

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW  
On Earth as it is in Heaven

**GIVING HONEST TESTIMONY**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 15 January 2023**

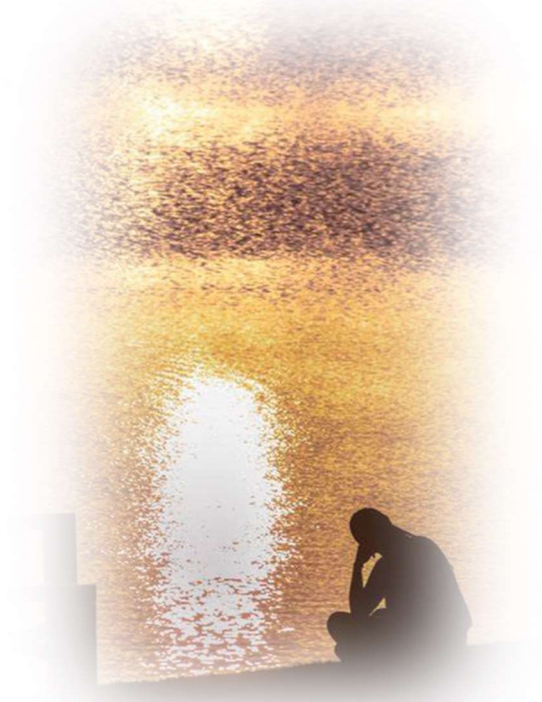
John the Baptist doesn't just see Jesus, he sees into the heart and mission of Jesus. His invitation to 'Behold' means something worth looking at is before us. John calls Jesus the 'Lamb of God' and so do we. Yet, the sin that He takes away cannot just be seen as the individual transgressions we might make. What is taken away is the experience of being isolated from God. Jesus frees the temple animals because they are no longer needed. The disciples go with Him at the time when animals were sacrificed in the Temple and find everything they need in Him. What is needed is to have communion with the Beloved Son of God.

John also admits to what he does not know. He has to grow in his understanding and relationship with Jesus. John is granted a sacred communication that Jesus and the Spirit are inseparable. He has to work at this insight to make it bear fruit. Coming to see the truth of Jesus takes time, patience and a genuine desire to come and see what He is revealing. We see a pattern develop. John sees Jesus, witnesses to Him and creates new disciples. Two new disciples see Jesus, witness to Him and create more disciples. It seems that we have to find out the truth about Jesus for ourselves but others who have already discovered it can show us the way.

We should ask ourselves a question about our relationship with Jesus and how we share this with others. We don't do this by having yes or no, right or wrong answers but by sharing the adventure we have been enjoying. It means we have to be honest about how our faith in Him has changed and developed. This kind of uncompromising honesty means that our sense of the adventure might be complex.

I came across a story about three people who arrived at the door of a spiritual teacher. She asked all of them the same question. "Did you come to me because of others or because of yourself?" The first answered that they had been sent by others. They were dismissed. The second answered that they came of their own accord. They were dismissed. The third stammered that they had heard of the teacher from others and yet, they also felt that they had come on their own - part curious, part frustrated, part searching and a whole lot of other reasons and motives which were hard to describe. The spiritual teacher said, "You'll do." The honest, complex person was accepted.

I don't know all of the reasons I am drawn to Jesus and struggle to follow Him. But in my own mind, hallmarks of genuine testimony begin to take shape. Honest self-examination, complexity and humility. If my testimony is meant to attract others to Jesus, I worry sometimes that after hearing or seeing me they might look elsewhere. But I also see that I must not over worry on this point. If I try to package Jesus, I lose the only truth that sustains me. You might agree that giving testimony is tricky ground. But what's the alternative?



## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**Bridget Robinson RIP** whose Requiem Mass will take place here on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 11am. Please remember Francis and all the family in your prayers.

**Florence 'Florrie' Longmann RIP** whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 1pm at Corpus Christi in Wokingham.

**Margaret Clark** – funeral details to be advised.

*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.*



### **COST OF LIVING SUPPORT: INFORMATION DROP-IN EVENT**

All Bracknell Forest Residents are invited to the Time Square community winter hub on Thursday, 19 January, for a drop-in information session linked to the cost-of-living pressures. This informal event runs from 4pm to 8pm. There will be the opportunity to

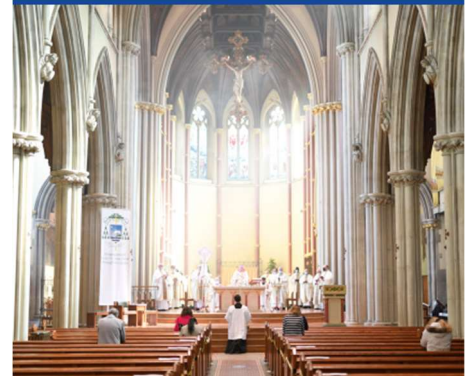
explore the range of financial support options available, both locally and from the Government.

**DON'T FORGET** For information about local Community Winter Hubs, help with energy costs, food costs, employment, housing and mental health, plus information about the government's help for households/cost of living payment, go to Bracknell Forest Cost of Living Support website: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/cost-living-support>

### **DIOCESAN TEN YEAR PLAN CONSULATION FEEDBACK**

Thank you once again to everyone who took part before Christmas in the parish consultation for the Diocesan Ten Year Plan – You Will Be My Witnesses. The feedback has been collated and sent to the Diocese. On our website you will find copies of the summary explaining the process involved and the three main summary points along with a further document detailing the views expressed through the questionnaire.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** Review of Feedback and Finalisation of Ten-Year Mission Plan.





## PEACE SUNDAY This Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The Second Sunday of the year is also designated as Peace Sunday, a day of prayer for peace in the world. Each year, Peace Sunday gives us the chance to pray and reflect upon the Pope's message for the annual World Day of Peace. In his message this year, Pope Francis reflects on coming out of the COVID pandemic and the war in Ukraine. He urges all of us to embark together on paths to peace. The full text is on the Pax Christi website [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) Today, you also have the opportunity as you leave the church to donate to Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for peace.

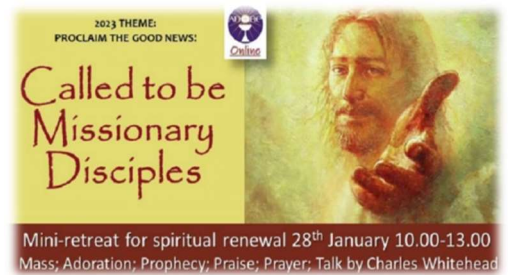
## ONLINE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT

**"Called to be Missionary Disciples"**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 10am-1pm**

Guest speaker is Charles Whitehead KSG. The day starts with Mass at 10am and includes Adoration, Praise, Testimony and Discussion. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvdOmoqjlvG9ECxbCSWwigSx60YdiKUKlQ>



## REFLECTION DAY AT DOUAI ABBEY – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**"Has no one condemned you?"** In John 8, Jesus gives an accused woman new hope. A gentle Lenten day to reflect on this & other rescue stories. *The day will be led by Barbara Priest who is an Anglican lay minister near Salisbury, an Oblate of Douai Abbey. The day runs 10.30am to 4pm. (arrival & coffee from 10am.)* Contribution £25 made on the day please (lunch, coffee & tea included) or £15 if you bring your own lunch. Email [guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk) to book.

## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

### MASS TIMES

#### SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Scarlet Anne &amp; Kevin D'Souza</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Betty Keane &amp; Family</i>

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED

#### ST. ANTHONY OF EGYPT, Abbott, memorial

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 10am Mass

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 10am Mass *Pam Bantleman RIP*

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> **11am Requiem Mass – Bridget Robinson RIP**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 12pm Mass *Tina Esposito's Grandchildren*

#### ST. AGNES, Virgin, Martyr, memorial

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> 10am Mass *Margaret Clark RIP*

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Dr. John &amp; Anne-Marie Bowler-Reed RIP</i>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Phylis D'Souza RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</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>



07394 440 938

[pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

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



07947 182 761

[stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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; Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc, Palmerstone Road, Southsea

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**  
South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 1199568