

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
**AWAKENING TO LOVE**  
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
Sunday 8 January 2023

*The Galilean stood high on the hill, alone on the hill. Safe on the hill. and he did not like it.*

*Like a God, Paul said, who, alone in the Heavens, high in the Heavens, safe in the Heavens, one day looked down to catch the eye of every human being looking up.*

*And the slow tear of God began to make a tear in the Heavens.*

*From toe to knee the tear was Compassion for all the blood that would never again find a vein.*

*From knee to chest the tear was desire to unbreak every broken heart.*

*From chest to eyes the tear was love, to kiss all who must enter the cave of death.*

*From eyes to earth, the tear became Jesus, watching the brown river breaking against the waist of John the Baptist, who was busy burying people with his big shovel hands and then lifting them fresh and new with a force more violent than childbirth.*

The Gospel is filled with stories in which people come to see and love in themselves what Jesus sees and loves in them! Jesus sees the child of God in us with such clarity that we begin to see it in ourselves.

But first he must know it in himself. The One who awakens others to love must first himself be awakened.

In the Gospels, Jesus walks the pathways of Love and helps us to do the same. All that he says and does - his meetings, his stories, his teachings, his deeds - are in the service of this awakening.

I think that the way we come to reverence and love our true self is the real reason that Jesus allows John to baptise him. He not only shows us how to allow ourselves to welcome the Spirit, and listen for the voice of the Abba. He shows us how to disentangle ourselves from all that is not Love.

What he learned at the Jordan was this: Only when we ascend out of the waters where we are given a new heart will we see the dove of peace and hear the voice of love.



## 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 Christit in Wokingham.



### Prayer for Benedict XVI

O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Benedict, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy for ever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Amen.

*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.*

## THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR CAFOD IN 2022



Many thanks for your support for CAFOD's work last year especially for our emergency appeals- Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and Pakistan Flood Appeal. Your donations make a huge difference to the communities that we work with around the world. Have you considered using your time and skills to volunteer for CAFOD? Please contact Jo for information on our volunteering opportunities [jlewry@Cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewry@Cafod.org.uk) or call 07710 094447.



## 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>

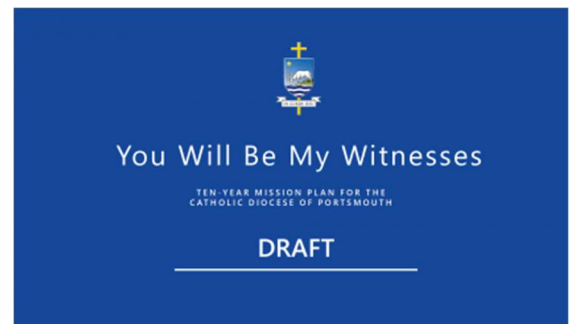


## PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP PHILLIP Calling Europe back to its Christian Roots

*This Sunday, 8th January 2023, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I am sending a Pastoral Letter. It's called "Pope Benedict XVI" and in many ways is a personal thanksgiving to God for the gift of the life of the Pope Emeritus and his impact upon me. In advance, you can read it here: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/BoP-PL33-080123-Pope-Benedict-XVI.pdf>*

## DIOCESAN TEN YEAR PLAN CONSULTATION 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. You can 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, on our website. There are also a limited number of hardcopies available in the porch. **WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?** Review of Feedback and Finalisation of Ten-Year Mission Plan.



## 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

<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>			
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Marie Danielle Tichbon RIP</i>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Reka Herczeg</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Elanah Goodey</i>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Mass at St. Margaret Clitherow School</b>	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Mass at St. Joseph's School</b>	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Lucian Ciocotisan</i>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	12pm	Mass	<i>Allan James RIP</i>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Breda Worsford RIP</i>
<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>			
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	
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>

**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](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.



**Bereavement support**

**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://www.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**