



# Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted



✠ Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Psalter Week 2

Today's readings centre on the theme of love: the totally faithful, unconditional love of God for us.

The **First Reading** describes a turning point in the growth of the Early Church. Peter visits the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and Gentile, announcing that 'God does not have favourites'. God reaches out to those who listen to him through his Holy Spirit. He creates a community of love that embraces all humanity.

St John (**Second Reading**) reminds us that God loved us first. God's nature is love. The great depth of that love is revealed in God sending Jesus, whose self-sacrifice redeems our sins and draws us into the life of God.

The **Gospel** shows us Jesus teaching his disciples about his loving relationship with his Father. Jesus chooses and invites us into that same intimate relationship. He tells us how to follow him: that we should love one another.

The **Psalmist** encourages us to sing praise joyfully to the Lord whose love offers salvation to all.

We, like the disciples, are called to imitate the love we see in Jesus's life and death - not because we are servants, but because we are friends. As we approach the end of the Easter season, we pray for the grace that we ourselves might reflect the gift of God's love, through our actions to our brothers and sisters, and to all creation. We also give thanks for the love of our friends, and for the joy that they bring to our lives.

## Mass Intentions:

<b>Sun 5 May</b>	✠ Sixth Sunday of Easter	<b>8:30am</b>	People of the Parish
		<b>10:00am*</b>	The Fletcher Family Int
<b>Mon 6 May</b>	Easter Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Heidi Wong Int
<b>Tue 7 May</b>	Easter Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	PV and Shaji Matthew RIP
<b>Thu 9 May</b>	✠ <b>The Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	Karen Lynch-Doran recovery
<b>Fri 10 May</b>	Easter Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	Deceased members of the Gay Family and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Sat 11 May</b>	Easter Feria	<b>10:00am</b>	John Shotton and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	<b>5:00pm</b>	Nadine Dickinson and All Holy Souls RIP
<b>Sun 12 May</b>	✠ Seventh Sunday of Easter	<b>8:30am</b>	Hubert De Souza RIP Ann
		<b>10:00am*</b>	Janet Jackson Int (90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
* Livestream Mass			
<b>Saturday</b> - 9:00am – Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (and confession alongside) with Benediction at 9:45am			
<i>Confessions can also be arranged outside of these times, please contact Fr Joseph</i>			

## 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: 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 the intention of  
Kath McAsey.

Sacred Heart Church  
Park Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 1HX  
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Email: [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk)

Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/berkhamsted/>

(Office Hours: 10:00am-2.00pm, Mon, Tue and Thurs.) **Closed 6/5/24**

Parish Priest - Fr Joseph Okoro: [josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk)

Administrator – Laura Etson: [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSRs)

Carmella Perkins – Sacred Heart PSR:

[berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto: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.

**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 would appreciate it if you could let us know via email [berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:berkhamsted@rcdow.org.uk) that you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you!  
Sandra Swarbrick and Fr Joseph

**Baptism at Sacred Heart** – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 12noon, we celebrate the Baptism of Bonnie Molly Ross. Congratulations to her 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Sunday Lunch (Roast Dinner)** – Join us next Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 **this Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**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 – 28/4/24

Weekly Loose Plate - £180.81

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 –

<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	First Holy Communion programme session – 9am <u>The Body of Christ</u>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Sunday Lunch 12pm
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Churches together prayer breakfast 8am
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Mary's Meals Stall – Berkhamsted Market
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Jun</b>	First Holy Communion programme session – 6pm <u>Rehearsal</u>

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk) or Deacon Adrian Cullen - Director Permanent Diaconate [adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk)

**Mary's Meals** - Mary's Meal will be doing a bric-a-brac stall in Berkhamsted market on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Anything no longer needed would be happily received.

Please contact Anne on 07773 900983. THANK YOU