

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GROWING IN TRUST**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

New Missal Page 33

With grateful hearts we say goodbye to St. Mark and his wonderful Gospel. Over the last year, we have sung Marks' prayer-song that it will be 'on earth as it is in heaven'. We have nurtured this Sacred awareness of the presence of God in our lives, and have been pulled back to earth with Heavens Agenda. We are heavens children, with the earth in our hands, shaping it into the world God wants.

And now, as we begin 2019, we continue the journey in the company of St. Luke. Take his Gospel close to your heart now. Use it to nourish your prayer and understanding in the months ahead. The golden thread of Luke's Gospel is his unashamed inclusion and exaltation of the poor. The Parable of the relentless widow - our theme for the year - captures beautifully the ebb and flow of justice and mercy hidden in every Parable, every encounter with Jesus.

On this first day of the new year - the first Sunday in Advent - I want to invite everyone to enjoy the Season of Advent. It is a precious time of preparation for the Great Feast and Feasts of Christmastide. If we start celebrating too early, we might lose some of the depth and resonance Advent wraps around the Christmas story, which contain the first hints of the Resurrection of the Beloved Son of God.

We don't have to look very far to hear talk that our beautiful world is falling apart. In today's Gospel, the lamps which God hung in the sky to give light are sending out alarm signals. The polluted waters are fighting back, and the earth which God raised up in the waters, to give us a place to stand, is being reclaimed by oceans which are roaring in pain. We are perhaps more frightened now than we ever were of the consequences of the sins we commit on the world. Perhaps we are reminded of Noah, and are looking for rainbows. Perhaps we are asking, "Will God keep His promise, even though we keep breaking ours?"

The answer is a resounding Yes! But it is a new Rainbow; and it is the Beloved Son of God. He appears when everything is falling apart. His Advent banishes fear and His strength empowers His disciples to stand up straight. The Beloved Son of God is the new earth, the new place to stand. The waters cannot drown Him. He offers Salvation in the midst of a perishing world.

The collapsing world weighs us down. It fills our hearts with anxiety and paralyses us with fear. There is no anaesthetic available for this pain. We try to protect ourselves from being overwhelmed. But perhaps more from being blinded to the deeper reality. If we do not do this we will be sucked in, dragged down, because alone we are too vulnerable.

The remedy offered by Jesus is prayer and vigilance. As we sink our roots into His spiritual landscape, we can reclaim that true self which cannot be destroyed. Hand in hand with the Beloved Son of God we can find a new courage, not just to survive but to engage with the endings that are to come. Far from cowering before the powers of destruction we lean into them. We hold one another through and beyond every ending which invades our lives.

It does not matter if the ending is present in Global terms, or Social Terms, Political Terms or even in Personal terms. All we know is that these things cannot be avoided. But Jesus teaches the supremacy of the spiritual because it survives whatever history can throw at it. A beautiful story from the Vedanta illustrates this.

Two birds of golden plumage sat in the same tree. The one above, serene, majestic, immersed in its own glory; the one below restless and eating the fruits of the tree, now sweet, now bitter. Once it ate an exceptionally bitter fruit, then it paused and looked up at the majestic bird above; but it soon forgot about the other bird and went on eating the fruits of the tree as before. Again, it ate a bitter fruit, and this time hopped up a few boughs nearer to the bird at the top. This happened many times until at

last the lower bird came to the same branch as the higher bird and lost itself. She discovered, in an instant, that there had never been two birds; only one, serene, majestic immersed in glory.

The spiritual instinct at the heart of this Parable is easy to grasp. How all that flows and changes and how all that does not flow and change come together in the end. The absolute triumphs.

In the most threatening moments of our lives, the Beloved Son of God comes as a protecting shelter who will not allow final destruction. To sit with a pair of binoculars watching for 'Him coming on the clouds of heaven' is a wonderfully imaginative portrayal and study of Grace. But we should not forget, as we begin this new year, that He can only do this because earlier, and with a loud cry, 'He breathed His last' (Mark 15,37).

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### ***The Jubilee Prayer***

***Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.***

***May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.***

***May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
Amen***



*Franciscus*



### **GIVE Campaign Update #049**

**\*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](mailto: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 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!*

**\*More prayers of intercession writers needed\*** to help alleviate some of the time commitment our existing writers face.

**\*Fire marshals needed\*** at our 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass. Training provided.

**\*Supporting sacristans needed\*** for the Sunday 8:30am Mass. Full training provided.

**\*Children's Liturgy\*** 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!

After the several years of lockdown, Parish funds have become depleted. The parish really struggles with paying all its bills every quarter –these include the normal things like heating, lighting, cleaning, routine maintenance, but also extra projects like building disabled facilities, toilets, ramps, security cameras, cutting down dangerous trees etc. If you could pay even a small amount by standing order (for example £3 per month) that would be really helpful. Please scroll to the bottom of this webpage <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/give/financial/> and thank you in advance for your generosity.

### New Translation of the Readings

**\*MISSALS ARE NOW IN STOCK. IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YET AND WOULD LIKE ONE, PLEASE DO. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID PLEASE PICK UP YOUR COPY FROM THE OFFICE\***



Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music (Carols)	04/12, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music (Carols)	06/12, 1:45pm-3pm	Edmonds Court, RG12 2HP
Gospel Outreach with Music (Carols)	11/12, 1:45pm-3pm	Liscombe House, RG12 7AL
Gospel Outreach with Music (Carols)	13/12, 1:45pm-3pm	Lawrence Court, RG42 6BZ
Gospel Outreach with Music (Carols)	16/12, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music (Carols)	20/12, 1:45pm-3pm	Clement House RG12 2GH
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕	03/12, 10/12, 17/12	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧 👦	01/12, 15/12	Church Hall
Soup & Roll 🍲	13/12 (second Friday of the month)	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	03/12, 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](mailto:office@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**

<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>				
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Patrick Doherty RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Murray Benham RIP</i>
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
<b>St Francis Xavier, Priest, memorial</b>				
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Sheila Hanson RIP</i>
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Maureen Taylor</i>
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Nora Neumann RIP</i>
<b>St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial</b>				
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Marie-Danielle &amp; Marie-Claire RIP</i>
		11am	Confessions	
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>				
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Freda Crookall RIP</i>
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Cathleen Burke RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

**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: 119956