

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 13th September 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 4**

'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?'

The readings last Sunday reminded us that authentic Christian faith is lived in relationship with others, that it is about being our brother's keeper and willing their good through charitable correction for the salvation of their soul.

This Sunday, the focus is on forgiveness/reconciliation. It helps in building up a mutually beneficial and flourishing community. Moreover, we deny ourselves God's gratuitous friendship and forgiveness when we hold back in forgiving our brothers and sisters.

Why the call to forgive and shun vengeance? Besides the point already made, the **First Reading** responds with emphatic warnings. "Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death and be true to the commandments. Remember the covenant of the Most High and overlook error." Of course, this is not a call to retreat from fraternal correction. It is instead a subtle reminder to us of that Day when "all shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to receive what is due for what they have done in the body, whether good or evil." (2 Cor. 5:10)

In addition to his praise of God who forgives, heals, redeems, crowns him, the **Psalmist** makes a case on why we too should imitate God because, "He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults."

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul reminds us of how deeply connected we all are through Jesus Christ, our Reconciliation with God and one another. Therefore, we are to live not for ourselves but for God and others, embodying love and mercy.

We see in the **Gospel** some play on numbers. Peter's thought of giving seven 'chances' to one who offends us resonates with how we sometimes forgive. Using the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus replies to Peter that our forgiveness of one another should be seventy times seven. Thus, he teaches us that our forgiveness of one another should not be limited to a fixed number, but continuous and done wholeheartedly.

Let us pray to God who alone can heal any hurt and wound we may be carrying in our hearts and ask him to give us the grace to forgive any aged-long hurts that we may still bear in our heart. We pray also for all who are affected by war, violence and unrest throughout the world.

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 128. **1st** Sir. 27:30-28:7
Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 9-10. 11-12. ℟. 8.
2nd Rom. 14:7-9. **Gospel** Matt. 18:21-35. **EP: III** page 27

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(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
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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.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) – We welcome all those who would like to become a Roman Catholic, or be received into full communion with the Catholic Church, or receive the Sacrament of Confirmation as an adult. Please email Fr Joseph to express your interest – josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk

Caritas Parish Representative - Caritas Westminster is looking for new Parish Representatives, they act as a link between the parish and Caritas, helping to share information, support existing initiatives, and encourage new ways for parishioners to put their faith into action. The role is flexible, requiring a few hours each month. Reps are also invited to gatherings, webinars and networking opportunities with others across the Diocese. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Caritas Parish Representative, please contact Fran Moore: francesmoore@rcdow.org.uk 07919 812735

Faith in Action – Frances Moore will be visiting Sacred Heart on the **Sat. 26th at 5pm, Sun. 27th at 8:30am & 10am** to speak about Faith in Action. They will be running the CYMFed Faith in Action Award for young people aged 14-16. The Faith in Action Award builds on what young people already experience in serving others, asking them to reflect upon it so that they may find new ways of living out and exploring their faith. If you are interested in participating, or know a young person who would be, please contact Fran Moore: francesmoore@rcdow.org.uk 07919 812735

Magnifica Humanitatis - Do you want to find out more about Pope Leo's recent letter to the church? If so, there is an opportunity to do so on Saturday 17th October when Sr MaryAnne Francalanza fcJ will lead a day of reflection, prayer and discussion centred on the themes raised in Magnifica Humanitatis. Time: 11am-4.45pm. Venue: St Alban & St Stephen, 14 Beaconsfield Road, AL1 3RB. Cost: Donations welcome. Refreshments available: tea, coffee, soup & roll. To register: Please email stalbans@rcdow.org.uk

Religious Diaries – There are a couple of Religious Diaries from the White Fathers Missionaries at the back of the Church, please help yourself.

Seniors' Light Lunch - the next lunch is on **Thursday 24th September** in the church hall, after 12.00 Mass (lunch12.30 - 14.00). Do come along and bring a friend. There is an attendance sheet at the back of the church, please sign if you are able to come; any transport issues, let us know on sheet. No charge and lovely!

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.

Baptism at Sacred Heart – We rejoice with and congratulate Daniel and Temitayo whose daughter will be baptised on Sunday 13th September at 12noon. Please keep them in your prayers.

Wedding Mass - For the marriage between Korina Saculles and Joseph Rennison, here at Sacred Heart on Saturday 12th September at 1:30pm. Please keep them in your prayers. Congratulations to Korina and Joseph.

Requiem Mass – for the late Jeffery Cawley will be celebrated on Tuesday 29th September at 11:00am, here at Sacred Heart. We encourage all Parishioners who can, to please attend the Requiem Mass. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Offertory Collections – 06/09/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £162.24
Weekly Contactless - £59.98
Thank you to every one for your support to our Parish.

August 2026 Offertory
Standing Orders: £6,059.00
Loose Plate/Contactless: £1,409.79
Total: £7,468.79

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

QR Code to enable donation via mobile

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.

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.

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!

Discover Reception at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Berkhamsted! –
Upcoming reception tours:
Tuesday 10th November - doors open from 9 - 9:15 -10:15am
Monday 23rd November - doors open from 9 - 9:15 -10:15am
Monday 11th January - doors open from 1:45 - 2 -3pm

Please complete this form to book a place on one of our tours:
https://forms.gle/XHRAVXaagoCuDQNa8
If you are considering St Thomas More for your child, we warmly encourage you to come and see our school. There is no better way to get a feel for our community than to walk through our doors, meet our children and staff, and experience St Thomas More first-hand.

Mary's Meals - We hope you all had a lovely summer! We're gearing up for more fundraising for Mary's Meals, made possible only through your wonderful help and support – thank you. Our next stall will be on the High Street on Saturday 26th September. If you have any items you no longer need, or you're able to lend a hand, please do give us a ring or have a chat with us after Mass. Anne and Caroline (mobile 07773 900983)

Please Pray for the Sick and the Housebound – Lucy Chapman, 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 13 Sep	**✠ Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Peter Murray RIP Ann
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	By the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	Sue McQuinn RIP Ann
Mon 14 Sep	**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**	**10:00am**	Deceased members of the Byrne Family and All Holy Souls RIP
Tue 15 Sep	**Our Lady of Sorrows. Anniversary of the dedication of Sacred Heart Church - 15/09/1980**	**10:00am**	Michael Thomas Ayton – For God's blessings
Thu 17 Sep	**Feria**	**12:00pm**	Hilda and Anthony Hogan and All Holy Souls RIP
Fri 18 Sep	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Artur Bortkiewicz RIP
Sat 19 Sep	**Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Michael O'Rourke RIP Ann
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	Marion McHaffie RIP Ann
Sun 20 Sep	**✠ Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Frank Smith RIP
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	By the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	Lukas Pazdera 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:

18th Sep	St Thomas More – Back to School Mass – 10am at Sacred Heart
24th Sep	Seniors' Light Lunch, after 12pm Mass in Parish Hall
26th Sep	Mary's Meals Stall – High Street Berkhamsted
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. X3

Recently Deceased and Anniversaries:

Jeffrey Cawley, 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.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp
is lit this week for the terminally ill