

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 18th October 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 1**

'Whose likeness and inscription is this? Render to God the things that are God's'

In the Gospel passages of the past Sundays, Jesus has been teaching about what the kingdom of heaven and true participation in it truly meant in concrete terms and himself being true fulfilment of this kingdom on earth. It is living out in word and deed Jesus' teaching and modelling our lives on his.

This Sunday, we are reminded that God is the Creator and ruler of the world and all that is in it, including us. How we ought to respond in this Creator-creature relationship is also the focus of the readings.

On the face of it, Isaiah's prophecy concerning the pagan king, Cyrus, was about the restoration of the Jewish people to their homeland in Jerusalem. True. However, the bigger picture and God's ultimate purpose in the **First Reading**, is what we learnt in the penny catechism. That "God made us to know Him, love Him and serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next." The knowledge of God and his sovereignty over all would later be furthered in King Cyrus's decrees and actions, unbeknown to the king.

The **Psalmist's** words echo too that God is the Creator of all and he invites all people to "Ascribe to the Lord glory and power and worship the Lord in holy splendour."

God's purpose that all nations know, love, serve him and be happy in this life and the next, we see fulfilled among the Thessalonians in the **Second Reading**. To this point St Paul writes: "We give thanks to God always for all of you … remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Humanity's obligation of homage and worship to God, Jesus also picks up in the **Gospel** passage. His question, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" when asked by the Pharisees and Herodians when if it was lawful pay taxes to Caesar, or not, we can also invert thus: "In whose image were we created, in whose likeness should we model our lives? As Christians, we have both moral and religious obligation of a responsible citizenship that helps build and promote the kingdom of heaven here on earth. As salt of the earth, (Matthew 5:13) our mission is to show our faith in action by fostering the goodness, love, compassion and holiness of God in the world.

As we pray for those in positions of leadership around the world to seek justice and fairness for all people, let us also strive to order our life in a manner that truly shows that to God belong the earth and the heavens, majesty, honour and glory, for ages unending.

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 143. **1st** Isa. 45:1, 4-6.
Ps 96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10a. ℟. 7b.
2nd Thes. 1:1-5b. **Gospel** Matt. 22:15-21. **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 young people 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 commence in January 2027 and 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 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 - a powerful spiritual weapon and traditional Catholic prayer - and the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). 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**.

November – Month of Holy Souls – Holy Souls envelopes and list for dead can be found at the back of the church. Please enclose your list and offering in the envelope. If you are a UK tax payer, please consider gift-aiding your offering by completing a gift-aid form, ensuring you tick the Holy Souls box in section 3 to enable us to claim gift-aid on your donation. A name from each returned list is picked, usually the first name on the list and Masses offered during the year for your deceased loved ones. We are still working through the list from November 2025. Like to find out when a Mass was or is due to be offered for your deceased relative? Contact Laura in the office.

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 in the last year are also welcome. If you will be attending, email us the name of the deceased so we can ensure they are mentioned during the Mass and a candle lit for their happy repose. Light refreshment will follow afterwards in the meeting room.

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.

Living Faith Series – Exploring the Mass – Have you ever wondered why we pray, respond the ways we do and different liturgical gestures we use at Mass? This Advent, we'll explore the purpose, origins, and meaning of the Mass, to discover the richness of its words, gestures, and sacred rituals—and deepen 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.

Update on Upcoming Roofing Works – The delay in the planned works has been due changes in CDM regulations and we have been working through the new requirements and are currently in the process of appointing a structural engineer to assess the flat roofs either side of the turret and confirm that they can safely support the scaffolding required for the works. This is an important step in ensuring the safety of both the contractors and our parishioners. Further updates will be provided as soon as more information is available.

World Mission Sunday - This Sunday (18th October), the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection and prayer for missions. To donate, please 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.

Parents Pre-Baptism Course – The next course will be on **Friday 6th November 5:00-6:30pm** in the Parish centre meeting room. We invite all parents and expectant parents planning to Baptise their Children between now and Easter to please attend. Please email Fr Joseph, josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk to register your attendance.

Offertory Collections – 11/10/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £123.00
Weekly Contactless - £127.00
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.

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.

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**

Mary's Meals – A huge thank you to everyone who supported our High Street market stall on Saturday 26th September. With your help, we raised £302, plus a further £330 from donations and other fundraising, making a fantastic total of **£632!** Join us for our final Sunday gathering of the year after 10am Mass on **Sunday 6th December**, with cakes, mince pies, refreshments and a Christmas-themed tabletop sale. Every £1 provides five meals for children at school, so every donation makes a real difference. If you can help in any way, please contact Anne on 07773 900983, or speak to Anne or Caroline at church. Thank you again for your wonderful 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.

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

Seniors' Monthly Light Lunch - On Thursday 22nd October in the church hall, after 12:00pm Mass (lunch 12:30 – 14:00). Do come along and bring a friend. Sign-up sheet is at the back of the church. Any transport issues, let us know on sheet. No charge and lovely!

Prisoners' Sunday – £322.00 was raised during last weekend's second collection for PACT. Thank you.

Please Pray for the Sick and the Housebound – Jerry and Denise Poole, Chris Hallett, Lucy and Christopher 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 and Rosemary Goacher.

Mass Intentions

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 Anniv.
Mon 19 Oct	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Special Intention – Mrs Ese Dieseru
Tue 20 Oct	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Nancy and Mike Ginnelly, Agnes McLooghlin and all Holy Souls, RIP
Thu 22 Oct	**St John Paul II, Pope**	**12:00pm**	Anne Halloran and All Holy Souls, RIP
Fri 23 Oct	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Dennis Condon and All Holy Souls, RIP
Sat 24 Oct	**Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Wanessa Soares De Lima, Birthday Blessings
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	Seamus Graham, RIP Anniv.
Sun 25 Oct	**✠ Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	The People of the Parish
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	By the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	Baby Edward Leonardo Murray, 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:

22nd Oct	Seniors' Light Lunch, after 12pm Mass in Parish Hall
1st Nov	All Saints Mass 8:30am, 10:00am
2nd Nov	All Souls Mass 10:00am, 6:30pm
12th Nov	Memorial Mass 6:30pm
15th Nov	Grave Blessings Kinghill Cemetery 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:

Dympna O'Connor,Jeffrey Cawley, Olive Cozens, Teresa Tipper, Doreen Smyth, Maxine Burdon, Bill Readman, Jean Giffen, Roseleen Rice, Michael Roberts, Giovannina Mistretta, Chris Holmes, Kay James, Anne-Marie Clarke, John O'Neill (Potten End), Grace O'Reilly, 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 global peace, particularly for civilians affected by conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine