another chance to support this great charity.

If you wish to donate any items such as, bric a brac or toys we would be happy to use these for our "treasure" table and again, all money raised will go to Mary's Meals - just give me a ring or drop it in on the morning - Anne 07773 900983. Thank you again and happy new year.

Presentation of the Offertory – This week we welcome the First Holy Communion Family – the Hilsdon family at 8:30am and the Trowbridge family at 10:00am to present the offertory on Sunday 21st January.