



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Second Sunday of Easter, Year B, 7th April 2024 – Psalter Week 2

After the joys and exuberance of Easter Sunday and Easter Week, we settle down into the longest Season in the Church's Year - Eastertide. This period of fifty days is a time of sustained gladness, which comes through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures which describe the risen life of Jesus - not just his appearances to the disciples after the Resurrection, but the teachings from his ministry which reveal the risen life he now possesses. We also hear how the Resurrection made a difference: how the timid and frightened disciples were able to leave Jerusalem and proclaim a message of life over death to the whole world, as we read through the book of the Acts of the Apostles. We also linger over the first letter of Saint John, which ties together so many of the themes of Easter: life, faith, baptism, the Spirit - all brought together in the person of the Lord Jesus, risen from the dead. On this second Sunday, we continue to track through "real time", by hearing what happened in Jerusalem the Sunday after the Resurrection, with the Lord appearing to Thomas.

We rejoice most of all, because God's mercy has been shown to humanity through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The risen Christ is the Divine Mercy that regenerates fallen humanity in all its brokenness and empowers it to share in the life of God.

St Luke writing in the Acts of the Apostles (**First Reading**) shows that the mercy of the risen Lord continues to be poured out through the ministry of his apostles. In the **Gospel**, the risen and compassionate Christ not only shows himself as the model for mercy to his fearful and doubtful friends, he empowers them by giving them the Holy Spirit, so that through their apostolic ministry, they may share God's regenerating mercy with all people in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As a US journalist Cathleen Falsani wrote: 'justice is getting what you deserve; mercy is not getting what you deserve; grace is getting what you don't deserve.' In union with the Psalmist this Sunday, let us therefore, 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever!'

Mass Intentions:

Sun 7 Apr	✠ Second Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Frank Furlong and All Holy Souls RIP
Mon 8 Apr	The Annunciation of the Lord (<i>transferred from 25 March</i>)	10:00am	John Borns and All Holy Souls RIP
Tue 9 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Olive and Laurie Dickson and All Holy Souls RIP
Thu 11 Apr	Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr	12:00pm	Deceased members of the Doran family and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 12 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Patrick Harte and All Holy Souls RIP
Sat 13 Apr	Easter Feria	10:00am	Deceased members of the Byrne family and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Deceased members of the Metcalfe Family and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 14 Apr	✠ Third Sunday of Easter	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Philip Capes 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

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, Dymrna 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: Tony Fay, Brian Preston, Catherine Grant, 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.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp

is lit this week in memory of Andrew and Katherine Millar RIP

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

Thank You – for the generous Easter offerings and for every support that you gave. In whatever way you added to making our Holy Week and Easter celebrations a spirit-filled, joyful and beautiful experience, may God bless you infinitely.
THANK YOU

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.

Holy Places of Palestine – We collected a total of £450.41 in support of the maintenance of the Holy Places. 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.

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.

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

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 – 31/3/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £2048.18

Weekly Contactless - £205.00

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 –

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

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.