



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ First Sunday of Lent, Year B, 18th February 2024 – Psalter Week 1

We began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. This first Sunday of Lent now leads us immediately into Jesus's own journey into the desert in prayer, fasting, and to face temptation.

The **First Reading** reminds us of the journey of God's chosen people. Here God establishes his Covenant with Noah and all his descendants, and with the whole of creation. Never again will God destroy the earth with a flood. He leaves a bow in the sky to confirm this.

St Peter (**Second Reading**) links the few people Noah saved 'by water' to ourselves. We are saved through the baptism that Christ won for us by his death and resurrection.

The **Gospel** gives a short account of Jesus being tempted in the desert. He emerges ready to proclaim his message: 'The kingdom of God is close at hand'.

The **Psalms** reflect the message of hope that is contained in all the readings. The Lord's ways are faithfulness and love.

May we take heart from the scriptures as we begin our Lenten journey, ready to follow the Lord's ways, and eager to learn his paths.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 18 Feb	✠ 1 st Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Caroline Graham-Males RIP Ann
		10:00am*	James Rogers Int
Mon 19 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	Mary and Edward McEnaney RIP Ann
Tue 20 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	Alan Seymour Hynes Requiem Mass
Thu 22 Feb	The Chair of St Peter the Apostle	12:00pm	Jim Graham Int (60 th Birthday)
Fri 23 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	Dominic Dieseru Family Int
		STATIONS OF THE CROSS	10:30am
Sat 24 Feb	Lent Feria	10:00am	James Stimpson RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Fr Stephen Hewitt Int
Sun 25 Feb	✠ 2 nd Sunday of Lent	8:30am	Maureen Murphy RIP
		10:00am*	John Shotton 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: Anne Harte, William Miller, Chris Holmes, Raza Shah, Perpetua Fernandes, Lin Thomas, Edith Dicom, Caroline Butler, Ann McDonnell, Tom Jackson, Tess Hennessy, William Campbell, Alice Danladi, Ron Harper, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Jane Blayney, Dymna O'Connor, Lucy Chapman, 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: Anthony Doolan, Deacon Stephen Pickard, Zita O'Connor, Hugh Kearns, Hilary Sweatman, Alan Hynes, Malcolm Graham, Sheila Hanratty, Beatrice Mary Ezekwe.

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 in memory of
Tom O'Reilly.

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:

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Welcome - to Sacred Heart, Berkhamsted. Please take a copy of the newsletter home with you as it gives some information for the week ahead. If you are new to Sacred Heart Church, or if you are visiting, or you are a returning Catholic after some time away, you are very welcome. If you have moved into the area recently please come collect the parish registration and other forms from the parish office or Fr Joseph. Complete and return the forms so that we can have you on the parish register and mailing list and you are able to receive any information sent to parishioners from the parish office. We are delighted to have you with us.

Stations of the Cross – will be every Friday in Lent at 10:30am in church.

Kneelers - Please ensure they are folded back after every use for ease with movement. Please do not walk on them. Thank you.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024 - If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. There will be a second collection this weekend, 17th & 18th February. Thank you for your generosity.

Second Meeting of the General Assembly of the Synod Council
The first meeting of the Synodal Assembly was held in Autumn 2023 and an extensive report was published [Synod Report: A Church that involves everyone and is close to world's wounds - Vatican News](#). Included within the weekly newsletter email, you will find an attachment with questions in preparation for the second meeting. Every parishioner is being invited to reflect on a few questions and to share their responses. If you could please respond by Sunday 25th February. If needed, hard copies can be found at the back of the Church and posted through the letter box at the Presbytery.

Requiem Mass – for the late Alan Seymour Hynes will be celebrated on Tuesday 20th February at 10:00am, here at Sacred Heart. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – There will be a second collection next weekend 24th & 25th February. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. You can find donation envelopes at the back of the church or you give online at cafod.org.uk

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.

Monday Holy Rosary Devotion - The Rosary is a powerful spiritual weapon and efficacious prayer. Please join us to pray the Rosary on Monday at 2:30pm in church for peace in the world and your private needs.

Sunday Lunch – The next lunch is taking place on Sunday 10th March at 12pm. **EVERYONE WELCOME!** We understand this is on Mothers Day this year so why not invite your mum or your children, have a day off from cooking and join us for this fantastic event. Adults £10.00, Children £5.00 (Under 10's eat free). Please find a sign up sheet at the back of the church.

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

Offertory Collections – 11/2/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £208.20

Weekly Contactless - £70.00

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 –

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|----------------------------|---|
| 2nd Mar | First Holy Communion programme session – 10am
Parents session - Reconciliation |
| 3rd Mar | First Holy Communion programme session – 9am
Gloria |
| 9th Mar | First Holy Communion programme session – 10am
First Reconciliation service |
| 10th Mar | First Holy Communion programme session – 9am
The Word of the Lord |
| 10th Mar | Sunday Lunch 12pm |
| 16th Mar | St Patricks day event, more details to follow |

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.

St Thomas More Nursery – Tours for 2024 intake will take place on the 27/2 & 13/3 at 9:00am. To book a place, please contact the school on 01442385060 or email at admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk

Jan 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Denise Leahy

2nd (£50) Frances Flynn

3rd (£25) Mary Miller

If you would like to sign up please go to

<https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>