



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B, 21st April 2024 – Psalter Week 4

This fourth Sunday of Easter which traditionally features Jesus as the Good Shepherd derives its theme from the Gospel narratives (John 10) read each year, in which Jesus talks of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock. A general “theme” to the Scriptures is the person of Jesus and what he has achieved by the Paschal Mystery (his dying and rising). We too are part of that flock for whose sake the Good Shepherd laid down his life. In a world that is ever in need of a good shepherd, the fourth Sunday of Easter is kept annually as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

In the **First Reading**, Peter is happy to tell people of Jesus’ name and the power that his name gives and that it is by this name that “this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today ... this is the only name by which we can be saved.” It is the by ‘the power of this name’ that we are all God’s children, and are promised an eternal reward. All this is summed up in the Gospel, in which Jesus speaks of himself as the Good shepherd, who is prepared to do anything for his flock, even to the point of giving his life. This he said before his passion, but in Eastertide we read it with the benefit of hindsight. His words are true, and by his dying and rising he has truly saved his flock.

Our response therefore should echo the words of today’s **Psalm**, normally sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem - a thanksgiving prayer from someone who has been rescued from an ordeal. By his dying on the cross, Christ the Good Shepherd has shielded us from eternal damnation. Like Peter, the psalmist acknowledges the Lord as his Saviour.

On this Day of Prayer for Vocations, let us pray that everyone should be willing and able to fulfil the vocation God calls them to. Please pray and encourage our young and not so young people to consider vocation to the priesthood and religious life. We also pray for war-torn countries, that they will find a Good Shepherd to guide them out of conflict and lead them into peace and security.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 21 Apr	✠ Fourth Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Iain Fletcher RIP
Mon 22 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Michael Kinsella RIP Ann
Tue 23 Apr	Saint George, Martyr, Patron of England	10:00am	NO MASS
Thu 25 Apr	Saint Mark, Evangelist	12:00pm	NO MASS
Fri 26 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Lauren O’Shaughnessy Int
Sat 27 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	NO MASS
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Bettine Byrd RIP Ann
Sun 28 Apr	✠ Fifth Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Catherine (Cathy) Norris RIP Ann

* 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: 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: Fr John Michael Warnaby, Tony Fay, Perpetua Fernandes, Brian Preston, Catherine Grant, Fr Michael Daley, Daphne Downing, Alberta Ama Ampah, Anthony Doolan, Mary Duggan.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp

is lit this week for the People in the Middle East.

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.

Corpus Christi Parish Tring – As was announced two weeks ago, Cardinal Vicent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster appointed me as Parochial Administrator of Tring Parish. This means that on the weekends I am not with you to celebrate Masses, I will be at Tring, but will have a supply priest to cover here in Sacred Heart.

Fr Joseph

Priest Training Fund - This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. You can still use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

St George, Martyr and Patron of England – This year, the feast day of St George falls on a Tuesday 23rd April. In the words of St Peter Damian, “St George was a man who abandoned one army for another: he gave up the rank of tribune to enlist as a soldier for Christ. Eager to encounter the enemy, he first stripped away his worldly wealth by giving all he had to the poor. Then, free and unencumbered, bearing the shield of faith, he plunged into the thick of the battle, an ardent soldier for Christ.”

HAPPY FEAST TO EVERYONE.

Thank you from Dens - for your kind donations given in support of our Foodbank service over the last year April 2023 – March 2024 where you donated 194kg. Your donation has enabled us to continue offering emergency food parcels to local people, supporting them through crisis. If you would like to know more about our services please visit www.dens.org.uk.

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 of 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 – 14/4/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £177.60

Weekly Contactless - £185.00

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 –

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| 12th May | First Holy Communion programme session – 9am
The Body of Christ |
| 12th May | Sunday Lunch 12pm |
| 25th May | Mary's Meals Stall – Berkhamsted Market |
| 6th Jun | First Holy Communion programme session – 6pm
Rehearsal |

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 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 Vossers family to present the offertory on Sunday 21st April at 10:00am.