

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 11th October 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 4**

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

Long before societies began to evolve into governments and equal opportunity laws made their way into rulebooks, God had always given everyone the opportunity access to his goodness and love. The phrase 'All are welcome and invited to embrace the new life which Jesus Christ gives', in a sense summarises the focus of recent Sundays' readings.

The **First Reading** – common for funeral liturgy - is not only a message of consolation for those who grieve, but also a promise of salvation and the reality of heaven. It is a reminder that God alone can fulfil our need, and more importantly, conquer death, humanity's greatest enemy.

The **Palmist** has learnt this truth of God's saving power. It is not only a source of consolation for him; this knowledge is what propels him through life, even in dark moments. With confidence, he declares: "The Lord is my shepherd. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort."

Like the **Psalmist**, St Paul testifies that the knowledge and faith in God's providence is what sustains him in every circumstance, material and spiritual alike. "I can do all things through him who strengthens me". **Second Reading.**

The **Gospel** passage is a Christological focus of the **First Reading's** banquet imagery. "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son…" Besides an invitation to commit our lives – in word and deed – to following Christ, the **Gospel** passage also points to the Eucharistic banquet of the Mass, the source and summit of our life. The Eucharist is simultaneously the memorial of Christ's Passion, the sacrament in which Christ is received as food, and a "pledge of the life to come. (**CCC 1402**)

What is our disposition to Mass, cursory, too busy for it, a more important appointment with God than anything else is? Which of the invited guests' reflects our present disposition to God's invitation? The ones who paid no attention, but prioritised other things over his free invitation? Or those who responded with the right wedding garment. Jesus use of the wedding garment in the passage can also be read as a warning against nominal Christianity. A reminder that being present among God's people is not the same thing as living according to the grace one has received. ***In the* Lord's *own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.***

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 140. **1st** Isa. 25:6-10a.
Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. ℟. 6cd.
2nd Phi. 4:12-14, 19-20. **Gospel** Matt. 22:1-14. **EP: III** page 27

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Parish Priest - Fr Joseph Okoro: josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk
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Sacramental Preparation Registration 2026/2027 – We welcome expression of interest from parents whose children will be in school year 9 and above who would like to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. Candidates should be practising the faith and attending Mass regularly. For expression of interest, please email Fr. Joseph - josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk. The Confirmation programme will be run here at Sacred Heart.

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

Month of the Holy Rosary - The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). The best way to celebrate the month is, of course, to pray the Rosary. The Rosary is a powerful spiritual weapon, which we all will do well to have. We strongly encourage families to find time to gather frequently, if not every day, to ask for the intercession and protection of our Blessed Mother Mary, for our needs and for peace in our world. Please join us to pray the Rosary after the 8:30am Mass on Sundays and the Parish Rosary Group on Mondays in the Lady Chapel at **2:15pm**.

Liturgies of Initiation for RCIA Candidates – This Sunday 11th October at the 10am Mass, we celebrate the Rite of Election for our Catechumens as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Please keep them in your prayers.

Memorial Mass for Holy Souls – On the 12th November at **6:30pm**. There will be an opportunity during the Mass to light a candle for your deceased relatives or friends in the last, as well as previous years. Parishioners whose relatives' funerals were held elsewhere is the last year are also welcome and if you will be attending, could you please email us the name of your relatives so we can ensure they are mentioned during the Mass and a candle lit for their happy repose.

Blessing of Graves – We will be doing blessing of graves at Kingshill Cemetery on Sunday 15th November at 11:30am. All those who have loved ones at Kingshill cemetery are welcome to this ceremony.

Children's Liturgy - Could you spare a little time to help with Children's Liturgy at the 10am Mass during term time? Full training is provided for this joyful way to help our young parishioners.
For more information, contact **Kim Greene** on **07736 793 435**

Living Faith Series – Exploring the Mass - Have you ever wondered why we pray, respond, and use different gestures at Mass? This Advent, we'll explore the purpose, origins, and meaning of the Mass, discovering the richness of its words, gestures, and sacred rituals—and deepening our faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. **Mondays, 7:30–9:00pm** for five weeks, **starting 16th November - Parish Meeting Room.** Come along and discover the Mass in a new way! If you would like to attend, please let Laura in the parish office know by phone or email.

Upcoming Roofing Works - We would like to advise parishioners that essential repair works to the Turret roof are due to commence shortly. Details to be published as soon as available. We expect the project to take approximately three weeks to complete and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience or disruption this may cause.

Prisoners' Sunday – Second Collection – This weekend on 11th/12th October is Prisoners' Sunday, when we remember people in prison, their families, and all those affected by imprisonment. Please support the collection for Pact, the Catholic charity that supports people affected by imprisonment. The funds provide practical and pastoral support and helps families stay connected.

World Mission Sunday - Next Sunday (18th October), the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the **Missio envelopes**, call **020 7821 9755** (office hours) or visit **missio.org.uk** to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

Offertory Collections – 04/10/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £196.30
Weekly Contactless - £80.00
Thank you to every one for your support to our Parish.

September 2026 Offertory
Standing Orders: £6,566.00
Loose Plate/Contactless: £1,344.58
Total: £7,910.58

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.

QR Code to enable donation via mobile

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.

Discover Reception at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Berkhamsted!
Upcoming reception tours:
Tuesday 10th November & 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.

Upcoming Catholic Events - https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/
Retreat: Be still and know that I am God – **20th- 23rd November 2026**
Marriage Preparation Weekend - **8th- 10th January 2027**
Men's Retreat: Spiritual exercises of St Ignatius - **26th Feb – 3rd Mar OR 5th-10th March 2027**

Baby & Toddler Group – Final Session - Sadly, Monday 12th October will be our last Baby & Toddler Group session in the Parish Hall. We have really enjoyed welcoming babies, toddlers, parents, grandparents and carers to our relaxed Monday mornings. Unfortunately, the level of uptake has meant that the group is not sustainable for us to continue, and so we have made the difficult decision to bring the sessions to an end. Our final session will be on Monday 12th October, from 9:00–10:30am. Thank you to Margaret and Deirdre who have run the group and helped spread the word. We have really appreciated their support.

Café at St Francis Hospice - is now open, please visit https://www.stfrancis.org.uk/the-orangery-cafe for more information. Enjoy a bite to eat and a cuppa, embrace the sense of community, and connect with the Hospice gardens. Knowing that with every purchase, every tea, scone or sausage roll, you are helping to support the vital care of The Hospice of St Francis.

Sunday Lunch – Thank you to all who helped to organise this last Sunday. The next one will be held on Sunday 29th November at 12pm. **Everyone welcome!** A sign-up sheet will be placed at the back of the Church nearer the time.

Tea and coffee after Sunday 10am Mass - all are invited to join us in the parish hall for teas, coffees and chats. Everyone welcome.

Please Pray for the Sick and the Housebound – Jerry and Denise Poole, Chris Hallett, 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 11 Oct	**✠ Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Brian and Julia McCarthy, RIP Ann
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	By the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	Ken Bradding, RIP Ann
Mon 12 Sep	**Feria**	**10:00am**	In thanksgiving – Mr & Mrs Alexander and Rachel Dieseru
Tue 13 Sep	**Saint Edward the Confessor, Patron of the Diocese**	**10:00am**	Baby William Prendergast-Loader, RIP
Thu 15 Oct	**Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**	**12:00pm**	Anna and Michele Durante, RIP
Fri 16 Oct	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Mary Donovan and All Holy Souls RIP
Sat 17 Oct	**Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr**	**10:00am**	Kathleen Donohoe and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	Imelda and Bob Hodkinson and All Holy Souls RIP
Sun 18 Oct	**✠ Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Michael Armstrong RIP
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	By the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	Lukas Pazdera 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:

22nd Oct	Seniors' Light Lunch, after 12pm Mass in Parish Hall
12th Nov	Memorial Mass 6:30pm
15th Nov	Grave Blessings Kinghill 11:30am
21st Nov	Churches Together Prayer Breakfast
29th Nov	Sunday Lunch 12pm

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 our young people who have left home for the first time to start their new chapter at university.