



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B, 17th March 2024 – Psalter Week 1

The Mercy of God to the Penitent

God's will is to save us, and nothing pleases him more than our coming back to him with true repentance. The heralds of truth and the ministers of divine grace have told us this from the beginning, repeating it in every age. Indeed, God's desire for our salvation is the primary and pre-eminent sign of his infinite goodness. Precisely in order to show that there is nothing closer to God's heart than this, the divine Word of God the Father, with untold condescension, lived among us in the flesh, and did, suffered, and said all that was necessary to reconcile us to God the Father, when we were at enmity with him, and to restore us to the life of blessedness from which we had been exiled. He healed our physical infirmities by miracles; he freed us from our sins, many and grievous as they were, by suffering and dying, taking them upon himself as if he were answerable for them, sinless though he was. He also taught us in many different ways that we should wish to imitate him by our own kindness and genuine love for one another.

So it was that Christ proclaimed that he had come to call sinners to repentance, not the righteous, and that it was not the healthy who required a doctor, but the sick. He declared that he had come to look for the sheep that was lost, and that it was to the lost sheep of the house of Israel that he had been sent. Speaking more obscurely in the parable of the silver coin, he tells us that the purpose of his coming was to reclaim the royal image, which had been coated with the filth of sin. "You can be sure there is joy in heaven", he said, over one sinner who repents.

To give the same lesson he revived the man who, having fallen into the hands of the brigands, had been left stripped and half-dead from his wounds; he poured wine and oil on the wounds, bandaged them, placed the man on his own mule and brought him to an inn, where he left sufficient money to have him cared for, and promised to repay any further expense on his return. Again, he told of how that Father, who is goodness itself, was moved with pity for his profligate son who returned and made amends by repentance; how he embraced him, dressed him once more in the fine garments that befitted his own dignity, and did not reproach him for any of his sins.

So too, when he found wandering in the mountains and hills the one sheep that had strayed from God's flock of a hundred, he brought it back to the fold, but he did not exhaust it by driving it ahead of him. Instead, he placed it on his own shoulders and so, compassionately, he restored it safely to the flock. So also he cried out: 'Come to me, all you that toil and are heavy of heart'. 'Accept my yoke', he said, by which he meant his commands, or rather, the whole way of life that he taught us in the Gospel. He then speaks of a burden, but that is only because repentance seems difficult. In fact, however, my yoke is easy, he assures us, and my burden is light. Then again he instructs us in divine justice and goodness, telling us to be like our heavenly Father, holy, perfect and merciful. Forgive, he says, and you will be forgiven. Behave towards other people as you would wish them to behave towards you. *From a letter by Saint Maximus the Confessor, abbot*

Mass Intentions:

Sun 17 Mar	✠ 5 th Sunday of Lent	8:30am	John Murray RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Monique Shotton Int
Mon 18 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	People of the Parish
		11:00am	<i>St Thomas More Year 1 Church tour.</i>
Tue 19 Mar	Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10:00am	Ruth Seymour and All Holy Souls RIP <i>St Thomas More Year 5 will be in attendance.</i>
Thu 21 Mar	Lent Feria	12:00pm	Maggie, Mick and Brendon McMahon and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 22 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	Jack McAsey and All Holy Souls RIP
	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	10:30am	
Sat 23 Mar	Lent Feria	10:00am	In Thanksgiving to God – The Dieseru Family
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Phil Kinsella RIP Ann
Sun 24 Mar	✠ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	8:30am	Patricia and Edward Caddle RIP
		10:00am*	Marie Capes 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: 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: Emlyn Cawley, Anne Murray, Alberta Ama Ampah, Anthony Doolan, Deacon Stephen Pickard, Zita O'Connor, Hugh Kearns, Hilary Sweatman, Alan Hynes, Malcolm Graham.

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 Agatha Claver

Sacred Heart Church
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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 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.

Baptisms at Sacred Heart – This Weekend we were blessed with the Baptisms of Louise and James Egan’s, Elliot and Georgia Hicks’ children. Congratulations to these families, please keep them in your prayers.

Sunday 24th March at 12pm – Salvatore Elisseo Cappellina.

Easter Flowers – We welcome any donations towards flowers for Easter. You can either give as you leave the Church or use contactless. Please indicate Easter Flowers on the envelope. THANK YOU.

New Parish Administrator for Sacred Heart – Laura’s last day will be the 21st March. We thank her for her dedication and all that she has done. We wish her the very best for the future.

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.

Youth Mass - 31st of March at 10am. We would like as many Children as possible to take part in singing, reading, offertory etc. at these Masses. If you would like to register your child’s interest, please email Jane Lavin janellavin@yahoo.co.uk

Easter Choir Practice - in preparation for our Easter Celebrations will be held on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm in the church. Everyone is welcome and invited to join us. Come and give it a try even if you have never sung before as we prepare for the most important season in the church’s year. Music will be provided.

Vocations: 'Come and See' - 2024 - Whether you are interested in exploring 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.

Missio Red Boxes - If anyone has a “Red Box” Charlie Gray will be collecting them in during the month of March through until the Sunday after Easter. Sundays of the 17th, 24th, Easter Sunday (31st March) and 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.

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

Lourdes Pilgrimage 19th- 26th July 2024 – Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve.

All applications to join this year’s pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.

Offertory Collections – 10/3/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £254.00

Weekly Contactless - £75.00

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 –

17th Mar First Holy Communion programme session – 9am
Bread of Life

24th Mar First Holy Communion programme session – 10am
Fruit of the Vine

31st Mar Youth Mass 10am

21st Apr First Holy Communion programme session – 10am
Do this in memory of me

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.

March 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Olivia Doran

2nd (£50) Saima Sajid

3rd (£25) Anya Heath

If you would like to sign up please go

to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZoL76wpEvFc7>

Presentation of the Offertory – This week we welcome the Fry family to present the offertory on Sunday 17th March at 10:00am.