

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW - On Earth as it is in Heaven
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

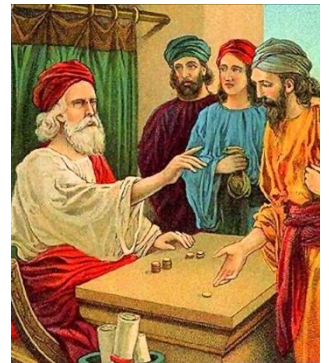
DO NOT BE AFRAID

Sunday 19 November 2023

Mass Book Page 155

Wise sayings, or proverbs, are usually written on the back of experience. 'Too many cooks spoil the broth', 'A stitch in time saves nine'. Our first reading this weekend is taken from the Book of Proverbs. In a nutshell, if we are looking for a perfect wife, husband, friend, or partner – we will never find them. But if we are lucky enough to find someone who is wise, we will probably be as close as we're going to be to the dream. So, while Wisdom is praised, and praised again as more precious than money, so too is reverence for Sacred Things. The Psalmist declares that those who move with reverence in the world, in their homes and communities rarely lack anything and are never lonely. We can find many examples of this through all Sacred Scripture.

Then, just when we thought that we were beginning to understand the spiritual laws that govern our lives, Jesus comes along and stands them on their head. The format of this week's parable is tried and tested. Usually, after the Master has given his gifts and instructions and then departs, the first two get it wrong and the last one gets it right. When it is told in this way, everyone loves the comedy and are delighted to see the underdog winning for a change. But Jesus' version turns the story into a tragedy. Worst still, the one who has the least going for him, gets it wrong and loses even that! What's going on here?



Notice that the servants are not in a competition with each other. But they are in a competition with themselves. What will they do with what has been given to them? Well, first they must understand the spiritual laws that govern their lives. God gives everything to them freely. They are then invited to give away what they have received. According to physical laws, when we give something away, we no longer have it. But according to spiritual laws, when we give it away, we are astonished to see that it doubles! Now comes a new understanding of how Spirit grows and a greater responsibility to make that happen. This is what the parable calls, 'entering into the joy of your Master.' The Master who knows spiritual laws, calls these servants 'good and faithful'. They have been faithful to goodness by imitating it. It was given to them, they gave it to others, and now they watch it grow and unfold. But alas, the same law of the spirit proposes a 'use it or lose it' adventure. If Spirit is given away, it increases exponentially. If it is buried, it is lost. The Master, who knows the flip side of the law of happiness, takes the talent away from the one he calls, 'wicked and lazy'. And, since it cannot stand alone, it is given to the one who has ten.

The Master calls this servant, wicked and lazy but the servant rejects this description claiming that his whole life was diminished by being afraid of everything – especially the Master! Notice, the Master does not disagree. In fact, he repeats what this servant has said. But then he draws a different conclusion. Either way, he should have acted to double the gift he had been given. His failure to understand puts him in deeper darkness with only tears of regret for company.

So, here's the thing. We should not take God for granted and instead, nurture in our lives a healthy reverence for what we do not yet know. At the same time, we must never, ever, ever, turn God into a terrorist. Our own experience in prayer should give us a clearer view of the tenderness which enfolds us. If fear immobilises us, we need to find a new strength with the support and presence of good and faithful servants of the Lord. They have much to teach us. But perhaps the most shocking aspect of what Jesus does with this Parable is to remind us that when we lose the Icon of Gods' Face from our hearts, we can talk ourselves into spectacular loss.

Rest In Peace



The funeral for Colin Collier RIP will take place on Tuesday 28th November at 2:30pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.
The Requiem Mass for Maureen Felton RIP will take place on Wednesday 29th November at 12:30pm.
MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.



Holy Souls

November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Catechism teaches: "All who die in God's grace and friendship but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." Those suffering but hopeful souls whom our prayers assist will someday be in heaven and will pray for us as we journey.

Parish Registrations & GIFT AID

We have a few kind souls who contribute to the parish via bank order each month, but do not seem to appear on our registration system. It is important that we have as much data as possible on our parishioners, so do please register on www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org. If we knew who you were we could ask you to sign a gift aid declaration so that we are able to claim the 25% extra that the UK Government allows charities to reclaim, at no cost to the donors.

ENGAGING THE DISENGAGED - ONLINE SEMINAR

6pm, Tuesday 21st November 2023

An online seminar providing an opportunity for people who work within the fields of evangelisation to explore how Catholics can fulfil their mission to bring all to Christ. The seminar will be ran by Sherry Weddell, the creator of the first charism discernment process for Catholics.

Get tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-the-disengaged-how-to-accompany-non-religious-persons-tickets-646139539757>

Care Homes Singing 2023 Dates for your Diary!

- Mon 4th Dec 2-3pm Liscombe House, Liscombe near Aldi, RG12 7AL
- Fri 8th Dec 2-3pm Clement House, Johnstone Close, Hurley Drive. RG12 2GH
- Fri 15th Dec 11am-12 Edmonds Court, Sandy Lane, RG12 2HP

On the December dates carols will be sung, please join in if possible!



Baptism Preparation

The Baptismal team are holding a Baptism preparation Evening on Thursday January 11th, 2024, at 7:30pm until 9:15pm. The evening is aimed at Parents who are planning to have their child Baptised. If you have not yet completed a Baptism Enquiry Form, please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.



DATES FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY THIS TERM - 8:30am Mass & 10:30am Mass

The Children's Liturgy will now be running after BOTH Sunday masses on the 26 November and 10 December.

Soup & Roll

There will be soup and a roll served after the 12 noon mass on the following Fridays: 8th December, 12th January, 9th February. Keep your calendars free and your bellies empty!



WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Inge Walker, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Blanche Shap, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Tony Andrews, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Rico Morales, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Doreen Pryor, Sharon Bryan, 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 office on 01344 425729 or email office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org



PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy **Deacon:** Rev. Aidan Lynch

Parish Administrators: Francis Barton and Donna Mody

Safeguarding Team: Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read
07712 048695 safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Parish Office, St. Joseph's Church, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA

Office Hours: Monday - Tuesday 9:00-3:00pm, Wednesday - Friday 9:00-5:00pm

Telephone: 01344 425729

Email: office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

MASS TIMES

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	18th	6pm	Mass	<i>Aukse Mikalkeviciute & Anastasia Standing FHC</i>
Sunday	19th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Bridget Linda Reardon RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Kamila Dybas & Johana Pollakova FHC</i>
Monday	20th	NO MASS		
THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, memorial				
Tuesday	21st	10am	Mass	<i>Lily Barrett RIP</i>
ST CECILIA, Virgin, Martyr, memorial				
Wednesday	22nd	10am	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Thursday	23rd	10am	Mass	<i>Mass</i>
ST ANDREW DUNG-LAC, Priest, & COMPANIONS, Martyrs, memorial				
Friday	24th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12pm	Mass	<i>Patrick J. Tighe RIP</i>
Saturday	25th	10am	<i>Edelina and Felix Patigayono RIP</i>	
		11am	Confessions	
THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	25th	6pm	<i>Oliver Nathan Moczek FHC</i>	
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, solemnity				
Sunday	26th	8:30am	Parish Intentions	
		10:30am	<i>Cyril Ford RIP</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

office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

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

office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

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://www.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