



# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Psalter Week 4

There were two remarkable moments in the story of the Old Testament where God saved his people; one was in the escape from Egypt – we'll keep that for the Easter Vigil.

The other was the end of their second exile, this time in Babylon, which we hear of today. There was an even greater moment when God saved his people: in Jesus Christ his Son – and we hear Jesus tell Nicodemus about that today.

To understand “being saved”, we must ask “What from?” Saved from slavery, from exile, from human enemies – these are all clear. But the last and greatest salvation brought by Jesus seems harder to understand: saved from sin and death.

These threaten us as much as any other enemy as in the Israelites bitter days of exile in Babylon, which the **Psalm** recalls. For us today, ‘Babylon’ can stand as a symbol for all that threatens the fullness of human living.

Hatred, selfishness, greed, and pride can all take us away from wholeness of life and into exile. But our salvation in Jesus from all that threatens us is even more real.

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO ALL THE MOTHERS.**

## Mass Intentions:

<b>Sun 10 Mar</b>	✠ 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>8:30am</b>	Sara Bhan RIP
		<b>10:00am*</b>	For all the Women and Mothers
<b>Mon 11 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Bridget Nolan RIP Ann
<b>Tue 12 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	People of the Parish <i>St Thomas More Year 3 will be in attendance.</i>
<b>Thu 14 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	<b>12:00pm</b>	Dominic Dieseru Family Int
<b>Fri 15 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Edward Lynch and All Holy Souls RIP
	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	
<b>Sat 16 Mar</b>	Lent Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Deceased members of the Byrd and Sherratt families and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	<b>5:00pm</b>	Reginald and Alice Sherratt RIP Ann
<b>Sun 17 Mar</b>	✠ 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	<b>8:30am</b>	John Murray RIP Ann
		<b>10:00am*</b>	Monique Shotton 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, Perpetua Fernandes, Lin Thomas, Edith Dicom, Caroline Butler, Ann McDonnell, William Campbell, Alice Danladi, Ron Harper, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Jane Blayney, Dympna 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 in memory of John Murray RIP Ann

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

Email: [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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](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)

**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 -**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm – Orla-Rose Egan.  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm – Leonardo Elliot Spencer Hicks.  
Congratulations to these families.

**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 - 15 hours per week.** The job involves all-round parish administration, preparing parish communications and bookkeeping. For more details and to apply, please go to <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/> We shall then shortlist candidates with the help of the diocese, for interview. Deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Thank you to Laura 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** - 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:janellavin@yahoo.co.uk)

**Easter Choir Practice** - in preparation for our Easter Celebrations will be held on Wednesdays, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> March**, 10am-2pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, Westminster SW1P 1QN.

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup> April**, 10am-2pm at Our Lady and St Vincent church hall, 243 Mutton Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2AT.

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk) or Deacon Adrian Cullen - Director Permanent Diaconate [adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> March) and on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**St Patrick's Day Event** – Thank you to all of you that purchased a ticket, tickets have now sold out. For those of you who have purchased a ticket, the doors will open at 12:00pm and food will be served at approximately 1:00pm.

**Offertory Collections – 3/3/24**

Weekly Loose Plate - £207.50

Weekly Contactless - £80.00

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 –**

**16<sup>th</sup> Mar** St Patrick's day event, 12:00-4:30pm

**17<sup>th</sup> Mar** First Holy Communion programme session – 9am  
Bread of Life

**24<sup>th</sup> Mar** First Holy Communion programme session – 10am  
Fruit of the Vine

**31<sup>st</sup> Mar** Youth Mass 10am

**Society for the Protection of Unborn Children** - Proposals to decriminalise abortion are due to be brought before the Commons in the coming weeks. The battle is heating up – the issue has gained media attention and MPs on both sides are making their views public. Dame Diana Johnson's amendment (New Clause 1) to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill for debate at Report stage would remove any restrictions from women relating to abortion, allowing DIY abortion up to birth for any reason. It represents one of the biggest threats to the unborn in England and Wales in 50 years. Please help to save the lives of innocent and defenceless children by writing to our local MP, Gagan Mohindra, using the postcards at the back of the Church or via online. You can return the postcards back to the parish office, and we will affix the stamps and post them. Thank you.

**The Chiltern Chamber Choir** - will be performing a Passiontide concert on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm at St Peter's Church in Berkhamsted. The programme includes James MacMillan's "Miserere", Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ", Morten Lauridsen's "Sure on this Shining Night" and Sullivan's "The Long Day Closes". Tickets are £18 in advance (or £20 on the door) and can be purchased from Brown & Merry estate agents (next to St Peter's) or online at [chilternchamberchoir.com](http://chilternchamberchoir.com).

**Presentation of the Offertory** – This week we welcome the Cole family to present the offertory on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10:00am.