

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK - EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B
FACING THE TRUTH

Sunday 10th November 2024
Mass Book Page 154

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If we were to ask the Beloved Son of God what His message is, He might respond, "My message is the way I live". The thoughts of His heart and the words of His mouth are in complete harmony. This makes it easier for Jesus to spot those who are not yet integrated in this way. His teaching sometimes unmasks the discordant messages and behaviour of the religious elite, and, sadly, some of those who claim to be His disciples. These people might know the 'Shema Israel' back to front and they can recite it many times a day. But the teachings have not yet found their way into their hearts. The result - hypocrisy, pretence, duplicity and violence. They say one thing but they live another. Jesus is watching.

What He sees is that selfishness has taken priority over Love. What the scribes like about being a scribe is not the blessing and challenge of the Charter for Justice. They like the superficial externals; the best robes, the best seats, the best food, the best company. They gravitate towards anything that makes them the centre of the universe. Even when they pray it is an act. They never really, genuinely open their hearts to God.

This selfishness has pushed Love for others away too. In today's Gospel, the neighbour happens to be a widow whose meagre resources are plundered by scheming scribes. In every sense, the widow is a powerful symbol of everyone in our community who is vulnerable. The vulnerable have a very special place in God's Heart (Psalm 68,5). God also makes Justice for the 'widow' a condition for residing with His people (Jer 7,6). But the most vulnerable are also powerfully attractive to abusers. Could the scene be set that the widow has come in desperation to pray to God for help? And who is there to help her with her prayers but those who claim to know the ins and outs of divine favour. And, of course, there is a fee...

Everywhere in the Gospel Jesus champions human need over the hardened practices of the synagogues. Now He targets the Temple Treasury. When He sits opposite the treasury it becomes a symbol for all that He cannot bear about badly organised religion. The widow divests herself of all support. Her generosity plays into the devouring greed of the Temple. Those who are supposed to defend, shelter and protect her, leave her penniless. What is most frightening is that she cooperates with the exploitation - a condition often mentioned in literature on oppression. Jesus is watching and He has already warned, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority like to be called 'benefactor' ". (Lk,22). The oppressed often think that their oppressors are benefitting them! Is the house of God really benefitting the widow when her own house comes crashing down? Jesus called those who worked in the treasury a 'den of robbers'. Has this woman freely donated the last of her livelihood or has a subtle theft taken place? The widow might not know, but the Beloved Son of God, who is sensitive to all duplicity, has not missed it.

Jesus can spot a hypocrite very easily. The split between the inside (heart) and outside (lips=words) is a common ailment of people, especially religious people, who think they are better than everyone else. Also, it is assumed that they are aware of their condition and consciously embrace it. This makes them agents of the evil one. Only thoughtful and highly integrated people notice the gap between what is preached and what is practiced. It is difficult to see the exploitation of the widow as she stands against the huge backdrop of Temple theology and policy. Donating to the Temple is a sign of one's sincerity and commitment. To give to the House of God is to give to God. However, the overriding concern of God is for the poor and the most vulnerable. This revelation preceded the Temple and was one of the driving forces of the Exodus from Egypt. No religious policy should create a situation where the vulnerable become even more vulnerable.

The house of the Father of orphans and widows (Ps 68,5) does not devour the houses of widows. The teaching of Jesus exposes the truth. I wonder what kind of response He will get!



GIVE Campaign Update #046



GIVE A GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS, and help us share the Christmas Message

We would like to invite our wonderful parish community to consider donating a Christmas gift for those around us who are most in need.

In the past, you have responded with overwhelming generosity to this appeal and, as a result, we have distributed Christmas gifts to the Berkshire Women's Aid Refuges, Bracknell LIFE House, local Care Homes and many needy families in the local community. This year, once again, we would like to distribute your gifts to these places and to those who are housebound. You can choose to give from any or all the following options:

- a) Give a gift for a mother or child at the Berkshire Women's Aid Refuge or Bracknell LIFE House.** If you would like to do this, then please contact the Pastoral Care team for details of children's ages, either by email: pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org
- b) Give a gift of sweet treats** e.g. for adults - boxed sweet biscuits or confectionery; for children - boxes or stockings of confectionery.
- c) Give a gift of toiletry treats** e.g. boxed gift sets for women, men or children.

We can only accept the gift items specified above and these must be new, unused and, if edible, unopened and well within their sell by dates.

Please bring your donated items to St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Parish Hall after mass on Saturday 23rd November / Saturday 30th November / Saturday 7th December or between 9.30am - 12.00pm on Sunday 24th November / Sunday 1st December or Sunday December 8th.

Thank you for your generosity!

Supporting sacristans needed for the Sunday 8:30am Mass. Full training provided, thank you for your continued support.

Children's Liturgy Thank you for our new helpers, however we are still in need for someone to **lead** our **10:30** Children's Liturgy Masses. Full training will be provided and support is always available!

Parish excursions for older parishioners:

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

For those interested in obtaining a car park permit and haven't had one previously, please scan the QR code or go to this link:

<https://forms.gle/tW1vdC5kwNYEQQ2X6> First come first serve until spaces fill up.

On another note, due to people parking in Service Yard D after being not told not to, all parking privileges have been revoked, even at Christmas and Easter. Please don't park there, or you will be **FINED**.

Finally, for anybody who has received a free parking permit, we regret to inform you that the permit has to be revoked/paid for. The only people eligible for free parking are those with blue badges.

Sorry for any inconvenience caused.



Youth Group

New youth group meetings are scheduled!

Monday 11th November, 7pm - 8pm

Monday 9th December, 7pm - 8pm

We look forward to seeing all the youth here in the church hall for a night of fun and relaxation!



Pastoral Letter from the Bishop

The Bishop has released a pastoral letter titled 'Thou Shalt Not Kill'. Please read it here for yourselves and try to fathom what disastrous consequences this could have for our country: [BoP-PL39-301024-Assisted-Suicide.pdf](#)

ONE MONTH TO STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE!

The most vulnerable in our society are at risk. MPs will vote on whether to introduce an extreme assisted suicide law on 29th November. To protect the vulnerable from this radical law change, contact your MP and ask them to vote NO. Contact your MP on www.righttolife.org.uk/mpcontactnow

General Notices

Please clean up after yourselves, whether in the kitchen, toilets, or elsewhere. This is a shared space and should be treated with respect. Thank you.

Please don't continuously spam call the office if your call isn't immediately picked up. We're busy with someone/something else and will get back to you if you leave a voicemail. Thank you.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	13/11, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	18/11, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	27/11, 2pm-3:15pm	Astbury Manor, RG12 7AU
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	12/11, 19/11, 26/11	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👶 👶	17/11, 01/12, 15/12	Church Hall
Soup & Roll ☺	13/12 (every second Friday of the month)	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	19/11, 7:00pm-8:00pm	Church Hall
RCIA 📖	Every Wednesday, 7:30pm-9pm	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	Angela Dossett	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	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan	Mary Stocking
Maureen Baxter	Maureen Taylor	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 MARGRET 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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	9 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Stephen & Richard McCann, Arlette Ryan RIP</i>
Sunday	10 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Mary, Stephen, Tony, Danny, & John (The Griffin Family) RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	Remembrance Sunday: For all those killed in conflict around the world

St Martin of Tours, Religious, Bishop, memorial

Monday 11th NO MASS

St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr, memorial

Tuesday 12th 10am Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Wednesday 13th 10am Mass *Maria, Felix & Gaudioso Villahermosa RIP*

Blessed Hugh Cook Faringdon, Abbot, John Eynon & John Ruge, Priests, Martyrs, feast, memorial

Thursday 14th 10am Mass *Anthony Nunes RIP*

Friday 15th 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12 noon Mass *Valda Haupt RIP*

ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, Bishop, Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese, solemnity (not a HDoO)

Saturday 16th 10am Mass
11am Confessions

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 16th 6pm Mass *Colin Collier RIP*

Sunday 17th 8:30am Mass Parish Intentions

10:30am Mass *Bridget Reardon RIP*

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