

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK - EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B
MAKING THE DARKNESS VISIBLE

Sunday 1st September 2024

Mass Book Page 126

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The heartbeat, the core of the 'Great Charter for Justice' (sometimes called the 10 commandments) is a Command to Love God, and a Command to Love our neighbour as ourselves. Each generation adapts the charter to meet the new situation. In theory, they might add something new, but they must never do it in such a way that it causes heart failure. In reality, new traditions take on a power of their own. The distinction between the heart and the edge becomes unclear. What was once a matter of the heart can become an obsession with externals.

The problem is that the heart is on the inside. It cannot be measured directly. External behaviours are on the outside and can be, or so it seems, be more easily measured. Clean hands, pots and pans can be scrutinised. But the heart may not be available for inspection. Therefore, the guardians of the 'tradition' are prone to policing externals. They ask trivial questions and forget to ask the important one. They can no longer distinguish God's Command from human custom.

But the Beloved Son of God lives out of the Heart, the Centre. He confronts their hypocrisy. He confronts their refusal to hold the inner love of God and neighbour and the outer ways this can be embodied as one dance.



These guardians of the law, the Scribes and the Pharisees, are concerned with ritual defilement, about putting something 'unclean' inside yourself. They move from the outside in, and fret about contamination. With this in mind, all of their energy is focused on the outside world and whatever might make someone unclean.

But Jesus, like all good spiritual teachers, is more concerned about moral defilement, and the havoc it unleashes in the world. This happens in exactly the opposite way. It begins and grows in the human heart, in the cultivation of evil thoughts and intentions. People are destructive from the inside out if their hearts are fixated on fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, slander, envy. Discover what is driving these things and you may know how to make Peace.

But this is the problem. We can agree with Jesus that the heart is a strange landscape, but the reason why we do certain things may not be clear to us. This is why we need to know ourselves well. This is why we need to come regularly to confession. This is why we need the gift of a friend who challenges our worst behaviours and tells us the truth about ourselves. As we become more aware of what drives us we have better choice in whether to go with it or not. If we surround ourselves with 'flunkies' who only tell us what we want to hear, we might never grow in wisdom or understanding. Worst still, we might be destroying love and not know how to reverse the trend.

Over the course of my life, I have been invited by certain events and challenged by friends to take a good hard look on the 'inside'. I do not find this kind of inner scrutiny easy or enjoyable. Knowing my hidden self doesn't always match the scrubbed up persona I like to present to the world. Lifting the veil and humbly acknowledging who I really am is not an activity most are willing to do. But when I have found the courage to shine a light into my darkness there has always been a payoff. I find I can be a better person. Perhaps this is what Carl Jung meant when he said that we grow up, not by entertaining figures of light, but by making our darkness visible.



## GIVE Campaign Update #036



Our current parish group outing is happening in the coming weeks for some of our older parishioners:

**01/09:** 2.30pm - South Hill Park Cinema. Andre Rieu Concert (filmed in Maastricht). Cost: £19

**23/09:** 7.45pm - Music of the Night: A celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber music by the Crowthorne Musical Players. Cost: £17 Adult/ £15 for 65+.

If any of these events appeal to you, please put your name down on the lists in the hall entrance, or let the office know you're interested!

### \*A Note for Parents & Guardians\*

We kindly ask parents & guardians to accompany their children to the toilet during Mass. While our church is a welcoming space, please be aware that the entrances to the hall are accessible to the public, and we are unable to provide full supervision of these areas. Your attentiveness helps ensure a safe environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### Blessing of the Graves

On **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September** at Easthampstead Park Cemetary, there will be a Blessing of the Graves ceremony, beginning at 1pm just inside the entrance, on the right hand side on the grass. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Seeking Male Vocalists To Join Our Church Choir

Do you have a passion for singing and a heart for worship? All are welcome, however, our church choir is looking for dedicated male vocalists to join our congregation in song. Please speak to John Weeks for more information. We look forward to hearing your voice and welcoming you to our choir family!



### Parish Prayer Group

Prayer meetings held in our Parish Hall, on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays** of the **month**, from 7.30-8.30pm, and the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, from 10.45-11.45am. The next meeting is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Please do join us, everyone is welcome.



### Youth Group

**Monday 9th September** - YouthArise - WHAT MOTIVATES YOU!

Board Games night: 7:00-8:30pm

All youth from 12 years old up are welcome

RSVP to [YouthArise@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:YouthArise@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) for catering purposes



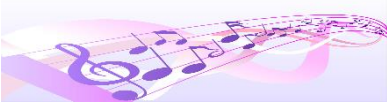


## Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass

The diocese is holding a significant wedding celebration event on the **Saturday 7th September** in Basingstoke. To obtain an application form, email the diocese at [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk), or contact the office

## Couple Counselling

If you are experiencing any difficulties in your relationship with your spouse/partner, we have collaborated with a local relationship counsellor based in the Bracknell area who will be able to assist you. For more information please visit <http://www.marriagecare.org.uk> or call 0800 389 3801. Your call is confidential.

## Parish Events:

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                     |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Care Home Singing</b></p> <p>New Dates Coming Soon</p>  | <p><b>Cuppa &amp; Chat, 60+</b></p> <p>Every Tuesday from 03/09</p> | <p><b>Children's Liturgy</b></p> <p>New Dates Coming Soon</p> | <p><b>Soup &amp; Roll</b></p> <p>13/09<br/>Every second Friday of the month</p>  | <p><b>Parish Prayer Group</b></p> <p>03/09, 7:30-8:30pm,<br/>04/09, 10:45-11:45am,<br/>Church Hall</p>  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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

|                    |                           |                 |                     |                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 | Douglas & Bernadette Hunt | Dymphna Slade   | Eddie & Flo Moore   | Edmund & Kate Carroll |
| Leonie Macintosh   | Inge Walker               | Janet Read      | Jerry & Susan Tobin | John Moir             |
| Mary King          | Louis Burgisser           | Lucia Saligo    | Margaret Finnieston | Marie Swash           |
| Maureen Baxter     | Mary Murray               | Mary Phelan     | Mary Stocking       | Eamon McNeill         |
|                    | Patricia Holmwood         | Paula Sandford  | Phyllis Lewis       | Rico Morales          |
| Sally Torode       | Terry & Peggy McCullough  |                 | Tony Andrews        | Ursula Docherty       |
| Vilma Taborda      | Terri & Andy Landmann     |                 |                     |                       |
|                    | Vivienne Halfpenny        |                 |                     |                       |

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

### MASS TIMES

#### TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### OUR LADY on SATURDAY

|          |      |         |             |
|----------|------|---------|-------------|
| Saturday | 31st | 10:00am | Mass        |
|          |      | 11:00am | Confessions |

#### TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

|                                                                |          |                |                                            |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Saturday                                                       | 31st     | 6:00pm         | Mass                                       | Parish Intentions                |
| Sunday                                                         | 1st Sept | 8:30am         | Mass                                       |                                  |
|                                                                |          | 10:30am        | Mass                                       |                                  |
| Monday                                                         | 2nd      | <b>NO MASS</b> |                                            |                                  |
| <b>ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope, Doctor of the Church, feast</b> |          |                |                                            |                                  |
| Tuesday                                                        | 3rd      | 10:00am        | Mass                                       | <i>RIP: Gregory James Arthur</i> |
| <b>ST CUTHBERT, BISHOP, memorial</b>                           |          |                |                                            |                                  |
| Wednesday                                                      | 4th      | 10:00am        | Mass                                       | Holy Souls in Purgatory          |
| Thursday                                                       | 5th      | 10:00am        | Mass                                       |                                  |
| Friday                                                         | 6th      | 11:00am        | <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> |                                  |
|                                                                |          | 12:00am        | Mass                                       |                                  |
| Saturday                                                       | 31st     | 10:00am        | Mass                                       |                                  |
|                                                                |          | 11:00am        | Confessions                                |                                  |

**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>

#### **Pastoral Care 01344 425729**

[office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto: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.

#### **Bereavement Support**

**07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987**

[bereavement@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:bereavement@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.

#### **SVP 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/give/>  
**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**

**JOBS AVAILABLE IN THE DIOCESE:** <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

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