

First Sunday of Lent
KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

Sunday 22nd February 2026

Missal Page 112

Jesus has just been baptised in the river Jordan and has heard a voice from heaven saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased' (Matt 3,17). But what does it mean to be the Beloved Son? The devil will have a few suggestions, but it is the Spirit who leads Jesus into this encounter with the devil. This 'testing' will serve The Spirits agenda and will deepen Jesus' understanding and commitment.

The Tempter first suggests that, as Beloved Son of God, Jesus should always be 'full'. And if he likes he can suspend any law he likes to make this happen. Jesus rejects the connection between being physically filled and being spiritually loved. Hungry or full, he will still be the Beloved Son. Empty, he will still be the Beloved Son.

Engraved on the pinnacle of the Temple are the wings of an eagle. As the wings of a mother eagle catch her young when they flutter in their first attempt to fly, the Tempter suggests that God will lift us his Beloved Son whenever he falls. As Beloved Son, Jesus will always be safe. The devil even quotes Scripture to bolster his case. He wants Jesus to presume on divine love and toy with danger. But Jesus thinks this way of thinking is ridiculous. You don't put yourself in danger so God can protect you. In the course of Jesus life, he will not be safe but neither will he waiver in his conviction that God loves him. Hurt, he will still be the Beloved Son.

So, for now, the devil plays his final card. He offers Jesus unlimited power over others. The price tag is that Jesus will fall on his knees and worship the devil. But Jesus is a Jew of the First Commandment and he rejects the Tempter and his seductive offer. Now, Jesus will have no political power and influence in the Kingdoms of the world. Powerless, he will still be the Beloved Son.


Temptations, like the ones above wait to ambush all of us in some way. They get to make the first move and can look like they are running the show. It's only on the third go that Jesus finds the strength to tell the devil to get lost. And isn't this our own experience. Sin pulls us along at great speed. We often describe this as being 'led astray'. We went along because for a moment we couldn't find the brake. We were no longer in charge of ourselves. So, it doesn't really matter if it's a bit of gossip here, a little theft there, or some big deal which is sinful as well as criminal - what they all have in common is that they include the question of who we think we are. If we do not know who we are, we probably won't step back from the edge of the cliff.

What Jesus remembers is every word that comes from the mouth of God. Especially, he remembers the words he heard in the Jordan river. He has pondered these words in sacred time - forty days and nights - and has reached some amazing conclusions about what they mean. Only then can he push back and say "No".

Step one for us then seems to be an invitation to slow down. To create the spaces where we can know ourselves better, which should include being willing to hear from friends what they know of us.

The Tempter will ask the same question. If you are loved by God, then And each of us has to be able to say, "Even if I am empty, hurting or powerless, or even dead; I am still loved by the Love that never fails".





Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement
*Fasting has its own reward, but if you eat for the sake of love,
you satisfy two commandments, for you give up your own will
and fulfil the commandment to refresh others.*

A quote from the early Desert Fathers



GIVE Campaign Update #112



CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection



This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

St. Francis Leprosy Guild

St Francis Leprosy Guild (SFLG) is the UK's only Catholic leprosy charity and has been caring for people with leprosy for over 130 years. Sadly, leprosy is not just a disease of ancient biblical times. Across the world, children are forgoing their education to care for relatives living with the disease; healthcare workers travel for days or even months to reach remote communities where leprosy is endemic. By supporting over 30 leprosy centres and projects in Africa, Asia and Brazil, SFLG is working towards a leprosy-free world. During this Lenten season of prayer and almsgiving, please take time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves, and keep people with leprosy in your prayers.



You can make a donation to SFLG <https://app.donorfy.com/form/8XCQIB4NS1/2UDKA?p=yes>. We also encourage you to download SFLG's prayer card <https://www.stfrancisleprosy.org/lent-2026.html>.

Gregorian Chanting Live

If you would like to hear what Gregorian chanting sounds like when sung by 60+ voices, on 14th March (Dominican Rite) there will be a sung Latin Mass at St. John's Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, PO1 3HG. It is a worthwhile experience with free admission- please visit the link below for more details: portsmouthgregorianchant.blogspot.com.



The Union of Catholic Mothers Retreat

The Union of Catholic Mothers are hosting their annual Lenten retreat on Saturday 7th March, from 10am, at Corpus Christi Wokingham. The theme will be Romans 12:12 *"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer"*, led by Monsignor Canon Jeremy Garrett. The programme for the Day includes Mass. The price for the Day is £12.50 per person, which is to be paid in cash. A simple buffet lunch and coffee and tea at the beginning and end of the day are included.

Please let them know if you would like to attend by emailing their Secretary, Marie Tomlin, on mvc.tomlin@btinternet.com by 1st March, as it would help them to have numbers in advance for the catering.



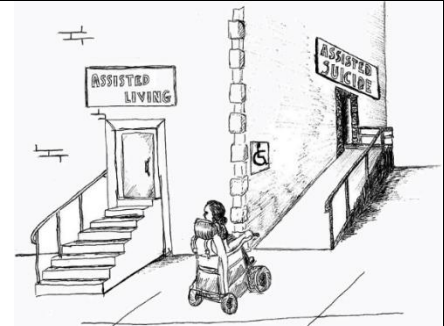


National Novena to St. Joseph

The National Novena to St. Joseph will take place from 10th-18th March 2026 at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses are at 10:00am every day of the Novena except Sunday, when it is at 11:00am. These Masses will be available to follow on YouTube, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena. The Novena Prayer Booklet is available on request for a suggested donation of £1 per booklet to cover costs. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena prayer booklet, by contacting the Novena Director at novenamhm@gmail.com.

Stop Assisted Suicide- Further Action Needed

Please take 30 seconds to stop assisted suicide from being forced into law. Right To Life UK has made an EasyAction tool to email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. Please visit the following link to ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law: www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WME) Weekend

WME invite couples to get away together and join them for a weekend to discover ways to grow deeper in love for a happier marriage and a happier life! The weekend draws on their 50 years of wisdom and experience, based on scriptural truths, and might just be the gear change you didn't know you needed or thought possible. Couples welcome whether married or in long term relationships, with faith or no faith. The next weekend is 27th Feb - 1st March, Holiday Inn Express West, Swindon. To find out more or book, visit wwme.org.uk.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	25/02, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	06/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 🧒🧒	22/02, 08/03 & 22/03	Church Hall
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	Every Tuesday (term time only), 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
New Parent Coffee Morning	06/03, 9am-10:30am	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	27/02, 12:45pm	Church Hall
ALPHA	26/02, 8pm-9pm	Online
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	24/02 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	01/03, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Amanda Killestein	Claire Berry	Evelyn Caruso	Mary Phelan	Sarah Flemming
Angela Dossett	Claire Hose	Inge Walker	Mary Stocking	Stan & Margaret Aburn
Ann D'Ambrosio	Colleen McCormack	Jacqueline Marshall	Mary Sullivan	Susan Tobin
Ann O'Sullivan	Debbie Hanley	Janet Read	Patricia Holmwood	Terri & Andy Landmann
Anne Hardy	Dorcas Innes-Grant	Jean Lovejoy	Paula Sandford	Ursula Docherty
Arthur Hardy	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Judith Newman	Peggy McCullough	Vilma Taborda
Audrey Lam	Dymphna Slade	Margaret Finnieston	Raf Roberts	Vivienne Halfpenny
Brenda Lynch	Eamon McNeill	Marie Swash	Rico Morales	
Bridget Riordan	Edmund & Kate Carroll	Mary King	Rita Hayes	
Charles Beard	Eileen Tanner	Mary Murray	Sally Torode	

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday	21 st	6pm	Mass	<i>Jessie & Colin Collier (wedding anniversary)</i>
Sunday	22 nd	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Birthday wishes: Daniel McCabe (turning one)</i>
Monday	23 rd		NO MASS	
Tuesday	24 th	10am	Mass	
Wednesday	25 th	10am	Mass	
Thursday	26 th	10am	Mass	Parish Intentions
Lenten Fast Day				
Friday	27 th	11am	Stations of the Cross	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Marcus Jampies RIP</i>
Saturday	28 th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday	28 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Valerie Kibera RIP</i>
Sunday	1 st	8:30am	Mass	<i>Pamela Savage RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Joseph Lewis 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

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