

*First Sunday of Lent*  
**MAKING GOOD DECISIONS**

9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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In Sacred Scripture there are two traditions about the devil. In the first, the devil works with God to uncover what is in people's hearts. (Job 1:10) Is Job a truly just person or is he so only because God has put a protecting fence around him? God accepts the devil's 'let's see' challenge. It is this testing tradition that forms the first big backdrop to this Sunday's Gospel.

In the second tradition, the devil is not an agent but an enemy of God's purposes. Like a hungry lion, the devil hunts for his prey (1 Pet 5:8), or he is the pure evil that takes up residence in the heart of Judas (Jn 13:1). Openly, and in secret, the evil one is bent on destroying God's Saviour. This tradition is also woven into this Sunday's Gospel.

Notice how, with a steadfast heart, Jesus rejects Satan's strategies. The devil moved with the speed of lightning to catch up with Jesus in the moment when the heavens were torn open and the Father revealed Jesus as the Beloved Son. It looks like the devil wanted to undermine Jesus' identity. He tries to take the declaration 'Beloved Son of God', empty it of love and fill it with his own meanings. The temptation narrative is placed at the beginning of Jesus' mission, and even though He rejects them outright, they will continue to haunt Him by reappearing right to the end.

Let's look at each one more closely. The temptation to turn stones into bread is very appealing. After all, bringing hunger to an end is a dream shared by many. Did God not feed his people with manna in the desert? Well, yes, but the full story of the Exodus produced some side effects that were not great. God's generosity did not create a grateful community but a more demanding one. A community content to wait for God to do all the heavy lifting! This is why Jesus refuses the good temptation with the words, "People do not live on bread alone." Satan's strategy misses the vital element of the transformations which comes whenever God's Word is paramount. This strategy is rejected.

So, the devil ups the stakes. He shows Jesus what real power looks like. He shows Jesus the essence of the Kingdoms of the world, and how they work. Their power is strong because it comes from Satan - the great accuser and divider. The Kingdoms of the world are built on strategies of accusation and division, and if Jesus wants to be powerful, He will have to learn how to play this game. Tragically for Satan, Jesus has another strategy. It springs from the utter love He has for His Abba in heaven, whose ways are forgiveness and reconciliation. The Kingdom of God will be built on these foundation stones. The devil's strategy is rejected.

The last temptation is whether Jesus can prove that God is the wellspring of his words and works. If Jesus leaps from the pinnacle of the Temple and floats into the adoring crowds, He could demonstrate that God was with Him. There could be no better way for Jesus to present his credentials. There would be no opposition to His preaching. This is a sign that would have everyone convinced. This last temptation will appear in full force at His crucifixion - another opportunity for Satan to spin the lie - if only He would come down from the cross, if only Elijah would appear to rescue Him. But Jesus has only the first (and second) commandment in His heart. He remains fiercely loyal to the One God. He remains fiercely loyal to His call to act from love and allow liberating peace and justice to do their work. As the faithful one, Jesus will not put God to the test, even if it is to prove a good point. Jesus rejects this strategy because He has perfect clarity about the first commandment and the reverence for all creation which flows from it.

So, to sum up. Jesus rejects a 'bread and circuses' strategy because it does not reverence the spiritual and the moral dimensions of the human person. He rejects any strategy which relies on accusation and division. He will not allow Himself, or us, to look out of our window at the enemy but never letting the window become a mirror of justice which helps us to see what we are really up to. Keeping people at each other's throats as a distraction while I plunder the world is the ultimate in spin doctoring. Finally, Jesus prefers substance over show. The way a person thinks, speaks and acts is far more important than credentials.

The devil did his best to seduce the Beloved Son of God into using strategies which were about personal ambition. But Jesus saw them for what they were - betrayals of His identity - and He rejected them. It remains to be seen if we can do the same. Let Lent Begin!



## GIVE Campaign Update #062



**\*THANK YOU\*** to those who helped with our Water Aid jar scheme. We have some great news - so far over £850 has been given in for the project! Some donations have still to be handed in this weekend, so we may be above the £900 mark after all has been totalled next week. Please return all remaining jars with or without contributions as they will be re-used in future. Thank you for so much generous help.

**\*A PARISHIONER\*** is looking for help with his garden, no more than 3 or 4 times a year, and is willing to pay if a volunteer can't be found. It will involve things like cutting back the hedge and general maintenance; it shouldn't be anything too strenuous. If your fingers are green, please let the office know! Thank you all in advance.

**\*SPRING CLOTHESBANK GIVEAWAY\*** The Spring ClothesBank Giveaway will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 from 10:15am to 1pm at St. Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH. We are once again providing vouchers for the ClothesBank to those in need, so please contact the office should you need a voucher. If you also need transport to the ClothesBank, a free minibus shuttle courtesy of Newbold College will be operating between Bracknell train station and St. Mark's Church, and will leave from the train station at 10am, 10:30am, 11am, 11:30am, and 12 noon. Please let us know in advance if you intend to travel using the minibus so a seat can be reserved.

### Hall Kitchen

Please can we ensure that children aren't helping themselves to refreshments (primarily biscuits) and that adults distribute them accordingly. In addition, individuals under 16 should be denied entry to the kitchen; they are prohibited due to not being covered by our insurance. Thank you!

### CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and Family Fast Day Offering

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish offering and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



### CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

*Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)*

*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)*

*Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Confirmation and RCIA)*

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

## 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>**

### 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	12/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	09/04, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	11/03, 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧👦	16/03	Church Hall
Soup & Roll ☺	14/03	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	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](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)



We pray for the repose of the soul of Marcus Jampies who passed away recently.

The Requiem Mass for Marcus Jampies will be held here on 11<sup>th</sup> 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](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

<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>				
Saturday	8th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	9th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Denis Munnelly RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Moira McLaren RIP</i>
<b>ST PATRICK, Bishop, feast</b>				
Monday	10th	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	11th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Marcus Jampies</i> <i>Requiem Mass</i>
<b>ST JOSEPH, Solemnity</b>				
Wednesday	12th	10am	Mass	<i>Marie Danielle Tichbon RIP</i>
Thursday	13th	10am	Mass	<i>Living and deceased members of the</i> <i>O'Driscoll family</i>
Friday	14th	11am	Stations of the Cross	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Una Leese RIP</i>
Saturday	15th	10am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		11am	Confessions	
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>				
Saturday	15th	6pm	Mass	<i>Leslee Diane RIP</i>
Sunday	16th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Derek Alexander RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Especiosa Serula Fernandes RIP</i>

**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