



Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year B, 12th May 2024 – Psalter Week 3

On this Seventh Sunday of Easter the gospels each year are taken from Chapter 17 of Saint John’s Gospel - the “priestly prayer” of Jesus at the Last Supper: this long prayer is a farewell message, where Jesus prays for all that the Church will have to be and do in the millennia after his Ascension – in other words, the time we are in now. This is his prayer for us.

The specific message this year is all about the continuity of the Church, using the example of Judas (the one who “chose to be lost”) being replaced so that the College of Apostle may be twelve in number. The second reading gives account of this very significant moment in the earliest days of the Church. This event established what we call “Apostolic Succession” – the idea that just as Jesus had called and appointed Apostles, the Apostles themselves could also do this. It is the reason we call our Bishops “successors of the Apostles”.

Another key point in this event is also the criteria that Peter puts forward (“... someone who was with us ...”). This highlights the importance of preserving the teachings, words and action of Jesus in his public ministry and faithfully passing same on down the ages.

Since we have just celebrated the Ascension last Thursday, and are now praying for the coming of the Spirit next Sunday, let us pray that the Spirit of the living God may fall afresh on the Church, to renew her vigour so that she will continue to faithfully preserve and proclaim the teachings and actions of Jesus Christ in our time.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 12 May	✠ Seventh Sunday of Easter	8:30am	Hubert De Souza RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Janet Jackson Int (90 th Birthday)
Mon 13 May	Easter Feria	10:00am	Deirdre Fehilly RIP
Tue 14 May	Saint Matthias, Apostle	10:00am	Elsabel De Camacho and All Holy Souls RIP
Thu 16 May	Easter Feria	12:00pm	Carlos De Camacho and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 17 May	Easter Feria	10:00am	Mary O’Rourke Int
Sat 18 May	Easter Feria	10:00am	Michael O’Rourke RIP Ann
	Sunday Vigil	5:00pm	Jay Bailey and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 19 May	✠ Pentecost Sunday	8:30am	People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Mary Wright RIP Ann
	✠ 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: Ann Pettingell, Christine Adams, Fr David Williamson, Fr John Warnaby, Tony Fay, Perpetua Fernandes, Brian Preston, Catherine Grant, Fr Michael Daley, Daphne Downing. **May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen**

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp
for the peaceful repose of
Ann Pettingell, RIP

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.

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.

Baptism at Sacred Heart – Saturday 18th May at 12noon, we celebrate the Baptism of Pearl and Ayla-Mac Woods. Congratulations to their family. Please keep them in your prayers.

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 McLoone on 07949128562.

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.

Tea and coffee after Sunday 10am Mass – There will be no tea and coffee after Mass this Sunday as the Parish hall is being used for the Sunday lunch event.

Corpus Christi Plant Sale – Saturday 11th May at 12-4pm. Corpus Christi Church Hall, refreshments available. Everyone is welcome.

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>

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 – 5/5/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £216.50

Weekly Contactless - £101.00

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 Telling family to present the offertory on Sunday 12th May at 10:00am.