



# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Psalter Week 2

The theme of today's readings is God's loving compassion and healing. We too, are called to be loving, as well as pure and holy.

Two of the readings speak of leprosy: a disease that can now be cured, but at the time was seen as a punishment for sin. The belief was that either the leper or one of their family had offended God in some way.

The **First Reading** reveals the requirements imposed on lepers. They were to make themselves physically unattractive, so that people would know they were unclean, and to live apart, outside the city walls. They were thus sentenced to indefinite exile from their community and excluded from worship.

The leper we meet in the **Gospel** breaks the law because of his faith. He approaches Jesus, pleading to be made clean. We see Jesus's compassion, mercy, and healing power in curing him. The leper can be readmitted to his community once he has seen the priest, though conversely, Jesus now becomes the outcast.

In the **Psalm** we hear the joy of the psalmist who, in acknowledging and repenting of his sins, is confident of the Lord's forgiveness.

The **Second Reading** calls us to be witnesses to Christ's teaching in everything we do, whilst always being sensitive to others.

This week, I may like to pray for the courage, humility and faith of the leper in the Gospel, as I bring my own desires and needs to Jesus. I ask for the Spirit's guidance to be loving and helpful to others at all times.

## Mass Intentions:

<b>Sun 11 Feb</b>	✠ 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>8:30am</b>	Kath Murphy RIP
		<b>10:00am*</b>	David Holden RIP Ann
<b>Mon 12 Feb</b>	Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Tue 13 Feb</b>	Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Mrs Duggan RIP
<b>Wed 14 Feb</b>	✠ Ash Wednesday	<b>10:00am</b>	Fr. Stephen Ortiger OSB, RIP
		<b>2:15pm</b>	St Thomas More School
		<b>6:00pm</b>	Brigid Lynch and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Thu 15 Feb</b>	Lent Feria	<b>12:00pm</b>	The O'Neil Family Int
<b>Fri 16 Feb</b>	Lent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>Sat 17 Feb</b>	Lent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Barry Palmer RIP
		<b>5:00pm</b>	James Stimpson RIP
<b>Sun 18 Feb</b>	✠ 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>8:30am</b>	Caroline Graham-Males RIP Ann
		<b>10:00am*</b>	James Rogers Int

\* 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, Benjamin Ezeferi, 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, 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: Alan Hynes, Malcolm Graham, Sheila Hanratty, Beatrice Mary Ezekwe, Deacon Anthony Clark.

**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 Barry Palmer RIP.

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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](mailto:josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk)

**Administrator – Laura Etson:** [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs)**

Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:

[berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

**Ash Wednesday Masses** – 10am and 6pm in the Parish, 2:15pm at St Thomas More Primary School. There will be imposition of ashes at these Masses.

**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 next weekend, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you for your generosity.

**CELEBRATE Trust** - Is a Catholic ministry that inspires and equips people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to form the next generation and encourage local community.

Jenny Baker, our Parishioner who is the CELEBRATE Trust National Lead will be giving a short talk on the Trust's work at the Masses this weekend, 10th and 11th February. This will be followed by a retiring collection to support CELEBRATE Trust's work.

**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.

**Sunday Lunch** – The next lunch is taking place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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). There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church nearer the time.

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

**St Thomas More Nursery** – Tours for 2024 intake will take place on the 5/2, 16/2, 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](mailto:admin@stmore.herts.sch.uk)

**Offertory Collections** – 4/2/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £265.56

Weekly Contactless - £160.00

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** –

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb** First Holy Programme Session – 9am

*God helps me get it right*

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb** Mass 10:00am and 6:00pm at Sacred Heart

Mass 2:15pm at St Thomas More School

*Ash Wednesday*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Mar** First Holy Programme Session – 9am

*Gloria*

**10<sup>th</sup> Mar** Sunday Lunch 12pm

**Mary's Meals** - a fantastic £265 was raised last Sunday after Mass for Mary's Meals with an additional £100 from other fund raising this month, making a grand total of £365. A huge thank you for your continued kindness and to everyone who helped with baking and donating things for the treasure table and for coming to support us on the day. You are all helping a child. THANK YOU

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London** - is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 24 February 2024 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St. Lawrence Church, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup Kent DA15 7HB.

The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, 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 Kelley family to present the offertory on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 10:00am.