

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK - EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
LOOKING FOR THE ONE YOU DO NOT KNOW
Sunday 17th December 2023
Mass Book Page 87

One of the best ways to come to know Jesus, is through John, who is a prophet. If you are seriously looking for 'the One True Light', a full awareness of what is real and a genuine illumination into Sacred Things, there is only One who can do this, and His name is Jesus. John, the one who isn't the true light who enlightens everything, cannot produce that much wattage. Even though Jesus called him 'a burning and shining lamp', His greater light makes John a mere reflection - like us. One who prepares others to meet Him.



John is sent by God, but those who have come to interrogate him are from the authorities in Jerusalem. They want to know who he is, but all John will tell them is who he is not. Irrked, they offer to help by supplying identities, but John refuses them. They cannot return to Jerusalem empty handed or with a list of what John is not, so they almost plead for an answer. John answers by hinting again that they are looking in the wrong place. Now, these have been sent by the Pharisees, so they have one last pop at the question. They are curious about John's activity of baptising. That would be okay if he were a prophet or a messiah. But even here, John sidesteps them. If they want to know who he is they will only find the answer in the one who is coming, who stands amongst them unknown. The interview is over. They need to start looking in the right place.

Here is a great little story which explores this theme. The theme is clear. In the woods surrounding a monastery, a rabbi lived in a small hut. Sometimes, the monks would see the rabbi walking in the woods and would wonder why he was there.

The Abbot was very distressed as the monastery was in terminal decline. He has prayed and pondered over the situation. He had admonished the mood and behaviour of the monks. All to no avail. One day he saw the rabbi walking in the woods and decided to ask his advice. He walked up behind the rabbi. The rabbi turned, and when the abbot and the rabbi looked into each other's eyes, they began to weep. The sorrow of the situation affected them both deeply. The Abbot knew he did not have to explain the decline of the monastery. He just asked, "Can you give me some wise words to help our community thrive again?" The rabbi said, "One of you is the messiah". Then he turned and continued to walk in the woods. The Abbot returned to the monastery and the monks asked him, "What did the rabbi say?"

"One of us is the Messiah," the Abbot said the words slowly, almost in disbelief. The monks began talking to one another. "One of us? Which one? Is it brother John? Or perhaps brother Andrew? Could it even be the Abbot? From that day, things started changing at the monastery. The monks began to look for the Messiah in each other and to listen to each other for the Messiahs voice. Soon, new younger monks joined them, and people started coming back to the monastery for spiritual leadership. In 'The Gift' Poems by the Great Sufi Master', the poet Hafiz wrote on the same theme- **How Do I Listen to Others?**

*As if everyone were my Teacher.
Speaking to me
Their
Cherished
Last
Words.*





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



GIVE Campaign Update #003



It took a little while to get going, but the campaign is starting to build up steam. Please get involved if you haven't already, as a small contribution can make a big difference.

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

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

THANK YOU!

Next Sunday, the Church moves into the special period of 'late Advent' that runs from 17th to 24th December, when the Liturgy and our thoughts and prayers are focused on the coming feast of Christ's Incarnation at Christmas. Now is the time to put up the tree and all the decorations! It is a time especially to be close to the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, asking their prayers. May I suggest that during these days we say The Angelus, at 9 am, 12 noon and 3 pm, offering those prayers for peace in our world, especially in the Holy Land and in Ukraine.

Father Danny Ruby Jubilee

Father Danny received a shout-out in the Diocesan Newsletter and acknowledgement from the Bishop this week, as he is celebrating his Ruby Jubilee this year for 40 years of service. What an impressive achievement! We hope and pray he is a faithful servant of this Parish for many more years to come.



Christmas Eve Children's Mass

All children attending this mass at 5pm are invited to wear a shepherd's head dress or an angel's head dress for the service. You can also bring a cuddly animal if you want to!



First Holy Communion Books

If anyone has books about First Holy Communion from when their child undertook the Sacrament, the First Holy Communion team would appreciate donations to aid the upcoming cohorts in their religious journey.

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.



New Choir and Music Group Members

If you play/are interested in playing an instrument, or your voice is your instrument, please reach out to John Weeks on 01344 451373, who will be able to put your talent to good use.

Saturday Vigil Tea and Coffee Trial

There will be a trial of teas and coffees after the 6pm Mass starting on Saturday January 6th. The next one will be January 13th, beginning at 7pm. Please support this opportunity to meet and chat with other parishioners.

Baptism Preparation Evening

11/01 7:30pm–9:15pm

Complete a Baptism Enquiry Form if you haven't already!



Cuppa & A Chat

Cancelled Until the New Year



Children's Liturgy

New Dates Pending



Soup & Roll

12/01, 09/02, 08/03, 12/04
after 12 noon mass



Amanda Killestein	Ann D'Ambrosio	Ann Lynch	Ann O'Sullivan	Anne Hardy
Arthur Hardy	Audrey Lam	Bernard O'Neill	Beryl Pilgrim	Blanche Shap
Brenda Lynch	Bridget Riordan	Charles Hose	Claire Hose	Clarita Kokou-Tchri
Dorcas Innes-Grant	Doreen Pryor	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Eddie & Flo Moore	Edmund & Kate Carroll
Ethna Sweeney	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jerry & Susan Tobin	John Moir
Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligo	Margaret Finnieston	Margaret Pearce
Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan	Maureen Baxter
Patricia Holmwood	Phyllis Lewis	Prim & Ian Maynard	Rico Morales	Sally Torode
Sharon Bryan	Terri Landmann	Terry and Peggy McCullough	Thelma Briggs	Tony Andrews
Ursula Docherty	Vilma Taborda	Vivienne Halfpenny	Zac Hoy	

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

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

*May the year 2024 mark a breakthrough with the climate. I like to think that a good omen can be found in an event that took place in 1224. In that year, Francis of Assisi composed his "Canticle of the Creatures". By then Francis was completely blind, and after a night of physical suffering, his spirits were elevated by a mystical experience. He then turned to praise the Most High for all those creatures that he could no longer see, but knew that they were his brothers and sisters, since they came forth from the same Father and were shared with other men and women. An inspired sense of fraternity thus led him to turn his pain into praise and his weariness into renewed commitment. Shortly thereafter, Francis added a stanza in which he praised God for those who forgive; he did this in order to settle – successfully – an unbecoming conflict between the civil authorities and the local bishop. I too, who bear the name Francis, with the heartfelt urgency of a prayer, want to leave you with this message: **Let us leave behind our divisions and unite our forces! And with God's help, let us emerge from the dark night of wars and environmental devastation in order to turn our common future into the dawn of a new and radiant day. Thank you.***

- 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	16th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	17th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Daniel Bagayas FHC</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Sheila Van de Vyver RIP</i>
Monday	18th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	19th	10am	Mass	<i>Ena Stanton RIP</i>
Wednesday	20th	10am	Mass	<i>Doreen Pryor (101st birthday)</i>
Thursday	21st	10am	Mass	<i>Mr Saunders RIP</i>
Friday	22nd	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12pm	Mass	<i>Marie-Danielle Tichbon RIP</i>
Saturday	23rd	10am	Mass	<i>John Baptist Robertson RIP</i>
NO CONFESSIONS ALL DAY				

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, solemnity with octave

Saturday	23rd	6pm	Mass	<i>Ann, Kim & Denis Crampsie RIP</i>
Sunday	24th	8:30am	Mass	
		10:30am	Mass	
		5pm	Mass	Children's Mass
		8pm	Mass	Vigil Mass

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://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