

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 23rd August 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 1

'I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven'

The prophet Isaiah (today's **First Reading**) reminds us that God's will is always accomplished. And as we are reminded in the words of the **Entrance Antiphon**, 'Save the servant who trusts in you', it is God's will that the lowly servant, trusting in God, is to be given the place of honour and authority.

The **Psalm** might be the voice of that same lowly servant, praising God's wisdom and knowledge for its depth and richness (**Second Reading**). Though God is beyond all, the servant's call is always answered. God looks to the lowly with faithful and merciful love.

This inscrutable wisdom of God becomes apparent in the **Gospel**. Jesus chooses Peter, who, despite his human failings, is nevertheless to be a rock and custodian of the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Let us pray, this week, that we might trust the unfathomable wisdom of God. We ask that this wisdom, though from on high, might even look to each one of us, with our own fragilities – and that we ourselves might be God's choice to spread the joy of the kingdom here and now.

Sun 23 Aug	**✠ Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Holy Rosary Prayer** ***By the Lady Chapel***	**8:30am** ***9:30-9:55am***	Michael Armstrong RIP Ann
		10:00am*	Pat and Moira Saunders and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 28 Aug	**Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**	**10:00am**	Private Intention
Sat 29 Aug	**Sunday Vigil**	**5:00pm**	Steve and Phyllis Metcalfe and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 30 Aug	**✠ Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Holy Rosary Prayer** ***By the Lady Chapel***	**8:30am** ***9:30-9:55am***	The People of the Parish
		10:00am*	Stanislaw Josef Pawlowicz and All Holy Souls RIP

✠ Holy Day of Obligation * Livestream Mass

~~**First Friday Devotions** with Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – 10am-3:30pm.~~
~~**Saturdays** - 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*~~

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 120. **1st** Isa. 22:15, 19-23.
Ps 138(137):1-2a. 3. 6, 8bc. ℟. 8bc.
2nd Rom. 11:33-36. **Gospel** Matt. 16:18. **EP: III** page 27

Sacred Heart RC 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):
Margaret Atwill – berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Pauline McDonnell - berkhamstedsg1@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Spiritans Mission Appeal - We welcome to our Parish the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) this weekend, 22nd/23rd August on their Mission Appeal. Their apostolate is among the poor, in parishes, prisons, schools and refugee communities. To read more about the Spiritans see poster on the noticeboard. Please support their missionary work during second collections to be taken this weekend.

Sacramental Preparation Registration 2026/2027 – We welcome expression of interest from parents whose children will be in school years 3 to 6 from September 2026 and whose children would like to receive First Holy Communion. The same goes to those who will be in year 9 and above from September who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. All, as a matter of fact, should be practicing the faith and attending Mass regularly. For expression of interest, please email Fr. Joseph - josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk Both sacramental programmes will be run here at Sacred Heart.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Rachel Franc and Jenny Holden will be holding their annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support at Rachel's house, Morningside, Graemesdyke Road, HP4 3LX, on Friday 4th September from 10.00am – 12.00pm. All parishioners and friends are welcome to come along. We would very much welcome donations of cakes, plants or fresh produce from your garden. Please either bring along on the day or preferably phone Rachel (07981-920619) or Jenny (07989-275603) before the event.

Upcoming Roofing Works - We would like to advise parishioners that essential roofing works to the Turret roof are due to commence in mid-September. Scaffolding will be erected around the turret to allow the necessary works to be carried out safely. We expect the project to take approximately three weeks to complete. We apologise for any inconvenience or disruption this may cause and thank you for your patience and understanding while these works are undertaken.

Please Pray for the Sick and the Housebound – Eddie Bradley, Maureen Murphy, Alice McDonnell, Malcolm Hill, Nigel, Cameron, Sheila Sumner, Michael Di Napoli, Alice Gancke, Margaret Jarrett, Judith Poupart, Michael Holmes, Jeanne Bolton, Dave & Anne Phillips, Roberta Barbour, Paddy Hart, David Johnstone, Pat Whelan, Jack Nash, Eileen Clarke, Caroline Butler, Ron Harper, Joe Quinn, Rosemary Goacher, Dympna O'Connor, Christopher Chapman.

Parishes Celebrations / Dates for your Diaries:

24th Sep	Seniors' Light Lunch, after 12pm Mass in Parish Hall
4th Oct	Sunday Lunch 12pm (Please note date change)
21st Nov	Churches Together Prayer Breakfast

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from the side of Christ, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
From the malignant enemy defend me
At the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That I may praise Thee with Thy Angels
And Thy Saints forever and ever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Make our hearts like unto thine.

Recently Deceased and Anniversaries:
Olive Cozens, Teresa Tipper, Doreen Smyth, Maxine Burdon, Bill Readman, Justina Nnadi, Jean Giffen, Roseleen Rice, Michael Roberts, Giovannina Mistretta, Chris Holmes, Kay James, Anne-Marie Clarke, John O'Neill (Potten End), Grace O'Reilly, Hugh Deane, Patricia Rice, Sue McQuinn, Bridie Morahan, Krys Evans, Michael Kennedy, Keith Gay.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp
is lit this week for all affected by the devastating wildfires and extreme heat around the world.