



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, Year B, 31st March 2024

EASTER MESSAGE

"For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

God's interest and care for us is so incredible that it prompted the psalmist to ask God: "What is man that you should keep him in mind, mortal man that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than a god; with glory and honour you crowned him..." (Psalm 8:4-9) This utter wonder as the psalmist contemplated the marvel and the beauty in God's creation, has since been surpassed by the Easter story. God, through the life, passion and death of his Son Jesus Christ, has shown us how much more we are worth and the value he attaches to us as his children. God gave his Son Jesus Christ to die on the Cross to save us from our sins and from eternal damnation. One word that best answers the psalmist's question is **LOVE** – God's unconditional love for humanity.

In different ways we see a witness to and participation in God's sacrificial love of God in the ways our parishioners reach out to and look after other parishioners, visiting the sick, bringing comfort to the bereaved, responding to appeals to help out in different ways, whether it be in our life as worshipping community or social life as a parish community. It is so inspiring to hear parishioners talk about the support they receive from other parishioners. These and many more good things that are happening in our parish community are so because of the Easter story.

Of course, the trophy is yet to be won. As the love of Christ continues to urge us on, let us press forward all the more eagerly with deeds of Christ-centred love so that we may win the prize for which Christ died for us. Therefore, as the Easter People redeemed by the precious Blood of Christ, let us continue to spread this selfless and sacrificial love in a world that is in so much need of love to heal the wounds of war and division.

Wishing you and your loved ones blessings of the Risen Lord. HAPPY EASTER.

Fr Joseph

Mass Intentions:

Sun 31 Mar	✠ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Lukas Pazdera RIP
Mon 1 Apr	Monday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	Anne Furlong in Thanksgiving
Tue 2 Apr	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	Judith Poupart Int.
Thu 4 Apr	Thursday within the Octave of Easter	12:00pm	Eamon and Bridie Walsh and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 5 Apr	Friday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	Catherine Convery and All Holy Souls RIP
Sat 6 Apr	Saturday within the Octave of Easter	10:00am	Bridie Ward and All Holy Souls RIP
	Easter Vigil	5:00pm	Andrew Convery and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 7 Apr	✠ Second Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Frank Furlong and All Holy Souls 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

OFFICE CLOSED ON EASTER MONDAY (1/4/24)

We Pray for:

The Sick and the Housebound

We pray especially for: Judith Poupart, Kath McAsey, Carol Kerrigan, Natasha D'Mello, Anne Harte, William Miller, Chris Holmes, Raza Shah, Perpetua Fernandes, Lin Thomas, Edith Dicom, Caroline Butler, Ann McDonnell, 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: Fr Michael Daley, Daphne Downing, Alberta Ama Ampah, Anthony Doolan, Deacon Stephen Pickard, Zita O'Connor, Hugh Kearns, Hilary Sweatman, Alan Hynes, Malcolm Graham, John Coyen, Michael Earls.

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 lit this week for the Intentions of Ann Warne

Sacred Heart Church
Park Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 1HX
Tel: 01442 863 845

Email: berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk

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

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 collect the parish registration and other forms from the parish office or from Fr Joseph. Complete and return the forms so that we can have you on the parish register and mailing list. This is to ensure that you receive any information sent to parishioners from the parish office. We are delighted to have you with us.

Easter Offering – Your Easter offerings go towards the yearly stipend for the priest. Please take an offering envelope from the back of the church or use the contactless machine to give your Easter offerings. THANK YOU

Divine Mercy Sunday – Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated this year on Sunday 7th April from 2:30-4pm here at Sacred Heart Church. This will also include Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The 3 O'clock prayer of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be followed by a quiet time for prayer and reflection. People around the world are being encouraged to say the Novena for peace in our troubled world.

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.

Bidding Prayer Writers Required - If you feel you could help, we would love to hear from you. Training will be provided. We are a small team and are keen for more to join us. Contact: ed_murrayclan@yahoo.co.uk, 07743 844257.

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.

Missio Red Boxes - If anyone has a "Red Box" Charlie Gray will be collecting on Sunday 7th April. If you bring them to Church on Sunday then they can either be handed to him personally or left in the Sacristy. If you need to have the box collected from you then you can contact Charlie on chasgray137@outlook.com 07526 441961.

Mary's Meals - Thank you for all the support you have given and we wish you all a very happy Easter. Our next tea/coffee cake and table top treasures will be after 10am Mass on Sunday 7th April. Do come along if you can and if you have any unwanted items, please call Anne. Many thanks - Anne 07773 900983

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.

St Thomas More - Support our local primary school St Thomas More by signing up to their fundraising incentives. Club 100, Help the school and be in with a chance of winning £100, £50 or £25 every month! <https://forms.gle/oKuVaHML8fqLimYD9> Supermarket vouchers, buy gift cards from STMSA to spend at Waitrose or John Lewis and the school receives commission on these sales! Tinyurl.com/SMVouchers

Offertory Collections – 24/3/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £200.56

Weekly Contactless - £90.00

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. Intention cards are available from the office.

Parishes Celebrations / Dates for your Diaries –

7th Apr	Mary's Meals – Tea and Treasures – After 10am Mass
21st Apr	First Holy Communion programme session – 9am Do this in memory of me
12th May	First Holy Communion programme session – 9am The Body of Christ
12th May	Sunday Lunch 12pm

Right to Life – Please support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. In one room of a hospital, doctors could be working to save a baby born alive at 22 or 23 weeks, whilst, in another room of the same hospital, a doctor could perform an abortion that would end the life a baby at the same age. ComRes Poll shows that 70% of British women favour a reduction in the limit from 24 weeks to 20 weeks or below. Collect a postcard today from the back of the Church to write to your MP in support of this amendment. **PLEASE** pray for pregnant mothers and for those who are struggling with their pregnancies and for the protection of their babies. Thank You.

Vocations: 'Come and See' - 2024 – Are you interested in exploring to the **Priesthood** or **Permanent Diaconate**? You are invited to come along to one of our **'Come & See' Vocations**

Mornings on: **Sat 20th April**, 10am-2pm at Our Lady and St Vincent church hall, 243 Mutton Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2AT.

Sat 1st June, 10am-2pm at Our Lady's Hall (the undercroft) at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rothamsted Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2DB. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and register your attendance at one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor - Vocations Promoter rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Adrian Cullen - Director Permanent Diaconate adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk 07961 594725.