

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SITTING AT HIS FEET, LISTENING TO HIS WORDS

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Mass Book Page 82

With grateful hearts we bow to St. Matthew as we take leave of him for a while. His absence will be filled by St. Mark who will be our leader and guide as we journey through this new year. St. Mark has much to teach us, and we have much to learn. The Gospel of St. Mark tells the story of Jesus, the Beloved Son of God. All good stories are good when the one telling the story is also listening to it or telling it to themselves. So please spend time in St. Mark's company this year and, each week, prepare the Text chosen for the Sunday Eucharist in your prayer and reflection.

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. The text chosen for today is high drama. We are commanded to 'Be on our Guard'. Three times the Teacher tells us to 'Stay Awake' in the dark time of uncertainty. The importance of this is underlined by the ending, 'What I say to you I say to all: Stay Awake!' What's all that about then?

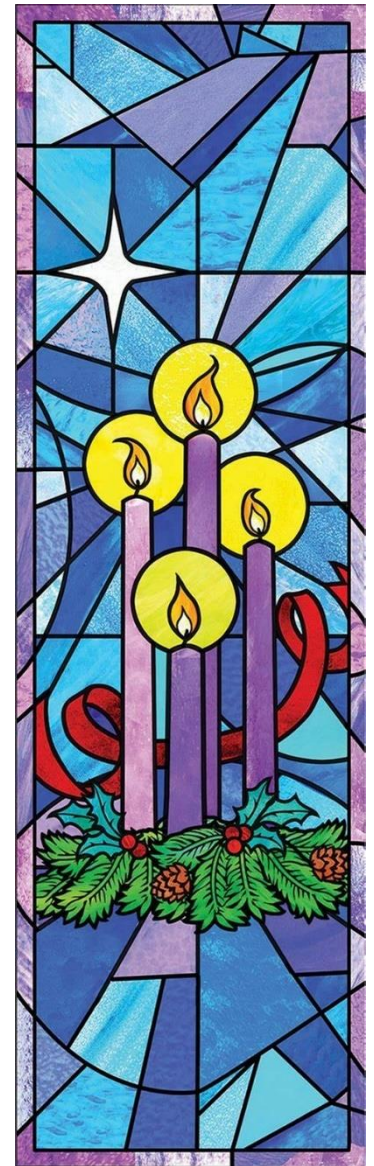
St. Mark will be inviting us to listen to the conversations, encounters and teachings of Jesus that communicate spiritual wisdom. All of these are intended to bring the listener from blindness to sight, from deafness to hearing, from lost to found, from sleeping to awaking and from dead to risen. St. Mark wants us to pay close attention to the teaching style of the Master - how he gears what he says to the mindset of his listeners, how he gives them the power to have a breakthrough in understanding.

Jesus, the Teacher, isn't just giving out information. Sitting at His feet, listening to His Word is an encounter with a higher consciousness which is bent on opening whoever is listening to the indwelling Spirit. Everything He says is geared towards the spiritual transformation of His disciples, crowds, religious authorities, and individual seekers. To watch Him at work is to grasp the power of the Word made Flesh. Jesus is the embodiment of spiritual wisdom, bursting with grace upon grace and seeking to share its blessings.

Reuven Gold was a modern-day sacred storyteller and spiritual teacher. Here is one of his stories:

A very advanced disciple was very distraught and pounded insistently on the door of their teacher's house at midnight. The teacher opened the door. The house was in darkness, but the teacher held a candle in his hand. The disciple blurted out that they were filled with anxiety and had to see the teacher at once. The teacher opened wide the door. The disciple entered, and the teacher closed the door. Then the teacher blew out the candle.

Reuven tells the story and waits to hear what sense it makes to those who have heard it. Then in a loud voice he shouts, "Don't worship your emotions!" His eyes widen. He grins then shakes with laughter. I got the story. I could see the disciples' problem. I saw how flashes of light can push away the darkness. It was a momentary shining but not a steady seeing. St. Mark will teach us, if we let him, how to hold the light that never fails.





The funeral for Ann Crampsie RIP will take place on Friday 8th December at 10am at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.
The funeral for Ena Stanton RIP will take place on Thursday 14th December at 11am at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.
MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.



GIVE Campaign Update #001



The Parish launched a new campaign last weekend. In the first wave of pledges released, there were 70 ways for parishioners to get involved, through donating their time, talent, or treasure.

580 parishioners attended Mass at the weekend, and at the time of writing, only 7 parishioners have reached out to volunteer themselves in some capacity- thank you to those!

Our community needs your generosity so that we can be faithful to the vocation God has given to us.

Your mission for this week is simply to sign up to ChurchSuite if you haven't already, and if you have, to visit the GIVE section of the Parish website, either by scanning the QR code or navigating there yourself:

[GIVE – St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Parish \(bracknellcatholicchurch.org\)](https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/give)

THANK YOU!

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.

Update: There have been more deaths of staff and volunteers in CAFOD's partner organisations. Please do pray for their families and colleagues as you pray for the conflict to end.

Climate Crisis

COP28 is rapidly approaching (30 Nov – 12 Dec). In [Laudate Deum](#), Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act. Join other Christian groups in prayer and fasting on the 1st of each month <https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/> Use the prayer and intercessions from [CAFOD](#) including links to share the Pope's message with your MP.

And sign up to the daily reflections during COP28 at [Green Christian](#).



Care Home 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
- Wed 13th Dec 2-3pm Bracknell Care Home, Crowthorne Road, RG12 7DN
- Fri 15th Dec 11am-12 Edmonds Court, Sandy Lane, RG12 2HP

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

CAFOD Legacy Giving

One third of CAFOD's long-term support to help people out of poverty is funded by legacy gifts, aka gifts in Wills. Supporters who choose to pledge a gift in their Will to CAFOD tell them how much they appreciate this way of giving and know that they are making a huge difference to the world! To find out more, visit [Leave a charity gift in your will \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk).

Baptism Preparation Evening	Cuppa & A Chat	Children's Liturgy	Soup & Roll
11/01 7:30pm-9:15pm	Every Tuesday 2pm-3pm	10/12 8:30am and 10:30am Mass	08/12, 12/01, 09/02 after 12 noon mass
Complete a Baptism Enquiry Form if you haven't already! 			

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

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."

Pope Francis

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	2nd	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	3rd	8:30am	Mass	<i>Mikayla Shumba FHC</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Linda & Stephen Dawkins RIP</i>

Monday	4th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	5th	10am	Mass	
Wednesday	6th	NO MASS		

ST. AMBROSE, *Bishop, Doctor of the Church*

Thursday	7th	10am	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
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THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese

Friday	8th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12pm	Mass	<i>Pete Dossett RIP</i>
Saturday	9th	10am	<i>Sean McAuley RIP</i>	
		11am	Confessions	

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	9th	6pm	Mass	<i>Bertha Da Cunha RIP</i>
Sunday	10th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Barbara McAvoy 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