

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW
On Earth as it is in Heaven
UNCOVERING BLESSEDNESS
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Sunday 29 January 2023
Mass Book Page 130

The Beatitudes are the beginning of the massive teaching of Jesus known as the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon ends with a contrast between Wisdom and foolishness. The Wise, are those who hear The Words of Jesus and put them into action. The foolish, also hear His Words but do nothing with it.

Each time I hear or read this beautiful Sermon, it touches something deep inside of me in a way that other Sacred texts do not. It is so clear eyed and so daring, so sure of itself as it contradicts common thinking. It sweeps me along in a torrent of love and takes me to the place where, however dimly, I see what Jesus sees when he looks at me and you. Hearing it is like, as David Whyte said of poetry, "the art of overhearing ourselves say something from which it is impossible to retreat".

So, what is it that Jesus sees when he moves to the higher plain? He sees people. He sees the circumstance of their lives. He sees the sacredness of their lives. He sees with three eyes and invites His disciples to do the same.

Jesus sees the people before Him and the negative circumstances that surround and pervade their lives. The poverty that goes so deep it crushes their spirit and reduces them to a constant state of mourning. In this situation they are meek, not violent or vengeful but hungering and thirsting for equality. Caught up in an unjust system, they are trying to better their lives and He is eager to support them. Jesus also sees a 'blessedness' dancing in the centre of their struggle for community. This blessedness is given by God, so is more powerful than the social and political systems that overwhelm them. It is already present and working its way towards a fuller space. It is moving mourning towards comfort, meekness towards inheritance and hunger and thirst towards satisfaction. It is giving notice to the current situation that it will not have the last word. The blessedness not only survives and overcomes human evil, it shines forth bringing its energies to the task of making life better.

When blessedness flows as Mercy, Purity of Heart, Peace-making, and Justice Making it becomes an atmosphere that all are invited to breathe. This is what Jesus sees and what He wants us to see. As Hopkins said in 'The Wreck of the Deutschland', "Ah! There was a heart right / There was a single eye". (Stanza 29)

As we listen to the Gospel for this fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are given another chance to be caught up in the stunning teaching of the Beloved Son of God. If we will allow it, it will grip us. Once heard, they are words from which it is impossible to retreat. It is being said. It is taking us to a higher plain. We might not stay there for long but we know that way back. The lightning bolt of truth which first touched us through these words, will never cease to call us to the abiding light that the darkness can never overcome.



A WARM WELCOME to Fr. Richard Maniak who will be celebrating our 6pm Vigil Mass this weekend and to Fr. Liam Cummins celebrating our 8:30am and 10:30am Sunday Masses.

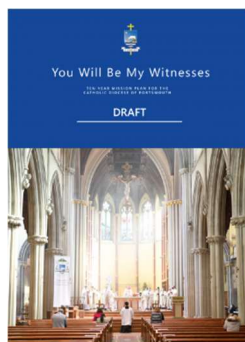
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Margaret Clark RIP – Requiem Mass here at St. Joseph's on Thursday 9th February at 11:30am

Maria Dos Santos RIP – Requiem Mass here at St. Joseph's on Wednesday 15th February at 1:30pm.

Mary Hunt RIP – Funeral Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Thursday 16th February at 2pm.

*Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*



DIOCESAN TEN YEAR PLAN

Message from the Bishop: "I wish hereby to thank all the parishes and individuals who responded to the consultation about our ten-year mission plan. The feedback will now be analysed to inform the final shape of the plan. A group of clergy and lay people are helping us with this so that the detail can be further tested and refined. The plan focused on putting Christ at the centre and developing missionary communities, while setting the objectives, aims and aspirations. The next phase is about developing specific strategies, means and ideas to help develop the plan in Pastoral Areas, parishes and schools and not least in the hearts of all". The feedback that was submitted on behalf our parish is available on our website.



Society for the **Protection**
of Unborn Children

SPUC NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

27 October 2022 - 27 April 2023

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/national-prayer-campaign>

This year's candidates are to be presented to the parish at all Masses on the weekend of 11th/12th February.



- **CAKE SALE** on the weekend of 18th/19th February.
- **Weekend Retreat** at a residential retreat centre from 3rd-5th February.
- **Confirmation Mass** 18th June at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

Please keep the Confirmation candidates and their families in your prayers.

DOUAI ABBEY RETREAT PROGRAMME



Saturday 25 February Reflection Day: Has no one condemned you? -
A gentle Lenten day with music & quiet to explore how we can be transformed.

Tuesday 21 – Thursday 23 March Lent Retreat: Great Season of Grace - In this “great season of grace” we prepare to celebrate the Easter mystery of Christ’s passion, death & resurrection. How to walk with Christ on his Jerusalem journey?

Thursday 6 – Sunday 9 April Holy Week Retreat: Caroline Farey In the Liturgies of this Triduum, especially through Sacred art, we enter the mystery of Christ's passion, death & resurrection, inspired to make his passing from death to life our own. With times of prayer, listening & sharing, each one makes this a personal retreat.

All Bookings:

www.douaiabbey.org.uk/bookings.php / E: guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Blanche Shap, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Tony Andrews, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Doreen Pryor, Sharon Bryan, Chantal Addley, Terry and Peggy McCullough, John Moir, Beryl Pilgrim, Charles Hose, Douglas & Bernadette Hunt, Phyllis Whitehouse, Clarita Kokou-Tchri, Margaret Finnieston, Louis Burgisser, Prim & Ian Maynard, Vivienne Halfpenny, Ann O’Sullivan, Lucia Saligo, Leonie Macintosh, Maureen Baxter, Catherine White, Ann D’Ambrosio, Edmund & Kate Carroll, Claire Hose, Arthur Hardy, Bernard O’Neill.

To add or remove a name to this list with consent, please contact the Parish Office.

If you or your relative is housebound, or because of illness cannot come to Mass and wish to receive Holy Communion at home, call the parish office 01344 425729 or email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy

Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch

Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab

Safeguarding: Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read
07712 048695 safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Parish Office, St. Joseph's Church, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA

Usual Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm

Telephone: 01344 425729

Email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

MASS TIMES

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 28 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 29 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Stuart Birley RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Thanksgiving – Harold Fernandes & Family</i>

Monday 30th **NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED**

ST JOHN BOSCO, Founder, *memorial*

Tuesday 31st **12pm Communion Service**

Wednesday 1st **10am Communion Service**

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, feast

Thursday 2nd **10am Communion Service**

ST BLAISE, Bishop & Martyr, *memorial*

Friday 3rd **12pm Communion Service**

Saturday 4th **NO MORNING MASS**

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 4 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Susan Gater RIP</i>
Sunday 5 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Bridget Robinson RIP</i>

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live>

New to our parish or not yet registered? <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-registration>



PASTORAL CARE

07394 440 938

pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Are you lonely? Are you shielding? Are you ill and in need of prayer and/or support? Perhaps you have not had contact with the Catholic Church for a while. Whatever the reason, please get in touch for a chat.



Bereavement support

07947 182 761

stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Are you in the land of loss & would appreciate a chat with someone in our group? If so, do not hesitate to get in touch.



Call **IN CONFIDENCE**
07731 862 349

If you need help, particularly, as a result of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the local Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) may be able to provide some assistance.

DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS Online, Bank Transfer, Direct Debit, Standing Order <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/planned-giving>

BANK DETAILS: Account Name: PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 1199568