



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B, 28th April 2024 – Psalter Week 1

We are deeply rooted in the love of Christ. The risen Christ is the source of all that we need to grow ever closer to God.

In the **First Reading**, we hear how shortly after his conversion, St Paul was initially treated with fear and disdain by those he had been persecuting. Paul's zeal for the Lord was grounded in a very personal encounter with Christ. Knowing that he was loved completely despite all that he had done before, gave him the encouragement to spread the Good News.

As a faithful worshipping Jew, Paul would have been familiar with praying today's **Psalms**, an encouraging song of praise. It foretells how generations yet to come will be filled with the love of the Lord.

In the **Second Reading**, the writer counsels that even if we feel we have failed or fallen short in our response to God's love for us, his love is so immense and all-forgiving that we need not be afraid. Knowing this, we can be free to live out the great commandment to love one another.

The beautiful image of a vine carefully tended by the Father is used by Jesus to describe his and our relationship to God (**Gospel**). We are all sustained in an intimate co-existence with the Holy Trinity. Jesus invites us to remain close to him. Without him, our life is nothing, with him, we discover our true identity and purpose

This week, let us try to consciously be aware that we are branches of one vine, rooted in God's love. Although we may have our differences and shortcomings, we are forever loved completely by a God of compassion, love and forgiveness. Let us pray that like St Paul, we will have the grace to live out this amazing Good News.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 28 Apr	✠ Fifth Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Catherine (Cathy) Norris RIP Ann
Mon 29 Apr	Saint Catherine of Siena	10:00am	NO MASS
Tue 30 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	NO MASS
Thu 2 May	Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	12:00pm	Mrs Mary Shoniwa Int
Fri 3 May	Saint Philip and James, Apostles	10:00am	Timothy and Margaret Murphy RIP
Sat 4 May	The English Martyrs	10:00am	Deceased members of the Knagg Family and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Kathleen Gavaghan RIP
Sun 5 May	✠ Sixth Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	The Fletcher Family 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: Terry McDonnell, Lucy Fox, Ose Nnani, Roseanna Lawler, Judith Poupart, Kevin Ambrose Kath McAsey, Carol Kerrigan, Natasha D'Mello, Anne Harte, William Miller, Raza Shah, Edith Dicom, Caroline Butler, Ann McDonnell, William Campbell, Josie Redmond, Alice Danladi, Ron Harper, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Jane Blayney, Dympna O'Connor, Lucy Chapman.

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: Christine Adams, Fr David Williamson, Fr John Warnaby, Tony Fay, Perpetua Fernandes, Brian Preston, Catherine Grant, Fr Michael Daley, Daphne Downing, Alberta Ama Ampah, Anthony Doolan. **May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen**

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp

is lit this week for for the sick and housebound.

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.

Sacred Heart Youth provision - What do **YOU** think the parish should offer to our young people? We would really like you to join us for a short meeting to share your views on the direction in which youth provision should move within our parish. Everyone's views are valued and welcome.

Thursday 9th May, 7:30pm in the parish meeting room.
We look forward to seeing you!
Sandra Swarbrick and Fr Joseph

Churches Together Prayer Breakfast – Sacred Heart will be hosting the Churches together prayer breakfast in our parish hall on Saturday 18th May 2024 from 8:00am - 9:00am. A signup sheet will be at the back of the Church this weekend and next, please put your name down if you can help. Set up will be around 7:45am and the breakfast will begin at 8:00am, with prayers after breakfast. Please join us, it is good to share food and pray together for the town and surrounding villages. For further information, please contact Patrick Mc Loone on 07949128562.

Priest Training Fund – Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend, in total we raised £826.70. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

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.

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.

Sunday Lunch (Roast Dinner) – Join us on the 12th May from 12:00pm for a scrumptious Sunday lunch. **Everyone is welcome!** Adults £10.00, Children £5.00 (Under 10's eat free) Please sign up using the sign up sheet at the back of the church by **Sunday 5th May** or email Laura.

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

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.

Offertory Collections – 21/4/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £260.90

Weekly Contactless - £121.00

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 –

12th May First Holy Communion programme session – 9am
The Body of Christ

12th May Sunday Lunch 12pm

18th May Churches together prayer breakfast 8am

25th May Mary's Meals Stall – Berkhamsted Market

6th Jun First Holy Communion programme session – 6pm
Rehearsal

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

Mary's Meals - Mary's Meal will be doing a bric-a-brac stall in Berkhamsted market on Saturday 25th May. Anything no longer needed would be happily received. Please contact Anne on 07773 900983. THANK YOU

Presentation of the Offertory – This week we welcome the Hodkinson family to present the offertory on Sunday 28th April at 10:00am.