

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK - EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B
A CHURCH FOR THE POOR – A CHURCH OF THE POOR

Sunday 22nd September 2024

Mass Book Page 135

Jesus, the Beloved Son of God, does not seek fame and recognition. He does not want to be the centre of attention. As he travels with His disciples He wants to avoid notice. This is especially true when He is teaching His disciples about the fate of the new humanity. It is a difficult teaching. His disciples are puzzled by it. But it is blunt enough: the Son of Man is guided by the hand of God, but He will be killed by human hands. They hear the words, but can the disciples understand what He is saying? Their minds and hearts are still bound to the 'Things of the Human' and not the 'Things of God'. They want to avoid suffering and pursue high status. As they are so deeply self-centred, they are naturally afraid of losing. They are so afraid, they won't even ask Jesus to expand on His theme. Instead....

On the way, they were having an argument - the same old one that is around today. Who is the greatest? Jesus, the Teacher, sits down and gathers the Twelve, who will guide the new humanity (notice there were others there too, since a child is at hand as a prop). For Jesus, the Great are those who engage and work with the Fathers Love. These are not interested in their own status. Rather, the new humanity goes out to meet all and to lift their basic humanity to a new level. And so, those who would be first do not seek their own glory, but the health and wellbeing (salvation) of others. How it is with God, who is the first and the greatest, should be how it is with all who seek to be the first and the greatest.

We have to be careful here that our all too human mindset does not doctor the teaching of Jesus to make it fit our own purposes. We might tell ourselves that we have to endure a period of doing 'lowly stuff' in order to get to the higher stuff. If being a servant is the quickest route to being the greatest, then we will be servants! But all the while we will be thinking that we are-in reality- better than everyone else. It's hard for disciples to let Jesus break open the meaning of 'first' and 'greatest' and fill it with a new meaning. They sidestep Him and renegotiate the terms. Consider Luke's ironic suggestion, 'When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. That they cannot repay you means you are blessed, and you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous'.(Lk 14:13-14).

Jesus places a child in the heart of them. The child is a tragic and eternal symbol of the powerlessness which many will seek to exploit. Jesus, in setting the child before them as their spiritual director, commands a mystical transformation to the mindset of his disciples. It goes something like this....

When we begin with the least we subvert the normal ranks of society. Those at the top - the rich - are refusing invitations because they receive too many. Those at the bottom are excluded. At first glance, it seems they have nothing to offer. But, when we say that the path to the Fathers heart goes through the welcome we offer to those whom no one else will invite, we undercut the world and turn everything on its head.

Furthermore, the word least has another meaning. In this meaning it can be applied to the socially least and the socially most. Dag Hammarskjold once said, " People comment of Jesus' lack of moral principles. He sat at table with publicans and sinners and consorted with harlots. Did He do this to obtain their votes? Or did He think that, perhaps, He could convert them by such appeasement? Or was His humanity rich and deep enough, to make contact, even in them, with what in human nature is common to all people, indestructible beauty, and upon which the future has to be built?" (Markings, p.157).

Here is the great breakthrough. The naked face of our shared humanity reveals the face of God to all. This is what is most beautiful and most valuable. It is the greatest and the first precisely because it is the least. When we make ourselves the servants of this last, welcoming what is common to all and excluding none of it, we find ourselves strangely in pole position.





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.



GIVE Campaign Update #039



-We are in need of a supporting Sacristan on Tuesdays at the 10am Mass. If you're free on a Tuesday morning, we'd really appreciate your help!

-St. Joseph's school are looking for 3 foundation governors; one specialised in numeracy, one in GDPR, and one general governor. If you fit any of these descriptions, please reach out- the fate of young children depends on it!

-We would like to thank all the people who have come forward to help with Children's liturgy, but we **still need leaders for the 10.30am Mass**, as we do not have any at the present time.

-The safeguarding session that was supposed to run on the 28th September has been **cancelled** due to a lack of attendees. It will be re-scheduled for a later date.

We have some new parish excursions happening for some of our older parishioners:

06/11: 7.00pm - Joseph & His Technicolour Dreamcoat. Performed by EBOS. Cost: £24.50

08/12: 3.00pm - Cineworld Bracknell. Andre Rieu's Christmas Concert. Cost: £13.45/14.45.

03/01: South Hill Park – Robin Hood & The Magic Arrow. Pantomime for adults. Cost: £26.50.

If any of these events appeal to you, please put your name down on the lists in the hall/entrance!

Car Park – 2 Weeks Left

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)

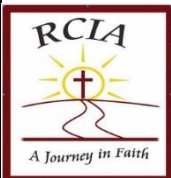
<https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-life/parish-registration/>

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.

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!



Autumn Clothes Bank

There will be an Autumn Clothes Bank Giveaway on Tuesday 8th October, 10.15am-1pm, at St Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH. Please contact the office if you'd like a voucher, and if you need free transport from Bracknell train station.

Called and Gifted Teaching Day

To begin to discover *how* Christ calls and equips you for a unique work of love only you can do, the Called & Gifted (C&G) teaching team will be at Corpus Christi Church, Wokingham on Saturday, 19th October 2024, 8:30am - 4:30pm. Please contact the office for more information.

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.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Care Home Singing 🎵	25/09/2024, 1:45pm-3pm	Clement House, RG12 2GH
Care Home Singing 🎵	25/09/2024, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕	Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧 👦	15/09, 29/09, 13/10, 27/10, 03/11, 17/11, 01/12, 15/12	Church Hall
Soup & Roll 🍲	11/10, 8/11	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	24/09, 7:30pm-8:30pm	Church Hall
RCIA 📖	Every Wednesday, 7:30pm-9pm	Church Hall
Church Concert (John Weeks + Guests) 🎵	05/10/2024, 7:30pm-Late	Church Hall
Josephina's 70th Party 🎉	06/10/2024, 11:15am-1pm	Church Hall
Called and Gifted Teaching Day 🙏	19/10/2024, 8:30am-4:30pm	Corpus Christi Wokingham

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	Joe Rice
John Moir	Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligo	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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

ST PIO OF PIETRELCINA, Religious, memorial

Monday 23rd **NO MASS**

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM, feast

Tuesday 24th 10am Mass

Wednesday 25th 10am Mass *Marie Danielle & Marie Claire RIP*

Thursday 26th 9am Mass

ST VINCENT DE PAUL, Founder, memorial

Friday 27th 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12 noon Mass *Allan James RIP*

Saturday 28th 10am Mass
11am Confessions

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	28th	6pm	Mass	
Sunday	29th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>CDR Camba</i> <i>(Thanksgiving Mass)</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>

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