

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 4th October 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 3**

'I chose you out of the world, says the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide.

In the past two Sundays, the vineyard imagery used in the readings was to stir our minds to contemplate our relationship with God and one another.

The **First Reading** reflects on the theme of relationship with God with an appealing tone. God, through the prophet Isaiah, spoke of the laborious work he had put into his vineyard, doing all that needed doing to ensure it bore the right fruit, but it failed. So what went wrong? Who is to blame? That vineyard, the **First Reading** tells us in the House of Israel and us today.

It is a good start if this expression of disappointing failure on the part of the vineyard moves one's heart to sorrow. True sincerity of purpose however requires that the right steps be taken to remedy that has gone wrong. That is, true repentance and a commitment to cooperate with God moving on. The **Psalmist** understands this to be the only way out if we truly wish to produce fruits of holiness and upright life.

In what ways can one demonstrate genuine commitment to God and true repentance, one might want to ask? St Paul in the **Second Reading** gives some helpful answers: "Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

Jesus uses the Parable of the Tenants to whom the Master of the House rented out his vineyard (**Gospel passage)** to portray the heart-hardened response of the chief priests and the elders of the people. Of course, this includes anyone who ignores and rejects God's radical message of love, professed by ancient prophets and fulfilled in and by Jesus Christ.

Thus, the fruit all are called to bear is to live the life Christ, the true Vine. He alone can give life and fruitfulness to the branches, that is, to us, if we seek and remain in him. We can be sure we are on the right path if we can say with St Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (**Galatians 2:20)**

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 137. **1st** Isa. 5:1-7.
Ps 80(79):9, 12. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. ℟. Isa 5:7a.
2nd Phi. 4:6-9. **Gospel** Matt. 21:33-43. **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
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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, whose children would like to receive **First Holy Communion.** The same goes to those who will be in year 9 and above 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 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 **2:30pm**.

Liturgies of Initiation for RCIA Candidates – Next 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.

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 - "Have you ever wondered why we pray and respond in the ways we do at Mass and the different gestures at Mass? For our Advent reflection this year and in response to parishioners' interest, we are going to explore the Mass - its purpose, source and inspiration, and why it takes the form that it does. The programme will run on Monday evenings (7:30 - 9:00pm) for five weeks starting on 16th November in the Parish meeting room. This opportunity will uncover for you the richness of the Mass—its words, gestures, and sacred rituals, renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Commendably informative and enriching! Come along and your experience and approach to this central pillar of our Faith will never be the same again. If you would like to attend please let Laura in the 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 – 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.

CAFOD *Family Fast Day* Appeal this Harvest - Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at **cafod.org.uk/envelope** or call **0303 303 3030**.

Offertory Collections – 27/09/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £183.76
Weekly Contactless - £197.00
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

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

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.

First Fundraiser of the Year: St Thomas More PTA Quiz Night! - Join us for a fun night out with great food and great company! Friday 9th October. Don't worry if you don't have a full team or are coming on your own—we'll mix and match to build fabulous teams on the night. Gather your best quizzers and book your spot today! Doors 7pm, Quiz 7.30pm. Quiz & Curry £20pp. Please email contactstmsa@gmail.com for tickets.

The Way Inn is much more than a Post Office – it's a Christian presence on our High Street. As our Christmas stock arrives, pop in for an Advent Calendar, Christmas cards, gifts, bargain books and local produce. The Way Inn is run by a Christian charity currently looking for new trustees. Could this be something you, or someone you know, might be called to? Please pray about it and speak to The Way Inn to find out more.

HUGE Congratulations to our September **STM 100 Club Winners!**
1st Place - Olivia Doran £100. **2nd Place** - Sorcha Kerrigan £50. **3rd Place** - Nadine Jackson £25.
Want to be in with a chance of winning? Email stm100club@gmail.com

Please Pray for the Sick and the Housebound – 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 4 Oct	**✠ Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	John and Vincent-Paul Keen, RIP
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	By the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	Mairead Fay-Kelly, God's Healing
Mon 5 Sep	**Feria**	**10:00am**	In thanksgiving – Mr & Mrs Alexander and Rachel Dieseru
Tue 6 Sep	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Pascal O'Brian, RIP
Thu 8 Oct	**Feria**	**12:00pm**	Anne Furlong – Birthday Blessings
Fri 9 Oct	**Saint John Henry Newman, Priest and Doctor of the Church**	**10:00am**	Peter Doan, RIP
Sat 10 Oct	**Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Anne Fletcher (Harte), Eileen Harte, Maura Grimes and All Holy Souls RIP
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	Dr Denis Murray, RIP Ann
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

✠ 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
6th Mar	Flame 2027 – National Catholic Youth Festival at Wembley Arena

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 and their families.