

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

FINDING WISDOM IN REAL TIME

23rd February 2025

Missal Page 863

The Golden Rule, "Treat others as you would like them to treat You", is good common sense. It is a way of living which can be embraced by anyone at any time. It brings many blessings to those who live it. Sadly, it is not universally held as a way of living. On the local, national, and international stage we don't have to look very far to see the wounds of violence caused by those who think it is better to do unto others before they do it unto you!

Luke 26:27-38 is not common sense. The Golden Rule upholds a 'you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours' approach. But the Beloved Son of God teaches, 'Do to others as you would have them do to you and keep on doing this to them no matter what they do to you!'

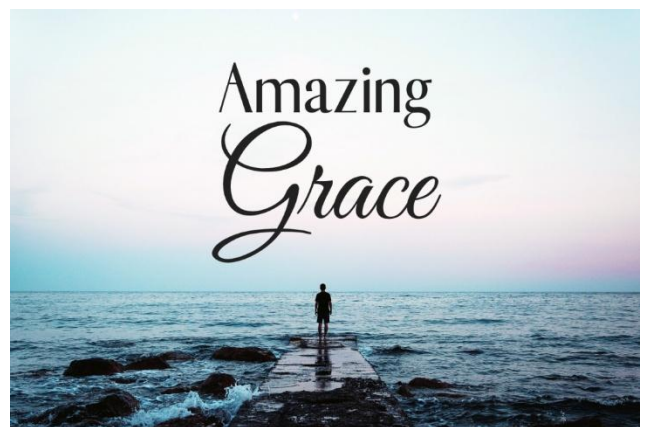
This teaching will thin the crowd of Jesus' followers. Loving enemies just gives them the chance to hurt you even more. Doing good to those who hate us is co-dependency at best and masochism at worst. Giving to everyone means we will soon become beggars ourselves, where we will discover that most people don't help beggars. And worst of all if you find a burglar in your home you invite them to take whatever else they want!!

Has the Beloved Son of God lost His way? Or has he seen with clear eyes the never-ending tyranny of violence and the never-ending truth about God? These cannot co-exist. He chooses the pathway of unconditional loving over the pathway of reprisal. He invites us to follow Him and learn to do the same. For the Beloved Son, it is our relationship with the Father which shapes our considered response to the world and whatever is happening. We are not controlled by circumstance. We are led by Grace.

Enemies, haters, and users want us to be like them. Their power and poison infect us quickly and make it look like we have only one response. But for Jesus this seduction to imitate the violent is met with firm resolve. Instead, he teaches us to stop the crazy endless hurting by stopping it in ourselves.

These are spiritual teachings of the highest order. They are offered to us, not so that we can agree or disagree with them. They are offered as a way of illuminating our own experience. If we use their light and look deeply enough, we will come to see that they are true. And if we practice what they teach they will make us odd.

One day, as Jesus was walking down the road with His disciples, some people started to throw stones at them, and cursed them. Jesus blessed them. And when his disciples asked why he blessed those who cursed him he said, 'I can only give what I have in my purse.' Violence can only end with graceful living. In every moment of conflict, we have a choice. Perhaps we also need to give ourselves the gift of time to enrich that choice with the right words and actions. To take time to see what is in our purse. To not mind being odd.



On the other hand, we find ourselves in a blossoming community of Grace. There are some famous people in this community, but my hunch is that most of them are ordinary disciples of the Kingdom, committed in loving service to God's dream of a safer world.



GIVE Campaign Update #061



Experience FLAME 2025! Join us on Saturday, 15th March 2025, at the OVO

Arena Wembley for the largest gathering of Catholic youth in England and Wales. This inspiring day will feature renowned speakers, including adventurer Bear Grylls OBE, uplifting live music, and moments of prayer and reflection. We are offering a limited number of tickets to young parishioners aged 16+ for just £15, covering both entry and round-trip coach travel. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't miss out! Stay tuned to the Parish website for details on securing your ticket and reserving your spot on the coach. This is an amazing opportunity to connect with fellow young Catholics and ignite your faith. For more information about the event, visit the official FLAME 2025 website. **Don't delay—be part of this unforgettable experience! Sign up here:**

<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/events/rlga68oi>

Mass Cancellations and Car Park Closures due to Ramp Work

Ramp work is progressing rapidly, and as a result, next week's weekday Masses will go ahead. However, there will still be restrictions on car parking and entering the church. **The only parking available for parishioners will be at the very front of the car park, with the area to the side of the hall and the back off-limits, and the only entrances will be through the emergency exit near the hall, and through the garden.** Please make a concerted effort to ensure you don't double or triple park, or block cars in. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



'HOPE FOR THE WORLD' - Portsmouth Diocese, Charismatic Renewal Event

On Tuesday 25th February on Zoom, from 7:30pm, Judith Aylmer (the CHARIS CDSC Lead for Portsmouth) is hosting an online praise and worship session, praying into 'Pilgrims of Hope 2025'. Rossane Walker (Pastoral Worker St Peters Winchester) will be leading the group on the main theme. There will also be an update by Russ Fairman on CHARIS supported ecumenical Prophetic Networking in our diocese.

Sign up for this exciting event here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ng91fX_tQBGmhhFL6uwt3A#/registration. It will also be getting livestreamed in the parish hall, everything being well.

Catholic Men: Looking for Faith, Friendship, and Fun?

The Catenians could be your perfect match! We're an international network of Catholic men who meet regularly to sport each other, strengthen our faith and - most importantly - have a great time together.

Think: Family events, social gatherings, sporting activities, and more!

We offer: Strong friendships, support for your faith and family a chance to give back to the community.



Ready to learn more? Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/TVCatenians>



Water Aid Jar Collection

Jars or envelopes marked Water Aid can be returned with donations either at the end of Masses on Saturday evening 1st March or Sunday 2nd or earlier, if taken to the Parish Office during office hours Monday to Friday. Thanks to everyone who is participating in this exciting appeal to get clean water made available worldwide within a generation.

You Can Help Your Marriage - Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse?

Retrouvaille has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom, 27th February to 2nd March 2025, e-mail: info@retrouvaille.org.uk, call: 07887296983, www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

Bickerton House Care Home Events (RG12 2JB):

Canine Café

The first Wednesday of each month, 2pm – 4pm



Friendship Café

The second Thursday of each month, 10:30am – 12noon



Community Cinema

The third Thursday of each month, 2:30pm – 4:30pm



Parish Events

When?

Where?

Gospel Outreach with Music	26/02, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	07/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Clement House, RG12 2GH
Gospel Outreach with Music	12/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	14/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	25/02,	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧👦	02/03, 16/03	Church Hall
Soup & Roll ☺	Postponed due to ramp works	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	25/02, 11/03	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 Moore	Edmund & Kate Carroll	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Susan Tobin
Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligoi	Margaret Finnieston	Marie Swash
Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan	Mary Stocking	Maureen Baxter
Patricia Holmwood	Paula Sandford	Phyllis Lewis	Raf Roberts	Rico Morales
Sally Torode	Terri Landmann	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



We pray for the repose of the souls of Terry McCullough, Anna Tighe, Rosie Watson & Marcus Jampies who passed away recently.

The Requiem Mass for Anna Tighe will be here at 11am on the 25th February, followed by the internment at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, at 1pm.

Terry McCullough's service will be on the 26th February at 11am, at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

The Requiem Mass for Marcus Jampies will be held here on 11th March at 12 noon, followed by the internment at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, at 2pm.

*May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	22 nd	6pm	Mass	<i>Carmel Anne Rinzivillo RIP</i>
Sunday	23 rd	8:30am	Mass	<i>Chris Hill RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

Monday	24 th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	25 th	10am	Mass	<i>Anna Tighe Requiem Mass</i>
Wednesday	26 th	10am	Mass	<i>Terry McCullough RIP</i>
Thursday	27 th	10am	Mass	Parish Intentions
Friday	28 th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Pamela Savage RIP</i>

ST DAVID, Religious, Bishop, feast

Saturday	1 st	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	1 st	6pm	Mass	<i>Kevin Sutton RIP</i>
Sunday	2 nd	8:30am	Mass	<i>John & Bridget Munnelly 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

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