



THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE – THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW  
***PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord***

13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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The Beloved Son of God has returned to the Garden of Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives. I want to focus on this part of the Gospel for this Sunday because it is important.

The disciples have been at prayer with Jesus and have seen Him at prayer many times. Remember the visit to Mount Tabor where The Father reveals by illumination and by declaration who Jesus is. This was a stop-over on the deadly journey to Jerusalem, and although the disciples continued to follow Him, they were still holding back. They couldn't understand why Jesus walked headlong into fierce opposition. Their lack of understanding needed to be corrected and they could only do this by following the command to 'Listen to Him.' If they can remember the radiance when the darkness comes, they might find the strength to be faithful.

Another time in Luke 11, the disciples ask Jesus for a teaching about what it means to be a prayerful person. He calls them to seek, to ask and to knock on the door of God's heart, not because God needs persuading but because they do! Disciples have to do the groundwork in their contemplative hearts if they are going to receive the fullness of the gift of the Holy Spirit. And here, in the Garden of Olives, the Beloved Son of God teaches them, 'Pray, lest you enter into temptation.' Something is about to happen, and, if they do not pray themselves into these events they will be overwhelmed and captured by them. The strength to say no when a no is needed, and the strength to say yes when a yes is needed will only arise from praying and listening hearts. Tragically it is a lesson that will be learned in the very moment they fail to live it.

As Jesus kneels and touches the earth, He sees the conflict that will erupt from the religious and political powers. He does not want to suffer and He does not seek it. But as He kneels and touches the earth, He finds that He loves something more than His fear of suffering - His commitment to his Fathers will.

Now let's be absolutely clear here. It is not God's will that Jesus suffers and dies. Much more, it is God's will that the power of forgiveness and reconciliation be continued in all circumstances. This is what the Beloved Son has pledged to do. In the events that will unfold, Jesus will not be drawn into violence. He will forgive those who persecute Him and offer the Kingdom to the repentant thief. He can only do this because His centre is centred on God. It is from here that His actions flow. He is about to enter a contest where the strength and steady flow of love will be all that is needed. But His disciples have not stayed awake and He finds no strength in them. For St Luke, this means they have abandoned their contemplative hearts. For them, the situation that is coming is beyond their resources. They are overwhelmed and overcome. The world, and its violence is too much for them. When Jesus asks them, 'Why do you sleep?' it is a prophetic question that disturbs the sorrowful slumber of the disciples. No answer comes because there is no answer. He can only repeat, 'Rise, pray lest you enter into temptation'. But they cannot do it and everything begins to unravel in their hearts.

Suddenly, the violent are upon them. A mindless crowd, led by Judas (one of the Twelve) do not believe in Jesus' way of seeing and acting. But Jesus is awake. He is integrated. He holds as one and will not let go of His love for His Father and for His people, the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. The Way of the Son of Man, this expression of human potential, is present in Jesus and possible for others. And it is this potential which Judas, even though he walked with Jesus, contradicts. On the outside, he offers Jesus the kiss of loyalty, but on the inside his heart is full of betrayal. If you like, Judas is the perfect example of the very split which the Son of Man has come to heal.

The other disciples, sensing the violence which is to come, act to stop it. They ask Jesus if they should strike with the sword. The sustaining momentum of prayer is not available to them because they have not listened. An ear falls to the ground. As far as they are concerned the dialogue is over. But the One who has spent his life-giving people ears to hear says, "No more of this," and follows these words by restoring the ear to its rightful place. As Jesus prayed and stayed awake, He teaches powerfully that loves dialogue is never over. The power of forgiveness and reconciliation continue to flow through Him even when it is halted by His disciples.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus is treated like a terrorist. He allows the burden of the sins of the violent to fall across Himself. Perhaps this is what the Gospel writers mean when they call it, 'His Hour'. It is His because He reveals the Fathers persistent and non-violent love even for those who harm the Beloved Son. It is this 'Hour' of eternal time which moves forward to meet the darkness and the hatred and the futile attempt to kill Him. And His Cross, is the eternal declaration that in the contest between Divine Love and Human Sin, there will only ever be one winner.



### GIVE Campaign Update #068



**\*THIS WEEKEND\*** will have a second offering for our flower power team, to help give them the resources they need to make our church look beautiful for Spring. You can make an offering through all the usual methods, including Dona.

Note: Traditionally, there are **NO** flowers in Church during Lent, so please refrain from bringing your own from home.

**\*THE PARISH PRIEST EASTER OFFERING\*** over the Easter weekend is one of the two annual collections specifically for the parish priest. If you wish, an offering can be placed in an envelope saying 'Easter gift for parish priest/Father Danny'. The Dona system has already been set-up for anybody who wishes to give a cashless donation, under 'Easter Offering'. This will be available from this weekend until Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> April.



You may have noticed the Boom Community Bank banner in the Hall.

Our Parish has recently joined up with the Boom Community Bank (aka Credit Union) to offer parishioners the chance to save regularly. The idea is that regular savings (of usually not much, £10 per month?) can build up a small pot to use if a sudden financial crisis arrives.

For example the car needs 2 front tyres to get through the MOT, or the washing machine needs a repair engineer. The savings will mean that this sudden cost won't end up on the credit card to be repaid some other time with all the other payments that have had to be deferred.

A loan can be applied for without becoming a member, membership starts with the loan. Interest rates vary on which type of loan is taken out. A healthy balance in the savings account is best. But if that isn't enough then the credit union will help out with a loan. That's their point.

So have a browse through the Boom website and see if it can be of any help to you.

**www.boomcb.org.uk** or **0345 521 5552** or **info@boomcb.org.uk**

### Car Parking

**PLEASE** can people using the car park park in actual spaces and not mount the pavement. Each week people continue to do this, blocking disabled access into the church and the long pavement between the hall and the front door of the house. Father Danny and Deacon Aidan have mentioned this numerous times and are struggling to think what to do next if this issue continues, so please be considerate when parking. Thank you.

### Life in the Spirit Talk and Seminars

As a prelude to the LITS seminars, there will be a talk, 'The Holy Spirit', given by one of Diocesan Speakers Geoff Poulter. It will give an insight into what LITS entails and what to expect, in order to Live Life to the Full (John 10:10). Living Life in & with the Spirit. Everyone is welcome, our parishioners & visitors. This takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm, here at church.



The seminars themselves will run from 8<sup>th</sup> May – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025, EVERY THURSDAY (except 29<sup>th</sup> May), and will be live streamed in the church hall; if you can, please attend in person. If unable to attend in person - kindly register using the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ke4gfjQdSl2sAbippqI9lg>

Details of THE LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS are on posters in the church and hall- see you there!

## Baptism Preparation Evening

If you are planning to have your child baptised soon, please book onto the next baptism preparation evening on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm. Please note that the session after won't be for a while, and baptism can only occur once you have attended this evening. Please click on the link below to book your place:

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

### Bickerton House Care Home Events (RG12 2JB):

Canine Café	Friendship Café	Community Cinema
The first Wednesday of each month, 2pm – 4pm	The second Thursday of each month, 10:30am – 12noon	The third Thursday of each month, 2:30pm – 4:30pm
Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	23/04, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	30/04, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	Cancelled 15/04	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧👦	13/04, 27/04, 11/05	Church Hall
Soup & Roll ☺	09/05	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	22/04	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 O'Sullivan	Arthur Hardy
Anne Hardy	Audrey Lam	Bernie Morris	Beverley Spencer	Blanche Shap
Brenda Lynch	Bridget Riordan	Charles Beard	Colleen McCormack	Claire Berry
Claire Hose	Dorcas Innes-Grant	Debbie Hanley	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Dymphna Slade
Eamon McNeill	Eddie Moore	Edmund & Kate Carroll	Eileen Tanner	Evelyn Caruso
Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jean Lovejoy	Leonie Macintosh	Lucia Saligo
Margaret Finnieston	Margaret Whitehead	Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray
Mary Phelan	Mary Stocking	Mary Sullivan	Maureen Baxter	Patricia Holmwood
Paula Sandford	Peggy McCullough	Raf Roberts	Rico Morales	Sally Torode
Sarah Flemming	Stan & Margaret Aburn	Susan Tobin	Terri Landmann	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 souls of Beryl Pilgrim and Tony Andrews who passed away recently.

The Requiem Mass for Beryl Pilgrim will be held here on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, at 1:30pm, followed by a service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 3pm.

The Requiem Mass for Tony Andrews will be held here on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, at 2:30pm, followed by a committal at

Easthampstead Park Crematorium on 24<sup>th</sup> April, at 2:30pm.

*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>PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord</b>				
Saturday	12th	6pm	Mass	<i>Valerie Kibera RIP</i>
Sunday	13th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Peter McGuinness RIP</i>
Monday	14th	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	15th	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Wednesday	16th	1:30pm	Mass	<i>Beryl Pilgrim's Requiem Mass</i>
<b>HOLY THURSDAY- THE EASTER TRIDUUM</b>				
Thursday	17th	2:30pm	Mass	<i>Tony Andrews' Requiem Mass</i>
		7pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>				
Friday	18th	11am	<b>NO EXPOSITION OR STATIONS</b>	
		3pm	Good Friday Mass	
<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>				
Saturday	19th	11am	<b>NO CONFESSIONS</b>	
		12 noon	Easter Basket Blessing Mass	
<b>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, <i>solemnity with Octave</i></b>				
Saturday	19th	8pm	Mass	
Sunday	20th	8:30am	Mass	
		10:30am	Mass	

**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*