

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

KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 26 February 2023
Mass Book Page 151

Jesus has just been baptised in the river Jordan and has heard a voice from heaven saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased' (Matt 3,17). But what does it mean to be the Beloved Son? The devil will have a few suggestions, but it is the Spirit who leads Jesus into this encounter with the devil. This 'testing' will serve The Spirits agenda and will deepen Jesus' understanding and commitment.

The Tester first suggests that, as Beloved Son of God, Jesus should always be 'full'. And if he likes he can suspend any law he likes to make this happen. Jesus rejects the connection between being physically filled and being spiritually loved. Hungry or full, he will still be the Beloved Son. Empty, he will still be the Beloved Son.

Engraved on the pinnacle of the Temple are the wings of an eagle. As the wings of a mother eagle catch her young when they flutter in their first attempt to fly, the Tempter suggests that God will lift us his Beloved Son whenever he falls. As Beloved Son, Jesus will always be safe. The devil even quotes Scripture to bolster his case. He wants Jesus to presume on divine love and toy with danger. But Jesus thinks this way of thinking is ridiculous. You don't put yourself in danger so God can protect you. In the course of Jesus life, he will not be safe but neither will he waiver in his conviction that God loves him. Hurt, he will still be the Beloved Son.

So, for now, the devil plays his final card. He offers Jesus unlimited power over others. The price tag is that Jesus will fall on his knees and worship the devil. But Jesus is a Jew of the First Commandment and he rejects the Tempter and his seductive offer. Now, Jesus will have no political power and influence in the Kingdoms of the world. Powerless, he will still be the Beloved Son.

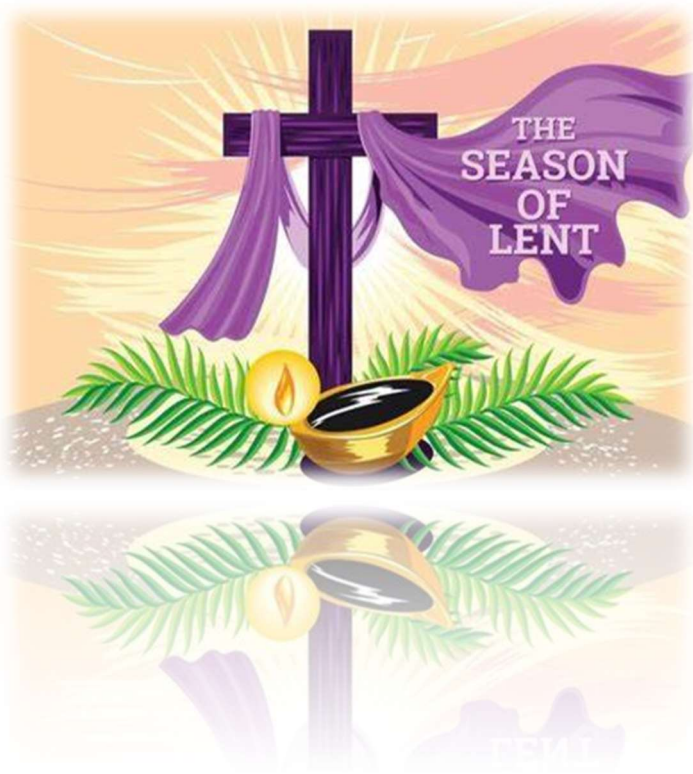
Temptations, like the ones above wait to ambush all of us in some way. They get to make the first move and can look like they are running the show. It's only on the third go that Jesus finds the strength to tell the devil to get lost. And isn't this our own experience. Sin pulls us along at great speed. We often describe this as being 'led astray'. We went along because for a moment we couldn't find the brake. We were no longer in charge of ourselves. So, it doesn't really matter if it's a bit of gossip here, a little theft there, or some big deal which is sinful as well as criminal - what they all have in common is that they include the question of who we think we are. If we do not know who we are, we probably won't step back from the edge of the cliff.

What Jesus remembers is every word that comes from the mouth of God. Especially, he remembers the words he heard in the Jordan river. He has pondered these words in sacred time - forty days and nights - and has reached some amazing conclusions about what they mean. Only then can he push back and say "No".

Step one for us then seems to be an invitation to slow down. To create the spaces where we can know ourselves better, which should include being willing to hear from friends what they know of us.

The Tempter will ask the same question. If you are loved by God, then And each of us has to be able to say, "Even if I am empty, hurting or powerless, or even dead; I am still loved by the Love that never fails".





LENT 2023

LENTEN TAIZE SERVICE

Wednesday 15th March 7pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursdays online at 7pm
& Fridays in the church at 11am

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

Join us in the hall after Mass for a
Soup lunch

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION MASS 18th June
at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

THANK YOU for the tremendous response to our cake sale last weekend. We raised almost £800! We are so grateful for everyone's support.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Please continue to keep the Confirmation candidates in your prayers.



Donations needed!

The war rages on in Ukraine and the people are living in freezing cold temperatures, with very little food, clean water or access to basic essentials. Essential items such as food & medical supplies are desperately needed. Another lorry will depart Bracknell for central Ukraine at the end of the month. Pick up a leaflet from the porch which details what is needed and you can drop items off at the Ukraine Community Hub, Princess square: Open Tues 10.30-4pm; Thurs 2-8pm; Sat 10-4pm.

PLEASE DONATE BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH



We are very excited to invite you to join us at the Circus on Friday 2nd of June 2023 at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School. There will be entertainment, stunning performances by original artists and comedy routines suitable for all the family. Food and beverages will also be available to

purchase onsite. Tickets are available on Eventbrite via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/525956930337> All proceeds raised from this event will go towards a new SEN space for the school. We look forward to seeing many of you there.



FAMILY FAST DAY

Friday 3rd March 2023

SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Help CAFOD to provide urgent food, water and shelter to survivors.

<https://cafod.org.uk/give>



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>

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, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Blanche Shap, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Tony Andrews, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, 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, 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, Phyllis Lewis, Eddie & Flo Moore, Jerry & Susan Tobin.

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 THIS WEEK

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saturday 25 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 26 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Carole Mayes</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Cesar & Maxima Camba RIP</i>
Monday 27 th	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 28 th	NO MASS		
ST. DAVID , Religious, Bishop, <i>feast</i>			
Wednesday 1 st	12 noon	Mass	<i>Pam Savage RIP</i>
Thursday 2 nd	12 noon	Mass	<i>Family of Bridget Robinson</i>
Friday 3 rd	12 noon	Mass	<i>Marius Suvac</i>
Saturday 4 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saturday 4 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Mary Hunt RIP</i>
Sunday 5 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Catherine Grattan 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

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.



07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987

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, DD, 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