

Sacred Heart Church, Berkhamsted





✠ **Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A, 15th November 2026, Divine Office: Wk. 1**

"We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, but keep awake…"

One more Sunday to go, the solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, before this Liturgical year ends. As the liturgical year winds down, our attention is drawn to what to expect at the end of time, when 'we settle accounts with the Master.'

The **First Reading**, taking from the book of Proverb, forms part of the Poetic/Wisdom Literature books of the Bible, with focus on how to live wisely and justly. The point therefore is not about husband-wife relationship, but instead, a call to the Israel of the post-exilic era, and no less to us today, to seek a stable and faithful relationship with God. "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but *a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised*. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and *let her works praise her in the gates*." Notice here that care is taken to communicate to the reader the wisdom in loving God and one's neighbour.

Leading a life of stable and faithful relationship with God, begets a blessedness akin to the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), which the psalmist also echoes in the **Psalm** for this Sunday. "Blessed are all who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways!"

What does it mean to 'walk in his (the Lord's) ways'? In the first reading, we have concrete examples of how to live out God's command to love our neighbour, making the well-being and care of others a priority. "She does him good and not harm … She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy." Thus, the reading couldn't be more apt for this Sunday – the World Day of the Poor.

The **Gospel** passage this Sunday is a reminder that account of our stewardship will be asked of us on the Day of the Lord; how we used the opportunities and talents given to us to love and glorify God and for the service of others. The response of the two men given five and two talents each, teach us generosity of heart and trust in the Master – God. Commitment to the Master and seeking ways to grow and bear much fruit in our faith are other lessons to learn. The third man's anger towards his master wasn't because he was given nothing, but that his talent seemed less than the others.' "Master, I knew you to be a hard man … so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground." His response smacks of jealousy and greed. The Evangelist uses this to also communicate that living a life of anxiety and fear, rather than trust and love, has a paralysing effect and leads to losing everything.

Whilst we have the opportunity, lets invest our time, resources and talents for the glory of God and in service to the common good that we may enter into the joy of our Master when he comes

Order of Mass: Page 5. Readings, Page 155. **1st** Prov. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31.
Resp. Ps 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. ℟. 1a.
2nd 1 Thes. 5:1-6. **Gospel** Matt. 25:14-30. **EP: III** page 27

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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 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

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.

Sick & Retired Priests' Second Collection – This 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

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.

Update on Planned Roof Repair Works – The delay has been due to changes in CDM regulations. We have been working through the new requirements with the support of a structural engineer, who has assessed the flat roof at the rear of the turret and confirmed that Acrow props will be required to safely support the double-height scaffolding needed for the works. Following this assessment, it has been decided to postpone the project until the spring. This will avoid undertaking the work during the wettest winter months and provide more favourable conditions for the installation of the scaffolding and completion of the repairs. We appreciate your patience and understanding and will continue to keep parishioners updated as plans progress.

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**

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

First Holy Communion Family Offertory Presentation – The Dixon family will present the bread and wine to be consecrated at the 10am Mass on Sunday 15th November.

Offertory Collections – 08/11/2026
Weekly Loose Plate – £186.12
Weekly Contactless - £129.00
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: **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.

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.

Fire Drill – There will be a fire drill at the end of the Masses this 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.

Mary's Meals - Will be having their last gathering of 2026 on **Sunday 6th December**, after 10am Mass. Please come along to the hall where there will be 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 – 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.

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

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 15 Nov	**✠ Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	**8:30am**	Willie and Mary Buckley and Holy Souls, RIP
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	by the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	John Shotton, Justin Neill, Heather Donovan, Teresa Emoli and Holy Souls, RIP
Mon 16 Nov	**Saint Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop**	**10:00am**	Nino Dieseru - Special Intention
Tue 17 Nov	**Feria**	**10:00am**	William Campbell, RIP Anni.
Thu 19 Nov	**Feria**	**12:00pm**	Barry Gratton and Holy Souls, RIP
Fri 20 Nov	**Feria**	**10:00am**	Stanley Nwanna, RIP
Sat 21 Nov	**The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**	**10:00am**	Frank Furlong, the deceased members of the Knagg Family and Holy Souls, RIP
	Sunday Vigil	**5:00pm**	Norman Lee – Get Well
Sun 22 Nov	**✠ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**	**8:30am**	For the People of the Parish
	Holy Rosary Prayer	***9:30-9:55am***	
	by the Lady Chapel	**10:00am***	Patricia Brooks, 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:

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
29th Nov	Sunday Lunch 12pm
6th Dec	Mary's Meals Event – After 10am Mass in the Parish Hall

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 all Sick and Retired Priests