

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ All Saints - Year A, 1st November 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 3

'Such are the people who seek the face of the Lord … they rejoice and are glad, for their reward is great in heaven.'

The readings last Sunday invited us to love God with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind, and our neighbour as ourselves. This, we were reminded, could only be demonstrated in concrete ways, beyond words and feelings.

Not a coincidence that this Sunday, we celebrate and honour all known and unknown saints - children, teens, women and men – who loved God for his own sake and their neighbours as themselves. The feast is a pointer to the eternal blessing which faithful adherence to God's Law of Love bestows on all who love and follow him with all their heart. (cf. Jn. 14:23)

What benefit then does observance of feast of All Saints has for us since it adds nothing more to their blessedness? A great benefit, certainly! It is part of our human nature to covet precious treasures. How much more treasures that neither moth nor rust can destroy. (Mtt. 6:20)

In honouring the saints, we extol how their love for God shaped their lives on earth. More importantly, it boosts our spiritual morale and gives us more reasons to press forward towards the goal for the prize won for us by Christ by shedding his Blood on the cross. (Phil. 3:14) With words that reassure us that we are not deluded in the longing for an eternal reward in heaven, the **Second Reading** also emphasises the need for us to translate our love for God and aspiration into concrete action. "And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

Reiterating what must follow this noble aspiration for an everlasting reward in heaven, the **Psalmist** asks, "Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?" "The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things," he says.

Our hearts are constantly purified by seeking and daily doing God's will, worshipping him in Christ Jesus in spirit and in truth. In the **Gospel** passage, Jesus lays for us the pathways that will help lead us to sainthood and win the prize of a place in heaven. By making peace, firmly holding to God's will, never giving up in the face of rejection for the sake of Christ. Being gentle, merciful, faithful in mourning, pure of heart and poor in spirit. Think of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux's little ways!

May the saints intercede for us, for persecuted Christians, those suffering injustice and any form of violence, so that inspired by their lives and the glory they now enjoy in heaven, we may stay the course of this pilgrim journey and attain with them the crown of unfading glory in heaven.

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 184. **1st** Rev. 7:2-4, 9-14.
Resp. Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. ℟. cf.6
2nd John. 3:1-3. **Gospel** Matt. 5:1-12a. **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
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Family Faith Worker – We are exploring the possibility of introducing this role to support families in their faith journey and strengthen family life within our parish community. This role would focus on helping parents and children grow in faith, build connections within the parish, and feel supported in living out their faith at home. We would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our short questionnaire
https://forms.cloud.microsoft//pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ev868oUFaUGcVaeAS3KojZrqT346n9BCvWcivNeLOXBUNlFIRTFGVTRQRUE4U00wUURIVUdTS0VPTC4u&fromie=true
Your feedback will be invaluable in helping us understand what supports families need in their faith journey and shape how this role could best support the parish. Please submit your response by **13th November 2026**. Thank you for taking the time to share your views to help plan for the future of family ministry in our parish.

First Friday Devotion – On 6th November, commencing with Mass at 10am, followed by extended exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will end the devotion with the Divine Mercy Prayer at 3 O'clock and benediction. Please make time on the day and come spend some moments of quiet and prayer before our Blessed Lord.

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

November – Month of Holy Souls – Holy Souls envelopes and list for the dead can be found at the back of the church. Your list of the dead and offering can be enclosed 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. If you would like to find out when a Mass was or is due to be offered for your deceased relative, please contact Laura in the office.

Memorial Mass for Holy Souls – On 12th November at **6:30pm**, with an opportunity during the Mass to light a candle for your deceased relatives and friends in the last, as well as previous years. Parishioners whose relatives' funerals were held elsewhere are also welcome. Email us the name(s) 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. Please, let us know if you can help with this.

Parents Pre-Baptism Course – Scheduled on **Fri 6th Nov 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. Email Fr Joseph, josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk to register your attendance.

Living Faith Series – Exploring the Mass – Have you ever wondered why we pray, respond the ways we do and about the 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 that enriches your participation. Please email or phone Laura in office to register your attendance.

Update on Planned Roof Repair Works – The delay has been due changes in CDM regulations. We are working through the new requirements, with a structural engineer to help 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.

Offertory Collections – 25/10/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £220.81
Weekly Contactless - £240.00
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

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.

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 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**

Churches Together Prayer Breakfast – Sacred Heart parish hall on **Saturday 21st November** from 8am to 9am. Set up will be around 7:45am, breakfast at 8:00am followed by prayers. Please join us, it is good to share food and pray together for the town and surrounding villages. For further information, please contact Patrick McLoone on 07949128562.

Fire Drill – There will be a fire drill at the end of the Masses next weekend. **Saturday 14th November** at 5pm and **Sunday 15th November** at both 8:30am & 10am. Patrick McLoone will announce the drill at the beginning of the Masses and there will be Fire Marshalls at all Masses to assist during the drill.

Senior Christmas Lunch – Saturday **12th December** 2026 at 12pm in the Parish Centre. Sign-up sheet is at the back of the church or email Laura in the office. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Patrick McLoone on 07949128562.

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

MISSIO Boxes - Charlie Gray will be collecting the boxes until the **8th of November**. Boxes will be returned back to you after the money has been counted. To arrange for a collection, please phone him on 07526 441 961. Thank you.

Baptism at Sacred Heart – We rejoice with and congratulate Tom and Amy whose son will be baptised on Saturday **7th November** at 12noon. Please keep them in your prayers.

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 01 Nov	✠ **All Saints** **Holy Rosary Prayer** ***by the Lady Chapel***	**8:30am** ***9:30-9:55am*** **10:00am***	For the People of the Parish Dympna O'Connor, RIP
Mon 02 Nov	**All Souls**	**10:00am** **6:30pm**	All the Faithful Departed Edmund Gancke, Brigid, Eddie Lynch and Holy Souls, RIP
Tue 03 Nov	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Special Int. – Zita Dieseru
Thu 05 Nov	**Feria**	**12:00pm**	Pam and Bob Masini, Andrew Reilly and Holy Souls, RIP
Fri 06 Nov	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Geoffry and Joanna Tomlin and Holy Souls, RIP
Sat 07 Nov	**Blessed Virgin Mary** **Sunday Vigil**	**10:00am** **5:00pm**	Catherine Preston and Holy Souls, RIP The Deceased of the McEnaney Family, Friends and Holy Souls, RIP
Sun 08 Nov	✠ **Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Holy Rosary Prayer** ***by the Lady Chapel***	**8:30am** ***9:30-9:55am*** **10:00am***	Helen Campbell, RIP Normal Wooldridge, Tom and Maris Capes, Christian Firn, Sheila Ford and Holy Souls, 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:

1st Nov	All Saints Mass 8:30am, 10:00am & Sunday Vigil (31/10/26) – ***Holy Day of Obligation***
2nd Nov	All Souls Mass 10am (St Thomas More Sch in attendance. Parents are welcome), & 6:30pm
12th Nov	Memorial Mass 6:30pm
15th Nov	Grave Blessings Kinghill Cemetery 11:30am
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:

Fr Brian Logue, 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 seminarians in formation and
vocations to the priesthood and religious life