

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK - EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B
FREEDOM FROM A LIFE OF FANTASY

Sunday 15th September 2024

Mass Book Page 132

The question, 'Who is Jesus?' will be asked sooner or later. His closest disciples talked about this when they were alone. But now it is Jesus who asks the question. The people place Him within the prophetic tradition. Some identify Him as having the Spirit of Elijah and of John the Baptist. This means He is the one who is ushering in the Messianic Age. But does Jesus fit this picture? Peter is the one who calls Him Messiah. Peter has the right word, but he doesn't have the right meaning.

The Messiah is the Son of Man. The Son of Man is one who lives in solidarity with God and Creation. This is certainly Jesus Himself, but it is also true of His disciples. They are the new humanity that His teaching will bring to birth. The new humanity, however, will not be welcomed by the religious and political elite. They will be rejected. They will suffer for it and be killed. But their efforts will not be in vain. The Father's energy (three days) will resurrect it.

Peter is not happy with what Jesus is saying. He obviously has something different in mind when he uses the word Messiah. Although he is only a disciple, he rebukes Jesus, reversing their roles. But Jesus pulls him to a deeper understanding. One rebuke deserves another. Jesus reasserts His role and commands Peter to get back in line and follow Him. If he rejects Jesus teaching on the role and destiny of the Son of Man, Peter will join the ranks of those who wish to subvert God's plan.

David Rhoads contrasts the 'things of God' with the 'things of humans'. The Things of God are faith, courage, losing one's life for the sake of the Gospel, being least, being servant and doing good. The Things of humans are lack of faith, fear, saving one's life, being great, lording it over others and doing harm. (Reading Mark: Engaging the Gospel. p.88). It is time to be clear about what discipleship is all about. It is not about the chronic concern to save and enhance our lives at the expense of others. The larger, more valuable life flows from God's love and follows the impulses of that love. Instead of wanting to become great, we become small. Instead of wanting to have power over others, we grow in service. This way of thinking is deeply troubling to the rich and powerful who will not just look the other way. They will want to make us suffer but we must accept this as the price of loving in a loveless world. This is the way of heaven.

Will Jesus' straight talking dislodge one of our favourite fantasies?

We are little people. Even if we have status it is never high enough. Even if we have money, we are never wealthy enough. Even if we command respect, there will always be someone who demeans us. We long to be important and we eagerly promote ourselves as much as we protect ourselves. We sense the utter fragility of our lives. A fall from the little Grace we have, haunts us. We fear becoming sick, and old, and dying. So, we fantasise. We become Tevye from 'Fiddler on the Roof' and sing of the days when we will have enough! We can even spin this fantasy into scenarios of revenge. We imagine ourselves being 'in charge', making decisions that impact thousands who offer us due adulation. We may be little in reality but in our dreams, we are large.

Some Messiahs will feed this fantasy, and, for a short while it looked as if Jesus would do the same. But perhaps the real reason He came was to free us from our fantasy. The Son of Man walks a different pathway and commands all who follow Him to do the same. He chooses a life of trusting in God and of service to others. He does not harm anyone to secure His own status or His own life. In fact, saving Himself is the last thing on His mind. And that is why He will not sanction our chronic concern with our own status and position. That is why He will not permit us to look the other way while others suffer so we can have a better life. In short, the True Messiah is revealed in the precise moment that He will not give us what we want.

We pray for the repose of the soul Rita Angela Woolley who passed away recently. The funeral for Rita will be held on the 25th September at 2pm, at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Blessing of the Graves

On Saturday 21st 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.



Car Park

We're going paperless! To **renew** your permit, please scan the QR code on the right with your camera, or visit this link: <https://forms.gle/wgAcBdBN8U2s6d8r7>. If you need assistance, please visit Donna or myself in the office. We will open this up to new car park applications in the coming weeks.



Confirmation Programme 2024/25

The application process for the Sacrament of Confirmation is now open. Any young person in year 9 and above, between the ages of 14 and 18, in the current school year are eligible.

We are requesting any person who wishes to know more to apply using the following process. Firstly the family must be registered on Church Suite, this is relatively easy. Use the following link (this can also be found on the parish website, front page at the bottom - Parish Registration)

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

Once registered, e-mail Deacon Aidan (alynch@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) and the form will be sent for you to complete.

Anyone interested should return the form by the 27th September. There will be an introductory 'come and see' session at 7:30pm on 24th October in the church hall.

Baptism Preparation Evening

If you are planning to have your child baptised soon, please book onto the next baptism preparation evening on September 19th at 7:30pm. Please note that the session after won't be until January, and baptism can only occur once you have attended this evening. Please click on the link below to book your place.

<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/events/x6g3jyjr>

RCIA Sessions

Are you someone, or do you know someone who:

Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Was baptised Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Is a practicing Catholic who now wants to explore their faith further?

Our RCIA group (**R**ite of **C**hristian **I**nitiation of **A**dults), meets every Wednesday from 7:30pm-9pm and offers an opportunity to come together for Scripture study, church teaching and faith sharing. If this is something that you feel drawn to we would love you to join us with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a friendly and accepting setting. For more information, please email Mary at rcia@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or just come along to the hall on Wednesday evening at 7:30pm!

Josephina's 70th Birthday Celebration

Josephina warmly invites you all to her 70th birthday social after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday the 6th October, finishing at 1pm. There will be a photographer/videographer in attendance, so if you attend the event your consent for being filmed is assumed. There will be a birthday cake amongst other refreshments; we look forward to seeing you there!



CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal – Harvest (Friday 4th October)

Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of the Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.



Prayer Group- "How Can We Grow in the Spirit?"

On 17th September at 7:30pm, Fr Danny will be giving a talk on how we can further grow in the Spirit of Christ. Everybody is encouraged to come along to the church hall!

Safeguarding Notices

We kindly ask parents and guardians to consider accompanying 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.

For anyone who has just completed the DBS process or thinking about completing a DBS for either a child or vulnerable adult ministry, or who is due to renew their safeguarding training: There will be Vulnerable adult safeguarding training 10.30am - 1.30pm, and children safeguarding training 1.45pm - 4.45pm, on Saturday 28th Sept. Please text safeguarding, or e-mail if you are going to attend to enable us to be aware of numbers wishing to attend.

Mobile no.: 07712048695. E-mail : safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.

Hope to see you there!

Parish Events:

Care Home Singing

September 2024

- 16th 1:45-3pm, Bickerton House, RG12 2JB 🎵
- 20th 1:45-3pm, Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN 🎵
- 25th 1:45-3pm Clement House, RG12 2GH 🎵
- 30th 1:45-3pm Bickerton House, RG12 2JB 🎵

Cuppa & Chat, 60+

Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm

Children's Liturgy

15/09, 29/09, 13/10, 27/10, 03/11, 17/11, 01/12, 15/12

Please pre-book

Soup & Roll

The team are having time off-back 11/10

Parish Prayer Group

17/09, 7:30-8:30pm, 18/09, 10:45-11:45am, Church Hall



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
	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jerry & Susan Tobin	John Moir
Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligoi	Margaret Finnieston	
Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan	Eamon McNeill
Maureen Baxter	Patricia Holmwood	Paula Sandford	Phyllis Lewis	Rico Morales
Sally Torode	Terri & Andy Landmann	Terry & Peggy McCullough	Tony Andrews	Ursula Docherty
Vilma Taborda	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

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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	14th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	15th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Pamela Savage RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	

Ss Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs, memorial

Monday	16th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	17th	10am	Mass	<i>Camelia-Adela Harrison</i>
Wednesday	18th	10am	Mass	
Thursday	19th	9am	Mass	John O'Sullivan RIP

St Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, St Paul Chong Hasang & Companions, Martyrs

Friday	20th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Camelia-Adela Harrison</i>

ST MATTHEW, Apostle, Evangelist, feast

Saturday	21st	10am	Mass	<i>Holy Souls in Purgatory</i>
		11am	Confessions	

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	21st	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	22nd	8:30am	Mass	<i>John Collins RIP</i>
		10:30am	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>

Pastoral Care 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.

Bereavement Support

07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987

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: 119956