

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 8th November 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 4**

"Wisdom is found by those who seek her. The Lord is here. Come out to meet him…"

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to/is like…" A phrase Jesus often uses to teach us that heaven – that place of eternal happiness and peace – requires more than a desire for it. The readings this Sunday put more emphasis on planning and commitment to it. It is not something to make up as one goes along, but has to be intentional about it.

One question that the **First Reading** raises or rather an opportunity it presents to us is to consider the things we seek and commit our time, resources and energy to. "Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her…" What actually is this wisdom, one may ask. It is the Word of God, made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. It is the Power of God, by which the world was created and redeemed. **(John 1)**

Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of All Saints – babies, teens, men and women who, we believe are enjoying eternal happiness in the presence of God in heaven. They not only desired it, they demonstrated through the example of their own lives a hunger for Christ, acknowledged him in good times as well as in bad, knowing that their reward would be great if they persevered.

The **Gospel** passage this Sunday couldn't be clearer on the need to plan so as to avert disappointment and the stress that comes with lack of planning. Jesus in telling his disciples the parable of the Ten Virgins cautions them, us included, to make hay while the sun shines.

We truly seek wisdom and demonstrate our desire to be with Jesus not only in the future, but also now by living a virtuous life. By abstaining from impure and sinful life. Not putting off time for God to attend to other things. Making the practice of our faith a priority, instead of making excuses for not doing so.

Let us make it our own, in both word and deed the prayer of the **Psalmist** this Sunday. "O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you; for you my soul is thirsting. I will bless you all my life; in your name I will lift up my hands."

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 152. **1st** Wis. 6:12-16.
Resp. Ps 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. ℟. 2b.
2nd Thes. 4:13-18. **Gospel** Matt. 25:1-13. **EP: III** page 27

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Parish Priest - Fr Joseph Okoro: josephokoro@rcdow.org.uk
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Margaret Atwill – berkhamstedsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
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Remembering the Fallen Heroes –
"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them…"



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.

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.

Sick & Retired Priests' Second Collection – Next weekend **(14th/15th Nov)** for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools, hospitals, hospices and parishes. Caring for our brother priests in their senior years or at a time of illness is a part of the mission of our Diocese. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church. You can also set up a regular donation to become a patron, or give online at http://www.rcdow.org.uk/SRP or by using the QR code on the envelopes or posters. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, retired and ill. Thank you

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.

First Holy Communion Family Offertory Presentation – The Rice family will present the bread and wine to be consecrated at the 10am Mass on Sunday 8th November.

Offertory Collections – 01/11/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £78.00
Weekly Contactless - £86.00
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.

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.

Catenian Association – Next Saturday (14/11) the 10am Mass will be for the Deceased brothers of the Catenian Association. There will be Teas and Coffees in the hall afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Fire Drill – There will be a fire drill at the end of the Masses next weekend. **Sat 14th Nov** at 5pm and **Sun 15th Nov** 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.

Churches Together Prayer Breakfast – Sacred Heart parish hall on **Sat 21st Nov** 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.

Senior Christmas Lunch – Sat **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.

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 Nov - 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.

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

Baptism at Sacred Heart – We rejoice with and congratulate Tom and Amy whose son will be baptised on **Sat 7th Nov** 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 08 Nov	**✠ Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Helen Campbell, RIP
	Holy Rosary Prayer *by the Lady Chapel*	***9:30-9:55am***	
		10:00am*	Norman Wooldridge, Tom and Maris Capes, Christian Firn, Sheila Ford and Holy Souls, RIP
Mon 09 Nov	**✠ The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**	**10:00am**	For Leroy - Birthday Blessings
Tue 10 Nov	**Saint Theo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church**	**10:00am**	Special Int. – Anna
Thu 12 Nov	**Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr**	**12:00pm**	For the People of the Parish
		6:30pm	Memorial Mass for the Departed, RIP
Fri 13 Nov	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Special Int. – Zita Dieseru
Sat 14 Nov	**Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Catenian Association Deceased Brothers, RIP
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	John McCarthy and Joe McDonnell, RIP Anniv.
Sun 15 Nov	**✠ Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Willie and Mary Buckley and Holy Souls, RIP
	Holy Rosary Prayer *by the Lady Chapel*	***9:30-9:55am***	
		10:00am*	John Shotton, Justin Neill, Heather Donovan, Teresa Emoli 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:

12th Nov	Memorial Mass 6:30pm
15th Nov	3rd Rite of Scrutiny of the Elect for the Sacraments of Initiation at the 10am Mass
15th Nov	Grave Blessings at Kingshill Cemetery 11:30am
22nd Nov	Celebration of the Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion of the Elect – 10am Mass

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