

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK - EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM  
*OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE*

**A PARABLE ON POWER**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Mass Book Page 160

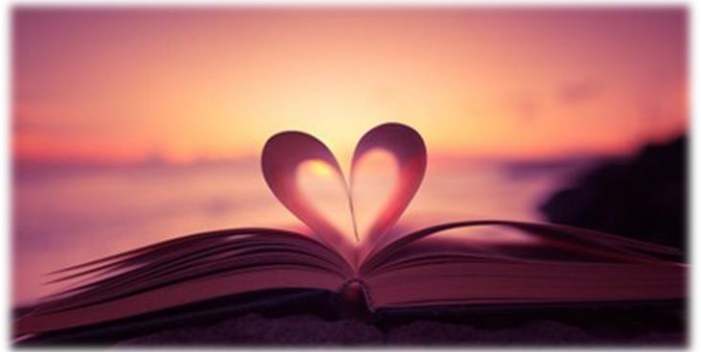
Politicians rarely answer questions and yet they are very good at asking them! Perhaps when we feel we have power over others we think we have the right to interrogate them.

As far as Pilate is concerned, Herod is the King of the Jewish People. If Jesus says He is a King, a rebellion can only be around the corner. Jesus is not a politician and He answers Pilates' question as a Holy Man. People are drawn to Jesus by the breadth and depth of His capacity for Love. Is Pilate interested in this or is he focused somewhere else? If His own community have turned against Him and handed Him over to the despised Romans, Pilate wants to know why.

Jesus reassures Pilate that His eye is only on the Throne of God. Since time began, every social, political and religious institution have been built of violence and maintained by force. Jesus' disciples are not fighting to keep him out of the clutches of these systems. And the reason for that is that the Kingdom in which Jesus is King cannot be found or grown through fighting. But Pilate misses the point and sticks with what he knows best. Is Jesus saying He is a King or not? But King is Pilates word. The Beloved Son of God receives the word 'King' from Pilate, breaks it open, shakes it till it is empty and then fills it with a new meaning. Jesus exercises His authority by witnessing to the truth. Those who are fixated on power and on territory cannot find the depths from which Jesus is speaking. But those who know God's heart can. The truth they know will lead them to the truth about Jesus.

Choosing to become powerless is a huge decision. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter, not quite a Saint yet, strikes with violence and launches the ear of the High priests servant into the shrubbery. Jesus stops him and heals the man, restoring his ear. After all, Jesus has spent his whole ministry opening people's ears. He knows, only too well, that violent words and actions spell the end of the dialogue. Ears have to be restored for dialogue to resume and for violence to end. The power of The Word is paramount for Jesus. The world He inhabits relies on Love as its only strategy and protection.

Jesus is, of course, THE revelation of God's unconditional love. And He is also a mirror for the unknown territory of the human heart. People somehow get themselves when He is around and the poor find Him to be very attractive. Even the 'other sheep' who are not of this fold move towards Him with joy. But before the cruelty and might of his own leaders, and of Rome, He shows no muscle, no force and instead offers the magnet of revelation.



Becoming powerless also includes making no threats. The revelation of unconditional love is here. If we do not get it or, if we are honest, not really attracted to it, Jesus will not become a terrorist and scare you with the prospect of disaster either side of the grave. Finally, torture - in all its forms - and death can no longer be used as a way to win disciples. We might say that many of the strategies that His 'disciples' have used had already been rejected by the Holy One who simply offers the revelation once more.

Violence is replaced by dialogue. This is quite different from discussion, which has the same root as percussion and concussion. All of these suggest striking something in order to gain territory. Dialogue invites a free flow of meaning that becomes shared by all those involved. It looks as if this is Jesus' preferred mode of influence. As a way of being it was completely lost on Pilate. What did he miss? Only this. Christ is King not because He can bend human will with all His might. He is King because out of love He embraces powerlessness and continues to talk.



## GIVE Campaign Update #048



### **\*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 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.

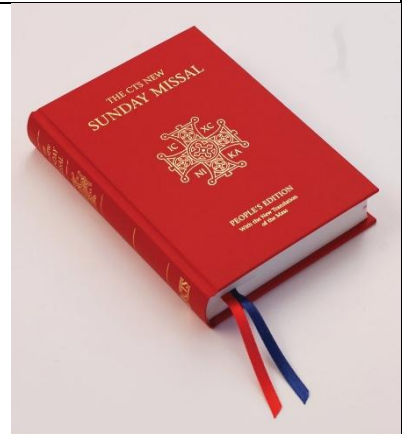
If any of these events appeal to you, please put your name down on the lists in the hall/entrance!

### **New Translation of the Readings**

We have been looking at how to provide new Mass Books for the new translation starting the first Sunday in Advent. By far the best and most effective way is to provide missals.

We have negotiated a 35% discount with one supplier for a "Leatherette Cover Sunday Missal". This will cost £14 per Missal. All Sundays, major feast days, solemnities and periods of the liturgical year are provided (year A,B,C), along with the order of the Mass. We are offering individuals to buy their own copy and also to purchase some for parish use.

If you would like to buy one please let the office know by the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. Also, if you wish to contribute to the ones needed for general parish use please also let the office know. Monies can be given into the office, £14 per copy.



**\*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\***

## 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 besides blue badge holders, we regret to inform you that the permit has to be revoked/paid for. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.



## Harvesting Handfuls of Small Kindnesses

As we are approaching World Kindness Day, the Prayer Group recently got a briefing on a sociable activity created by parishioner Hugh Gibbons. Called Handfuls of Kindness, this has in mind small clusters of people such as families, Years in schools, or social media groups. They just have to: read the uplifting poem Small Kindnesses by Danusha Lameris and watch out for examples; eventually, collate and display them - on-line or for real - maybe as a Poetree. Full details at [www.just1.org.uk/handfulsofkindness](http://www.just1.org.uk/handfulsofkindness). If you have suggestions, contact [hughgibbons@just1.org.uk](mailto:hughgibbons@just1.org.uk).

## Confirmation

Individuals should have received by email the forms that need to be completed for the upcoming Confirmation Course. The forms must be returned by Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Please remember the first evening of the course commences 7.30pm until 9pm on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	27/11, 2pm-3:15pm	Astbury Manor, RG12 7AU
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+) ☺	26/11, 03/12, 10/12	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 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

### MASS TIMES

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, <i>solemnity</i>				
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Cyril Joseph Ford RIP</i>
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Camelia-Adela Harrison (physical healing)</i>
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Mary Philomena Galloghly RIP</i>
<b>ST ANDREW, Apostle, feast</b>				
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>				
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Patrick Doherty 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*