

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**ON HOW NOT TO COMPARE OURSELVES WITH OTHERS**

Sunday 24 September 2023

Mass Book Page 131

Jesus speaks to the heart of the disciple and to the community of disciples He has chosen. To them He has given an amazing gift - the gift of working with Him to bring to birth a new humanity and a new community. They sit at His feet, and He clearly hopes that they will grow to be like Him. They think they want the same until a Parable pulls the carpet out from under their feet. It only does this because there is a question, like the elephant in the room, that is waiting to be answered. 'What's in it for me?'

In extravagant prose, Jesus assures His disciples that if they choose to do God's work it will bring them to the pinnacle of human fulfilment. Every sacrifice they make will be restored to them a hundred times over and eternal life will flow into them. If they are worried about a poor pay-off, Jesus overwhelms them with a vision of abundance. But first they have to listen to and try to understand the Parable.

Kingdom workers are like people on a zero-hours contract. They are vulnerable. They have no claim on their employer. The only agreement on the table is that when they awaken each day, they do not waste the gift of a new day in idleness. God will give them all that they need for the day. It will be enough for those who want to continue to rely on Gods' goodness.

Enthroned in the Lord's Prayer is the certainty that God will not give more or less than is needed for the day. "Give us this day our daily bread ....". It is assumed that they are friends of the Landowner and have grasped the truth about God that Jesus is trying to teach them. That when we 'seek first the Kingdom' (Matthew 6,33) and pray to follow God's will (Matthew 6,10) there is no need to ask for what we need. Our Father already knows, and gives what is needed, (Matthew 6,8;32-33) to those who work in the vineyard. But the gift of daily bread bears no relation to the amount of work done. It flows out of the generous heart of God, who is now vulnerable to an accusation of being unfair.

This feeling of unfairness is rooted in a social construct everyone takes for granted. More work=More pay. In this version of reality, I am the centre of the universe and my job is to promote myself and my own well-being. If I am denied this possibility I am entitled to have a good old moan. But the Parable puts God at the centre of the Universe and we are invited to stretch high enough to see the sacred point of view. Only here can we begin to relish the work that is being done. We are, to paraphrase Gerard Manley Hopkins, "burnished in use". We no longer live in the envious world of comparisons, but in the overflowing world of Gods Generosity. In this world, God gives us good eyes to better see. These eyes connect us to our soul and to the expansive works of the Spirit. Seduced, the labourers flow like liquid light, releasing Grace everywhere they go.





Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Neil Worsford RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at the church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, 111 Portsmouth Road, Frimley, GU16 7AA, on Monday 2 October at 11am.

**MAY HIS SOUL AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED,  
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.**



### **PLACES AVAILABLE AT ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW SCHOOL**

**Year R: 6 spaces, Year 1: 2 spaces, Year 2: - 4 spaces, Year 3: 3 spaces.**

The headteacher and staff are really keen to meet any new families, give them a tour of the school and talk to them about joining the St Margaret Clitherow community. Contact the school office on 01344 424030 for more information.

### **UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS STUDY DAY**

*Saturday 30 September 10am, St. Swithun's, Yateley, GU46 6NH*

The annual Study Day for our diocese will focus this year on 'Reconnecting People and Nature: new hope from Laudato si'.

The Study Day is on Saturday 30 September, at St Swithun's, Yateley GU46 6NH. The day will be led by Dr Sarah Gardner and will start with coffee at 10.00 am. For further information and booking (cost £3) call 01344 756806 or 07393 511247.



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**

**THE LETTER** - To conclude the 'Season of Creation', the LiveSimply team, UCM and Wokingham Catenians, invite you to a special showing of 'The Letter,' a captivating film that takes us on a journey to Rome, where front-line environmental campaigners discuss 'Laudato Si' with Pope Francis. Witness an exclusive dialogue with the Pope that unveils his personal history and untold stories. No tickets required, simply join us in the Keenan Rooms (60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE). 5 October, 19:30.



### **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER**

Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast – so when her team arrived in Meera's village in Pakistan after it had been destroyed by flooding, Meera rushed to the clinic to get her children the treatment they needed. Donate to **CAFOD** today so that more families can get the expert help they need. Use this QR code to donate or give online at <https://www.cafod.org.uk>



### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION**

If you are already registered in the parish and attending Mass regularly, and would like your child to start preparation for First Holy Communion, please follow this link to register their name and details:

<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/forms/7x6uzgom>

### **FANCY A CUPPA AND A CHAT?**

Every Tuesday in  
the hall from 2pm.



### **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP**

**ZOOM MEETINGS** Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesday 7:30pm-8:30pm. Email

[stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) for the link.





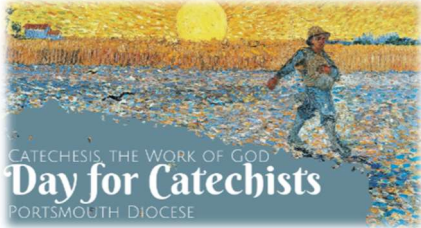
## DATES FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY THIS TERM

### 8:30am Mass

24 Sep, 1 Oct, 15 Oct, 29 Oct, 12 Nov, 26 Nov, 10 Dec.

### 10:30am Mass

24 Sep, 1 Oct (*we are hoping to get more volunteers for this Mass so that we can offer Children's Liturgy more frequently*).



## DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS

**Saturday 30 September 10am-4pm**

join Fr Mark Hogan and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph for a day of thanksgiving, prayer, fellowship and formation in Winchester Catholic Pastoral Centre. The day is free. Please bring a packed lunch. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diocesan-day-for-catechists-registration-598927286637>



## DIOCESAN FINAL TEN-YEAR MISSION PLAN

**You Will Be My Witnesses** has resulted from two years of research and consultation across the Diocese and beyond. The Plan identifies three main objectives for the Diocese for the next decade which include: to be a Christ-centred Church; to be a missionary community; to be prudent stewards of

Christ's Church. Download your copy here: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/you-will-be-my-witnesses/>

## 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, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, 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, Ann D'Ambrosio, Edmund & Kate Carroll, Claire Hose. Arthur Hardy, Bernard O'Neill, Phyllis Lewis, Eddie & Flo Moore, Jerry & Susan Tobin, Janet Read, Ann Lynch, Bridget Riordan, Ursula Docherty.



*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**

**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

### TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>John Collins RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Bridget Robinson RIP</i>

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> **NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 10am Mass *Allan James RIP*

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**, Founder, *memorial*

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 10am Mass

**THE HOLY ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL**, *feast*

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> 10am Mass

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12 noon Mass

**ST. JEROME**, Priest, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 10am Mass *Thomas Lawrence (FHC)*  
11am Confessions

### TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Wilman, Rejeena &amp; Ranjani Perera RIP</i>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Oliwier Karwig (FHC)</i>

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

**New to our parish or not yet registered?**

<https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-life/parish-registration>



**01344 425729**

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

Are you lonely? 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 do get in touch for a chat.



**07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987**

[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 are struggling financially and need practical assistance, the local Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) may be able to help. Do call us in confidence for a chat.

**DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS** Online, Bank Transfer, DD, <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/planned-giving>

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

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: **CDP BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**

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