

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 6th September 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 3**

'Love each other'

This Sunday's readings encourage us to listen to the Lord at all times, and to listen to our neighbour and to our communities too. This will sometimes ask for tough love in our relationships with each other.

In our **First Reading**, the prophet Ezekiel is called to be a watchman and stresses the obligation for us to challenge evil when we meet it.

The theme of listening which runs through our readings is clear in the **Psalm**: 'O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts'.

St Paul reminds us in the **Second Reading** that love covers every commandment. We are called to love our neighbour as ourselves.

In our **Gospel**, we perhaps see the young Church striving to keep the values of Jesus, putting the demands of mutual love above the necessity for structures. Jesus promises to be with us and is active in our decisions and in everything that we do.

'Love does no wrong to a neighbour' says St Paul. We can remember these words as we celebrate this Season of Creation, and pray to work with others for the good of all.

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 125. **1st** Eze. 33:7-9.
Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. ℟. 7c, 8a.
2nd Rom. 13:8-10. **Gospel** Matt. 18:15-20. **EP: III** page 27

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Parish Priest - Fr Joseph Okoro: josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk
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Margaret Atwill – berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
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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. Post cards can also be found at the back of the Church.

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

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.

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.

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.

Offertory Collections – 30/08/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £126.36
Weekly Contactless - £0.00
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
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.

Mary's Meals - We hope you've all had a lovely summer and are ready to welcome the joys of autumn! We're gearing up for more fundraising for Mary's Meals, made possible only through the wonderful help and support of so many of you – 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. Thank you again for all your support. 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 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
Mon 7 Sep	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Michael Armstrong RIP Ann
Tue 8 Sep	**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Mary Graham RIP Ann
Thu 10 Sep	**Feria**	**12:00pm**	Lucy Chapman Int.
Fri 11 Sep	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Keith Mulopo RIP
Sat 12 Sep	**Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Berna Onianwa Birthday Int and God's Blessings
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	James Rankin RIP
Sun 13 Sep	**✠ Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Peter Murray RIP Ann
	Holy Rosary Prayer *By the Lady Chapel*	***9:30-9:55am***	
		10:00am*	Sue McQuinn RIP Ann

✠ 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
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.

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 all those affected by the recent floods in Nepal.