

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Year A, 22nd November 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 2**

"The Son of Man will come in his glory and, sitting on his glorious throne, all nations shall be gathered before him…"

Last Sunday's readings focused on using every opportunity we have well in service to God and for the common good. That we be aware that the Master will surely come again, and this time, to ask for an account of and to reward each person according to their stewardship.

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, the solemnity of Christ the King, a picture, much like a 'dress rehearsal', is painted to show us what that Day of the Lord would look like. Notable in the readings is the notion of a God who leads with compassion and selflessness but who also is the just Judge - **First Reading**. Thus, a positive response of sincere followership, of virtuous living on our part, cannot be overemphasised.

Hanging over the altar in our church is a large crucifix of the risen Christ the King, with a gaze of love over us each time we come into this sacred space. In the **Psalmist** for this last Sunday, we see how to respond and what we must do for the reign of God as Lord and King to take root in us. He says, "*The* Lord *is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name."* Like the **Psalmist**, we need to learn to trust, yield to and find contentment in God alone both in good and in challenging times.

We commend the positive response of three of our brothers to the call to conversion. This Sunday they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation. In these Sacraments, they will receive the new life, which Christ gives, and will be given the grace of the Holy Spirit to foster the divine life which God gives them. Thus, a true proclamation of Christ as our King requires us to self-empty by yielding everyday of our life to his teaching, rejecting all the lures of Satan, all his works and empty promises.

The message of the Last Judgment echoed in the **Gospel** passage for this Sunday is a call to conversion while God is still giving us "the acceptable time, the day of salvation." It is intended to inspire a holy fear of God and commit us to the justice of the Kingdom of God. Not in a terrorising sense, but to spur us to devote the present time putting our lives in order by living a just and holy life. (***CCC 1040 – 1041***)

What a proper and sensible way to live as we await the "blessed hope" of the second coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. For his is the Kingdom, the Power and Glory, now and forever! (***Roman Missal***)

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 158. **1st** Ezek. 34:11-12, 15-17.
Resp. Ps 23(22):1-2a. 2b-3. 5. 6. ℟. 1.
2nd Cor. 15:20-26, 28. **Gospel** Matt. 25:31-46. **EP: III** page 27

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World Youth Sunday – On the Solemnity of Christ the King, **22 November 2026**, marking the 41st World Youth Sunday and the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. Archbishop Moth's message https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/outreach/world-youth-sunday-2026/. This year's theme is *"Take courage! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). Pray for the young people of our Diocese. Support Westminster Youth Ministry in its work of accompanying young people in our schools and parishes.

Flame 2027 – is the Largest Catholic event in the UK for young people, hosted at OVO Arena Wembley. Flame Congress 2027 themed ***Take Courage*** is on **Saturday 6th March**. Open to teens from school year 9 and above. It is an opportunity worth taking to witness and celebrate the fun of following Jesus Christ. We have reserved some places for teens of our parish but we need to know who would like to attend to be able to confirm these reservations. For Flame 2027 Trailer and more, please go to https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/

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 Mass of Enrolment is scheduled on **Sunday 13th December at 10am**, with sessions commencing in January 2027.

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

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? For our Advent reflection this year, 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; for at each Mass, God-is-truly-with-us. **Mondays 23/11, 30/11, 7/12 and Tuesday 15/12, 7:30–9:00pm - Parish Meeting Room.** Come along and discover the Mass in a new way that will enrich your participation and prayer. Please email or phone Laura in office to register your attendance.

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, contact Laura.

Sick & Retired Priests' Second Collection – £625.56 was raised. Thank you for your generosity. Online giving at http://www.rcdow.org.uk/SRP.

New Catholics – Congratulations to our brothers on their reception of the Sacraments of Initiation this Sunday. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you to Yvonne, who helped me with their preparation. Thanks too, to their families and sponsors. **Fr Joseph**

Bidding Prayer Writers Required - Please join our merry band of writers, full training will be given. Contact Ed Murray 07743 844257 or ed_murrayclan@yahoo.co.uk

Memorial Mass – Thank you to all who helped with the Liturgy, with serving refreshments and clearing up afterwards.

Update on Planned Roof Repair Works – Having assessed the flat roof at the rear of the turret, following the CDM regulations, the structural engineer has confirmed that Acrow props will be required to safely support the double-height scaffolding needed for the works. The repair works will now be in spring when conditions will be more favourable for the installation of scaffolds and to avoid the uncertainties of the current wettest and windiest time of the year. Thanks for your understanding.

Offertory Collections – 15/11/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £158.50
Weekly Contactless - £492.00
Thank you to every one for your support to our Parish.

October 2026 Offertory
Standing Orders: £6,250.00
Loose Plate/Contactless: £1,085.61
Total: £7,335.61

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.

Our Annual Christmas Carol Service - will take place on **Sunday 20th December** at 6pm. Please do come and join in a lovely evening of carols and readings followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the hall. We will again be joined by some local professional singers and the choir of St Thomas More Catholic School. This year's collection will be jointly for the Hospice of St Francis and St Thomas More School as it celebrates its 90th Anniversary.

Sacred Heart Choir - If you would like to join the choir for the Carol Service please contact Jane Lavin on 07903 934565. Rehearsal dates are as follows: 19th Nov, 25th Nov, 2nd Dec at 7:00pm, 7th Dec, 10th Dec, 15th Dec, 17th Dec at 6:00pm, 20th Dec at 4:30pm.

Seniors' Light Lunch - the next lunch is on Thursday 26th November in the church hall, after 12:00pm Mass (lunch 12:30 – 14:00). Do come along and bring a friend. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, please sign if you are able to come; any transport issues, let us know on sheet.

Sunday Lunch (Roast Dinner) – Join us on the 29th November from 12:00pm for a scrumptious Sunday lunch, roast beef (and all the trimmings) followed by a mincemeat and apple pudding with creme fraiche. **Everyone is welcome!** Adults £10.00, Children £5.00 (Under 10's eat free) Please sign up using the sign-up sheet at the back of the church by **Wednesday 25th November** or email Laura. If you have registered but are **unable to come, please call Mary 07914 578 496** to let her know so she can announce any drop-in availability at the weekend Masses.

Mary's Meals - Last gathering of 2026 is on **Sunday 6th December**, after 10am Mass. Please come along to the hall for mince pies, cakes, tea, coffee and sausage baps, along with gifts for Christmas and the usual table top selection of treasures. If you can help in any way, especially on the cake making front, please get in touch. Anne or Caroline on 07773 900983. Thank you.

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

Chiltern Chamber Choir - Perform Haydn's masterpiece, The Creation, sung in English. **Wednesday 23 December**, 7:30pm, St. Peter's Church, Berkhamsted. Tickets: £20 in advance, £22 on the door (under 18s and full-time students free) – See https://chilternchamberchoir.com/ for more details.

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 22 Nov	**✠ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**	**8:30am**	For the People of the Parish
	Holy Rosary Prayer ***by the Lady Chapel***	***9:30-9:55am***	
		10:00am*	Patricia Brooks, RIP Anni.
Mon 23 Nov	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Harry Fitzgerald and Holy Souls, RIP
Tue 24 Nov	**Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs**	**10:00am**	Kay Byrne, RIP
Thu 26 Nov	**Feria**	**12:00pm**	Special Int. Charles Dieseru
Fri 27 Nov	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Stanley Nwanna, RIP
Sat 28 Nov	**Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Charles & Mary Gray and Holy Souls, RIP
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	Agnes Diviney, RIP
Sun 29 Nov	**✠ First Sunday of Advent**	**8:30am**	Kathleen Murray, RIP Anni.
	Holy Rosary Prayer ***by the Lady Chapel***	***9:30-9:55am***	
		10:00am*	Jane Blayney, RIP Anni.

✠ 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 Nov	Celebration of the Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion of the Elect – 10am Mass
26th Nov	Seniors' Light Lunch - After the 12pm Mass in Parish Hall
29th Nov	Sunday Lunch 12pm
6th Dec	Mary's Meals Event – After 10am Mass in the Parish Hall
12th Dec	Senior Christmas 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

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 the young people of our parish