

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 30th August 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 2**

'Let them take up their cross and follow me'

Today's readings remind us that whilst we may find ourselves caught between the values of God's kingdom and those of the world around us, we will always have the love of God to protect and uphold us.

Jeremiah laments that answering God's call has led to him being mocked and derided (**First Reading**). Yet despite this, he can still sense a burning desire to speak God's words.

The **Psalmist**, wandering in the desert, thirsts for God's presence, just as he thirsts for water. Recognising the Lord's loving mercy, he is able to raise his hands in praise and thanksgiving.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) reminds the Romans that the life we take on through baptism becomes the inspiration for how we live. Paul encourages them to resist the temptation to conform to the demands of the world as they seek to respond to God.

In the **Gospel**, we see Peter's struggle to embrace fully the reality of Jesus's Way. Soon after being named 'the rock' on which the Church will be built, Peter is still holding on to the values of the world, and struggling to accept what Jesus tells him about the suffering that lies ahead.

This week we pray for those taking up their cross in the service of Christ and his Church around the world. We ask the Lord to keep them safe 'in the shadow of his wings'.

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 122. **1st** Jer. 20:7-9.
Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9. ℟. 2b.
2nd Rom. 12:1-2. **Gospel** Matt. 16:21-27. **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

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 practising 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.

Assisted Suicide Bill – A Private Members' Bill has been reintroduced to The Parliament seeking to legalise assisted suicide - the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. There will be a crucial vote on **Friday, 11 September.** The Bishops are calling on the faithful to continue to uphold the dignity and sanctity of every human life. Please write to our Member of Parliament, even if you have done so before. Please do not be discouraged by the last response you got on the subject during the last Parliament. We have a crucial role and Christian obligation to ask our Member of Parliament to vote down the Bill by going to https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote It takes just 30 seconds. We requested for post cards for those who would prefer this medium to send their petition to our MP. Unfortunately, we haven't received them.

Spiritans Mission Appeal – Thank you to all who gave during last weekends second collection for the Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers). A total of £1006.75 was raised. Their apostolate is among the poor, in parishes, prisons, schools and refugee communities. To read more about the Spiritans see poster on the noticeboard.

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 shortly, we will publish the details as soon as available. 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.

Prayer Request Book – At the back of the church for anyone to write their prayer requests. Your prayer requests will be offered alongside the offertory on the altar during Masses on Sunday.

Volunteers Needed Memory Café - We are looking for friendly and caring volunteers to help support the **Memory Café**, held here at **Sacred Heart Meeting Room every Friday, from 10:00am to 12:30pm**, in partnership with **Homestead**. The Memory Café is a welcoming space for people living with memory difficulties and their families or carers to meet, chat and enjoy time together. If you would like to volunteer and help make a difference, we would love to hear from you. **For more information, please contact Joan Fisher on 07778 393 53.** All offers of help are warmly welcomed!

Car Registration Update - Have you recently changed your car? If so, please email the parish office with your new vehicle registration number so we can update our records. If you have not yet registered your vehicle with the parish, please email the office to request a parish registration form. Keeping your details up to date helps us ensure our records are accurate and that no one is issued a parking fine in error. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mass Cards – A lovely selection of cards are available from the parish office at a cost of £1 per card. These cards can be offered for various intentions, including the repose of the soul of a loved one, special occasions, or personal prayers. Please feel free to visit the office during opening hours to obtain a card or to find out more.

Offertory Collections – 23/08/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £73.72
Weekly Contactless - £46.00
Thank you to every one for your support to our Parish.

July 2026 Offertory
Standing Orders: £6,371.00
Loose Plate/Contactless: £786.82
Total: £7,157.82

Contactless Donation Machine – 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.

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
Do use your name for reference. To gift-aid your donations, please ask Fr Joseph or Laura for a Gift-aid Form. Thank you for your continued generosity.

QR Code to enable donation via mobile

Mass Intentions – Please call, email or visit the parish office to book Masses for your intentions, 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 – Recommended donation for one-week sponsorship for intentions is £5. Ring the office for availability. Intention cards are also available from the office.

New Baby & Toddler Group – Now Running! Join us every Monday from 9:00–10:30am in the Parish Hall. This is a drop-in session offering a relaxed and welcoming space where babies and toddlers can play, while parents, grandparents, and carers enjoy tea, coffee, friendly conversation, and the chance to connect with others. Please help spread the word!
Back again from the 7th of September.

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. Donation box is in the church porch. All items collected go towards supporting the locals via the Community Fridge and DENS Food Bank.

Read Easy – Do you know someone who struggles to read? Read Easy is an organisation that provides free and confidential one-to-one reading coaching for adults. Please see poster and pamphlets at the back of the church for more information.

Community Fridge and Pantry - is now operating from Northchurch Social Centre on Tuesdays between 2pm-3:30pm with a Pantry outside by the gate, any donations, please put inside the wooden pantry cupboard. Should anyone wish to volunteer to help please contact Joan Fisher 07778 399 353. There is also The Food Hub at 360 High Street which is open Monday 9:30am 12:00pm and Thursday evenings 4:30-7:00pm.

St Thomas More Raffle Winners – Please see notice board at the back of the Church for a list of prize winners. All prizes are in the school office, ready to be collected. If anyone is unable to collect, please let me know and we can arrange delivery of these to the Church.

Please Pray for the Sick and the Housebound – Anne & David Phillips, 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, 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.

Mass Intentions:

Sun 30 Aug	**✠ Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	The People of the Parish
	Holy Rosary Prayer ***By the Lady Chapel***	***9:30-9:55am***	
		10:00am*	Stanislaw Josef Pawlowicz and All Holy Souls RIP
Sat 5 Sep	**Sunday Vigil**	**5:00pm**	Caroline Reid Int.
Sun 6 Sep	**✠ Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Joseph McElhatton RIP
	Holy Rosary Prayer ***By the Lady Chapel***	***9:30-9:55am***	
		10:00am*	Becky Ryan 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*~~

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 the protection of unborn babies and their mothers.