



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted

✠ Pentecost Sunday, Year B, 19th May 2024

“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.” (Acts. 2:4; 11)

Pentecost was one of the three pilgrimage feasts of Judaism. (Ex 23:16; 34:12; Lev 23:15-21; Dt. 16:9-12). It was an important harvest feast as we see from Paul’s eagerness to be in Jerusalem for it (Acts 20:16). In the Old Dispensation, the Israelites on this feast presented the first fruits of their wheat harvest and offered thanksgiving to God.

In the Christian Dispensation, Pentecost – fifty days after Easter Sunday – is now associated with the event of the descent of Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the birth of the early Christian church. This event fulfils the promise of the Advocate made by Jesus to his disciples in the **Gospel reading**. (Jn. 15:26-27, 16:12-15) One of the many significance of this dramatic event as St Luke gives account of it in the **first reading** (Acts. 2:1-11), is that the Gospel message “speaks” to every human heart. Thus, differences in language, race, colour, times or creed are no barriers to God when, where and how he chooses to continue to reveal himself so that the whole human race may continue to receive the benefits of Christ death and resurrection.

In celebrating this feast today, we give thanks to God for our new birth in the Church through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit. The implication therefore is that our lives should reflect the harvest of the fruits of the Spirit as the St Paul enjoins the Christian communion in the **second reading**. (Gal. 5:16-25) To keep the flame of the Spirit aglow, we also have to distance ourselves from the works of self-indulgence and every immoral acts. We can ask for the help of this same Spirit in the words of the **Psalms**: ‘Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth’.

As we are called to witness to the fire of God (by bringing the light of the Son and the heat of the Spirit to all we meet), let’s pray this line of St Paul every day this coming week: *‘Since the Spirit is my life, let me be directed by the Spirit.’*

On this feast of Pentecost, we wish everyone a happy birthday in the Church!

Mass Intentions:

Sun 19 May	✠ Pentecost Sunday	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Mary Wright RIP Ann
Mon 20 May	Mary, Mother of the Church	10:00am	Hugh Martin Mackie and All Holy Souls RIP
Tue 21 May	Feria	10:00am	Wiely Dreschen and All Holy Souls RIP
Thu 23 May	Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Eternal High Priest	12:00pm	Eberhand Dreschen and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 24 May	Feria	10:00am	Alice and Stephen Danaher and All Holy Souls RIP
Sat 25 May	Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church	10:00am	Patrick Moran and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Kevin Halloran and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 26 May	✠ The Most Holy Trinity	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Kathleen and Norman Suckley RIP

✠ Holy Day of Obligation

* 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, 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 Francis Wahle, Ann Pettingell, Christine Adams, Fr David Williamson, Fr John Warnaby, Tony Fay, Perpetua Fernandes, Brian Preston.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp

Is lit this week in loving memory of
Mary Wright, 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

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.

Reception into the Catholic Church – Congratulations to Julia Goffin who will be received into full communion with the Roman Catholic at the 10am Mass this Sunday – the feast of Pentecost. After the Mass, please join us for teas and coffees and presentation in the hall.

First Holy Communion 2024 – On Saturday 8th June at 11:00am 16 of our children will be making their First Holy Communion. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Confirmation Mass 2024 – We welcome Bishop Paul to Our Parish on Saturday 15th June at 5pm. He will celebrate this Mass and confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on candidates from Ss Mary and Joseph, Hemel West, Our Lady, Queen of All Creation Hemel East and our parish. This will also be our Parish Sunday Vigil Mass, with teas and coffees in the hall afterwards.

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.

First Holy Communion Webinar - 24th May 2024 @ 7:30pm. Sycamore are hosting a webinar to help catechists and parents lead their children on the sacrament of first Holy Communion. There is no charge for the event but donations can be made.

<https://northamptondiocese.org/courses/virtual-webinar-by-the-sycamore-team-hosted-by-mission-northampton-may-2024/>

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) – Thank you to all who helped to organise this last Sunday. The next one will be our annual Summer BBQ and buffet event.

Summer BBQ and Buffet – will be held on Sunday 7th July from 12pm with a **bouncy castle** for the children. This is a great opportunity to have a catch up before the summer holidays. **Everyone is welcome!** A sign up sheet will be placed at the back of the Church nearer the time but please save the date.

Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread - Thank you for your continuing donations to the food bank. Your kind non-perishable food 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.

SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity) – Our Parishioner Monica Murray will be doing a 50km sponsored walk for SANDS throughout May, a wonderful charity which helps parents and families who suffer bereavement following still birth and the loss of a child. If you would like more information about the charity or are able to sponsor, please go to the link.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/monica-murray-1714501290525>

Mary's Meals – Are in need of some clothing rails for their event on the 25th May. If you have a rail that you can spare for a couple of days please could you contact Anne on 07773 900983. Thank you.

St Columba's College – Invite you to their Creative Arts Taster Day on the 20th May 9:00am-12:30pm. Suitable for children aged 9-13 years who are considering their Secondary school options. To register please see poster at the back of the Church.

Offertory Collections – 12/5/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £178.10

Weekly Contactless - £85.00

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 –

25th May Mary's Meals Stall – Berkhamsted Market

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

8th Jun First Holy Communion Mass 11am

15th Jun Confirmation Mass 5pm

7th July Summer BBQ and buffet 12pm

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

May 100 Club Winners

1st (£100) Marina Burke

2nd (£50) Anya Heath

3rd (£25) Nadine Jackson

If you would like to sign up please go

to <https://forms.gle/p6w6TZol76wpEvFc7>