

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
**FOLLOWING OUR HEART'S DESIRE**  
**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Sunday 22 January 2023**  
Mass Book Page 127

It was all going wrong. John has been arrested by Herod and swaps desert for dungeon. His wilderness voice must find a way through the prison bars. Authority figures do what they like to do best - silence what threatens them. But notice what Jesus does. He moves immediately right into the heart of Herod's domain, steadily into the teeth of resistance. This is a dangerous move. But it was always so for those who carry light into darkness, life into death. What will happen to Jesus now?

Notice again Matthews insight. Underneath the machinations of human monsters, prophecies are unfolding. As Jesus fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah, he is no fool, playing into the hands of evil men. He is moving according to Gods plan, proclaiming a message that cannot be locked up or silenced. The torch has passed from John to Jesus. The voice that cried in the desert now zings down the town streets, into residential areas and into the houses of Gods' children. The Kingdom of Heaven is closer than you think. If you are sitting in darkness and the shadows of death, God is arriving as the remedy. As Light and Life! Problem: God is now but people are not!

So, Jesus needs help to uncover the hidden heaven. He needs people to fish for people. But first they must let go of one way of seeing the world and embrace another. If they are going to swim in the spiritual sea where all people swim, they must come to see the deeper and wider dimensions of life. They see hints of this in Jesus and move to follow Him. He will teach them that people are not fish and that they will 'catch' people only by appealing to the deepest desire of their hearts. Jesus is not hiding from Herod. He is teaching, proclaiming and healing through all Herod's territory. He is on a mission. Johns' imprisonment is not going to stop Him and people are fascinated by him.



Here we must pause to remember all the people who have fascinated us in our life. Can you remember those you admired and wanted to imitate? Every day, people are leaning into life and coaxing it towards redemption. These are people who make the world a better place. When we catch them 'at it' we are fascinated and want to know more. When we see someone thinking, speaking or acting in a way that we are not yet able to but we wish we could - we apprentice ourselves to them. Isn't a disciple just a fascinated person who desires to know and do what they see in another? We gravitate towards them and learn something new. We have probably been doing this all our lives

I heard a story once about a drug rehabilitation centre. One day, an ex-resident turned up in the reception area with a cricket bat, shouting and screaming and banging his bat on the furniture. Everyone dived for cover. But the manager came out of her office, walked right up to the guy, put her arms around him and gave him a big, long hug. His violence transfigured into sobs. She held him in that strange embrace for a while then led him to a chair and waited for the police to arrive. He never let go of the bat.

I want to know what makes this woman tick! And I have a hunch that she knows exactly what drove Christ back into Galilee.

## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

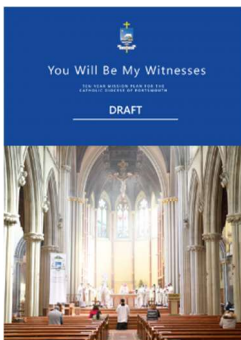
**Maria Dos Santos RIP** – Requiem Mass here at St. Joseph's on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 1:30pm.

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

*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.*

## WARM PLACES TO GO ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Our Community Winter Hubs are open to offer an accessible, welcoming and warm space for residents to visit. There are seven main community winter hubs across the borough: Binfield Library, Birch Hill Library, Bracknell Library, Crowthorne Library, Sandhurst Library, Whitegrove Library, Time Square (Market Street). Details of locations and opening times can be found at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/winter-hubs](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/winter-hubs) No need to book and everyone is welcome to drop in, even if it is just to have a cup of tea or read a book for the afternoon. Staff will also be on hand to help signpost you to essential information or support services, should you need it.



## DIOCESAN TEN YEAR PLAN CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Available on our website: summary explaining the process involved and the three main summary points along with a further document detailing the views expressed through the questionnaire.



Society for the **Protection** of Unborn Children

## IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE SPUC NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

**27 October 2022 - 27 April 2023**

Please pledge prayers in memory of lives lost to abortion. The aim is to reach 10 million prayer pledges to mark the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Abortion Act and in memory of the lives lost to abortion since 1967.

Record your pledge here: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/national-prayer-campaign>

# ClothesBank

## WINTER CLOTHESBANK

### GIVEAWAY Tuesday 31st January

2023 from 10.15am to 1pm at St Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH – good quality seasonal adult and children's clothing & footwear, of all sizes. To receive a ClothesBank voucher for use on 31<sup>st</sup> January, please contact [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or ring 07394 440 938 by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. A free minibus shuttle (courtesy of Newbold College) will be operating from 10am – 12 midday on 31<sup>st</sup> January between Bracknell train station and St Mark's Church for anyone who needs help with transport.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- This year's candidates are to be presented to the parish at all Masses on the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> February.
- **CAKE SALE** on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Weekend Retreat** at a residential retreat centre from 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Confirmation Mass** 18<sup>th</sup> June at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

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

**SECOND OFFERING FOR THE CATHEDRAL** This weekend as you leave the church, there is an opportunity to give in aid of our Cathedral in Portsmouth. This is the only help our Cathedral receives from the diocese.

## 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

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>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED</b>		
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
<b>ST. THOMAS AQUINAS</b> , Religious, Doctor of the Church, <i>memorial</i>			
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Grace Ndangang</i>
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Stuart Birley RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Thanksgiving – Harold Fernandes &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 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](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: PRC DTR Bracknell St Joseph Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: PRC DTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH

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