

As Judas leaves to set in motion the events that will lead to the death of Jesus, there is no attempt to stop him. Instead, he is invited to act with haste. It is clear that Jesus understands His death as central to the purposes of God. Jesus is so completely at one with this purpose than the departure of Judas is like an overture to His exclamation.

It is clear, step one, that Jesus sees His death as a glorification and as a revelation of what divine love will do to save those who are lost. This revelation retells the truth about who Jesus really is: the One who is lifted up for all to see and who draws all people to Himself. In this one action he will reveal the truth about God, as a self-giving flow of life and of love to his children in their most frightening moment - the moment of their death. The twofold revelation of the Son of Man and of His Father strengthen each other. Their unity expressed and celebrated as mutual glorification.

It is also clear that the death of Jesus will change the bonds of Love which have grown between Him and His disciples. But it isn't simply that it is His time and not theirs. Rather, He is moving ahead of them, pioneering the way. This is why St. Paul refers to Him as first-born from the dead. (Col.1:18-19)

Finally, Jesus sees His dying as the supreme expression of the Love He has been talking about from the beginning. As He lays down His life for His sheep (Jn.10:15) He creates a new Commandment. The world of His disciples is rocked when they are lifted far outside their human inability to love God and their neighbour, into a first love that flows through the person of Jesus. The new Commandment is an invitation to recognise and remember the Son of Man who joins us in our deepest fears and sustains us in our greatest losses.

This new beginning - God loving us without regret, without end and to breaking point - requires a huge shift in the imagination of every disciple. Consider this insight from James Mackey,

"I simply will not feel my own life, my own self, as grace or gift of God, unless someone values me ... I may see, at first blush, this stands the whole logic of the reign of God on its head... The logic should surely read: first feel all life and existence as grace, and then feel inspired to be gracious to others. Not, first feel the grace of some human presence, feel forgiven, accepted, served then begin to feel all life and existence as grace, and feel inspired to be gracious to others. But it is really a universal human idiosyncrasy that is operative here, not a matter of logic... Most of us can only sense ourselves and our world valued and cherished by God when we feel valued and cherished by others".

(Jesus: The Man and the Myth [Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1970]170)

In other words, we come to know and love Sacredness through our humanity. This is the colossal insight of the New Commandment. If disciples can keep faith with the memory of what Jesus has done. If they can aspire to uphold and live a kind of loving that springs from the heart of God's Heart, the presence of Jesus will be eternally available to them. And when other people witness and experience the disciples of Jesus upholding the primacy of Sacred Love in all things, they will be drawn to the well from which it springs. Love will be the tip-off that we are disciples of Jesus.

I imagine that every home is filled with loves reminders. There might be photographs of people we have loved and lost. There may be other objects which, worth next to nothing should they be presented at the antiques road show, hold immeasurable richness of the Love that we have grown and shared with others. Some of us may even have a crucifix to remind us of the gift of that 'first love' which flows through Jesus. Most of the time we may take their presence for granted. But every now and again they call to us to pause and remember moments of joy and laughter or moments of prayer.

But the cross of Jesus should be a unique and priceless treasure in every disciple's home. We belong to a community and to a tradition which has carried the memory of Jesus through time and space so that we can touch it and make it our own. This is the legacy of people who tried their best to live in the Love that does not fail. When they stumbled and fell, they found their way to forgiveness and started again. The community to which I belong has bridged the centuries from the time of Jesus so that He can speak to my own heart.

We have this gift and we also have the gift of Sacred Scripture. Both are needed if we are to remember the love of Jesus and His Commandment that we should uphold the primacy of Love in all things and bring Love to bear on every violation of Love which we meet along the way. Whenever two or three people are gathered by this truth, an indestructible community is formed. We call this 'the church'. But what I am beginning to see more clearly is this. Remembering the love of Jesus so that we can love one another takes a home and a heart big enough to hold the photographs of cherished family, friends and even pets, and allowing them to stand side by side with the cross.





GIVE Campaign Update #073



DOES ANYONE IN OUR PARISH have a knowledge or understanding of relaying/relining a car park, or happen to own a car park line marking kit? As you may be aware, we are upgrading our church, and our car park has lost its lines. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, might be able to assist us with this- thank you!

PLEASE PARK RESPONSIBLY IF YOU'RE NOT CURRENTLY DOING SO!

THERE ARE SEVERAL outings planned in May and June for our over 50's parishioners. Details are as follows, prices to come soon:

Fri 30th May- SHP Cinema 2.30pm - Four Mothers (comedy)

Fri 6th June- Jersey Boys Tribute @ South Hill Park 7.45pm

Wed 2nd July- Trip on Basingstoke Canal

Telephone 07852497218 if interested!

Significant Anniversaries Mass: Saturday 21st June:

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 21st June at 11am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please contact the office or send an email to

anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to request a form for you to complete and return. Please note the email address is not monitored daily and you may have to wait for a reply, so please be patient.

To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a copy of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you return the form. Again, if you have no access to the internet you can post a copy along with completed form by post to the following address (Please mark envelope Significant Wedding Mass):

St. Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX

Journey To Pentecost

Friday 30th May to Saturday 7th June- Online Novena & Formation

Friday 30th May to Saturday 7th June | 8.00pm - 8.30pm | Daily Novena.

Talk: Saturday 31st May | 8.30pm - 9.00pm | The Sacrament of Confession: A Sacrament of Hope.

Talk: Wednesday 4th June | 8.30pm - 9.00pm | The Sacrament of the Eucharist: Strength and Comfort for Pilgrims.

Saturday 7th June | 9.30am - 1.30pm | Holy Spirit Day, in collaboration with Charis Portsmouth-Mass | Formation | Adoration | Prayer | English Martyrs Church, Reading, RG30 2EB.

Register Today: www.tinyurl.com/FFMNovena,

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjkplLrLqj0bG9beO9Ly1yA>,

Email | ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk | Phone | 07966090100.

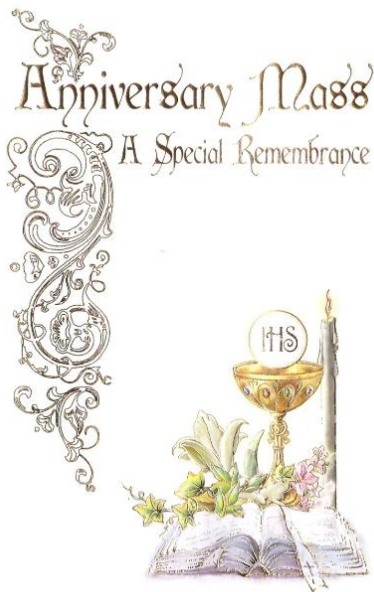
Life in the Spirit Talk and Seminars

The third Life in the Spirit session is next Thursday 22nd May, 7:30pm (arrive slightly earlier for refreshments), in the hall, and is titled 'New Life' by Daniella Stephens.

The seminars themselves will run from 8th May - 26th June 2025, EVERY THURSDAY (except 29th May), and will be livestreamed 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/LQ4MG1bfT_aXurqoU3UMyg#/registration

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





Week of Walks

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Bracknell Town Council, there will be a week of walks, from 24th-31st May. These include history walks, a bird walk, and a tree walk. Otherwise, there are regular weekly events which we encourage you to join! For more details and to book, please scan the QR code, or visit the link: https://www.bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk/council_events/



Let it be Course

You are invited to attend LET IT BE, an inspirational five week course compiled by CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) in the Keenan Rooms at Corpus Christi Wokingham from Thursday 19th June to Thursday 17th July starting at 7.30pm until 9pm. Each week a short film will be shown about the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by a discussion. There is a handbook to accompany the course which costs £5 per copy for anyone wishing to purchase it. Please have cash with you.

Whilst it is ideal to attend all the sessions, they do stand alone. Refreshments will be available.

Please register by using the following link: <https://sdahmann.fillout.com/t/bBSosBah7nus>

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	28/05, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	11/06, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧👦	25/05, 08&22/06, 06&20/07	Church Hall
Soup & Roll ☺	13/06	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	Cancelled until 8 th July, 7pm	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		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 & Andy 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



We pray for the repose of the souls of Neville Nesbitt and Bernie Morris.
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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday	17 th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	18 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Francis Barton & Hilary Bone Birthdays</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Renato Clementi Health</i>

DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN, PORTSMOUTH, *feast*

Monday	19 th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	20 th	10am	Mass	<i>Stan and Margaret Aburn, in Thanksgiving</i>
Wednesday	21 st	10am	Mass	<i>Margaret Whitehead & Family</i>
Thursday	22 nd	10am	Mass	<i>John Ellerton & the Ellerton Family</i>
Friday	23 rd	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>John Baptist Robertson</i>
Saturday	24 th	10am	Mass	<i>Terry Flower RIP</i>
		11am	Confessions	

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday	24 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Martin and Rachel Chambers- 35th Wedding Anniversary</i>
Sunday	25 th	8:30am	Mass	
		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