

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK - EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B
BUT IF SALT BECOMES TASTELESS...

Sunday 29th September 2024

Mass Book Page 138

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Salt is a symbol of the highest value. It is a treasure of incalculable worth, so excellent that, if its flavour is lost, nothing higher can restore it. In the Gospel, 'Salt' is the symbol for the works of Peace. Jesus final exhortation for those who desire to be great is, 'Have salt in yourself and be at peace with one another'. (v.50)

Jesus, the Teacher, has told His disciples that their desire to be 'great' will sabotage the work of the Kingdom. But they have not understood, or integrated, this teaching. In their defence, this is not an easy thing to do. Now they are reacting to an exorcist who does not belong to their inner circle. He is immediately seen as a threat. They guard their turf against anyone who might steal their sense of self-importance. They are so competitive; they do not even see the ones who have been liberated. The fact that a sister, or a brother, has been freed does not enter their minds. They have become, in their own minds, a tight knit power group. When good is being done, and they do not benefit, they want to stop it.

The fact that they 'tried' to stop it may indicate that they failed. Now they want Jesus to intervene. But Jesus, as usual, has a different vision of what is happening. His heart is set first on the coming of the Kingdom. Anyone who is helping that happen is a welcome guest. They are part of the family because they are doing the Fathers will. He urges His disciples to be more generous. All are for them, unless they prove otherwise. Until people exhibit hostility and hold values that go counter to the new humanity, they should be welcomed as allies. Disciples must not exclude anyone.

'Servants of the Kingdom' includes those who offer welcome, hospitality and who perform small acts of kindness. They should not be overlooked. Those who want to "Lord it" over others sabotage the Kingdom and might make those who do the little things question if what they do has any value. For Jesus, the little ones will not lose their reward. Their welcome, their hospitality, their kindness stand shoulder to shoulder with the great acts of teaching, preaching and exorcising.

The best way for disciples to avoid causing hurt or scandal is to eliminate the causes in themselves. The drive to be great, to save our self, to have power over others or to harm others in order to save ourselves are the ways of the world. They are second nature. They are like a hand, an eye or a foot. If disciples choose to serve, to losing their lives for the sake of the Kingdom, being least of all and servant of all and not harming others, there must be clarity about what is at stake and a commitment to whatever surgery is needed to remain faithful. When disciples amputate from their hearts whatever is preventing them from entering life, the fire of damnation becomes a purifying fire. The emphasis here is clearly on what is kept and not on what is lost.

The desire to be great is in us all. We weigh everything, and probably everyone, in terms of whether they promote or diminish us. The craving to be promoted and not diminished might drive and steer the course of our day to day lives! We see examples of this all around us. Hierarchies are everywhere and become the benchmark of how we are doing. So how can Jesus command us to make ourselves last of all? He can't. He has to add one last piece to the jigsaw if disciples are not to become resenting servants. Disciples must come to understand why Service is the only true greatness.

Sam Keen (*To a Dancing God* [New York: Harper & Row, 1970]17), was asking the question, 'What can I do to give my life meaning, dignity, density?' In response he wrote, "The answer came suddenly jumping up and down in my mind with the force of an obvious fact long denied. I woke one night in Manhattan with the words, 'Nothing, Nothing,' on my lips. As I started to laugh at the comedy of my seriousness, my vertigo began to subside. I saw that I had been obsessed with the wrong question. In the face of uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, no human act or project could render existence meaningful or secure ... Either dignity and meaningfulness come with the territory, or they must forever be absent. Sanctity is given with being. It is not earned".

This is so true! And Jesus with absolute clarity teaches this. He asks us to imagine the worst possible thing that could happen to us. Then adds that it doesn't come close to the horror of extinguishing the light of love in another person's heart. The stakes are indeed very high. Very high indeed!



GIVE Campaign Update #040



-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.

-If anybody needs spare carpet, please contact the office.

-Denise Williams is looking for someone to help clean her house in Warfield. If you know of anyone that may be able to help her, please contact the office.

-SHARE is looking for more volunteers. If you're free on a Friday night or a Saturday morning and would like to help sustain those in need, please contact the office.

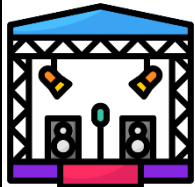
-We have some new parish excursions happening for some of our older parishioners:

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

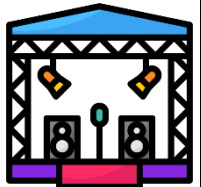
08/12: 3.00pm - Cineworld Bracknell. Andre Rieu's Christmas Concert. Cost: £13.45/14.45.

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!



John Weeks & Co. Concert Special!



On the Saturday 5th October, from 7:30pm, there will be a concert, art fair, and limerick competition taking place in the church/church hall!

John Weeks and guests will be performing, and there will be a mixture of music and poetry. The art exhibition in the hall will be showing fine

and interesting works. If you would like you add your own pieces to the exhibition, please bring them to church asap. As for the limerick competition, entries should be placed in the red box in the porch nearest the hall. Limericks can be in any language, but please write the English translation underneath it, and your name on the back. Any proceeds raised will go towards the running of the church.

Car Park – 1 WEEK 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 next week, so if you haven't renewed yet you risk missing out.



Confirmation Programme 2024/25

Applications for the Confirmation Programme **need** to be in before the 5th October. The introductory 'come and see' session will be at 7:30pm on 24th October in the church hall.



First Reconciliation and Holy Communion

To all parents and guardians - If you have a child aged between 8-11 years old as of 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025, attend Mass regularly and would like your child to make their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion please come along to an information evening at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th October in the Church Hall.

To register for this event, please use the link below.

<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/events/zxa4zj2z>

Parish Prayer Group

The next prayer meeting is on Tuesday 1st October at 7pm in the church hall, where Father Danny will be giving a talk. Everybody is welcome to come along!

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?
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕	Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧 👦	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 🙏	01/10, 7:00pm-8:00pm	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	Eamon McNeill	Eddie & Flo Moore
Edmund & Kate Carroll	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jerry & Susan Tobin	Joe Rice
Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligo	Margaret Finnieston	Marie Swash
Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan	Mary Stocking
Maureen Baxter	Patricia Holmwood	Paula Sandford	Phyllis Lewis	Rico Morales
Sally Torode	Terri 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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

ST JEROME, Priest, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*

Monday 30th **NO MASS**

ST TERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS, Religious, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*

Tuesday 1st 10am Mass *Camelia-Adela Harrison
(physical healing)*

THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, *memorial*

Wednesday 2nd **NO MASS**

Thursday 3rd 10am Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, Founder, *memorial*

Friday 4th 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12 noon Mass *Margaret Whitehead
(sick/housebound)*

Saturday 5th 10am Mass
11am Confessions

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 5th 6pm Mass *John Weeks & Guests*

Sunday 6th 8:30am Mass Parish Intentions
10:30am Mass *Josephina Joseph
(70th birthday)*

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