

Second Sunday of Lent

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Sunday 1st March 2026

Missal Page 117

The Teacher calls an inner circle of His disciples into the depth of Himself. To do this, He takes them up a high mountain, a favourite place for a meeting with God. Here, He is transfigured into light. The 'three' are given an astonishing gift – to see Jesus, the Beloved Son, in communion with His Abba. The gift is given so that they might grow in their desire to follow Jesus. It hasn't been easy for them. What they are seeing is for their benefit.

But then more is given. Elijah and Moses arrive. They too like high mountains. In their own day they went there to talk with God and to find the wisdom to make God's plan work with people who were highly resistant to them. Speaking on behalf of the 'three', Peter exclaims that it is great to be part of this event. But these are the words of someone who feels he is in over his head. The One they were shadowing is now even more attractive and, at the same time, a little bit scary!

Then even more is given. A cloud descends and now God is shadowing them. This is probably as close as you're going to get to God. And then God speaks. He reveals the true name of this Jesus. It is the same name that was given at His Baptism in the Jordan, 'My Son, the Beloved'. For disciples, this is a call to listen more attentively to what the Beloved Son is saying. This is the revelation.

And then, the moment of Grace ends, as they must. Now all they have is Jesus and the truth about Him. The vision has strengthened their understanding of Jesus as God's Beloved Son and the inheritor of the law and the prophets. They know that Jesus has God's seal of approval, but they have yet to understand the divine plan. Somehow, this is tied to the rather mysterious question of the Son of Man "rising from the dead". And so, until they understand both the identity of Jesus and the divine plan, they are charged to be silent. They are, and yet they try to solve the puzzle amongst themselves. As do we!

I wonder if we might come closer to understanding in this way. Those who turn away from God are left in communities of loneliness. Loneliness brings panic, and, in their panic, people will try anything to fill the void they have made in their own lives. Grace reverses this process. People grounded in God do not know what it is like to be separated. Their communion fills them and propels them outwards. Instead of trying to grab and hold, they find joy in giving themselves. And here they discover one of life's strangest truths, that the source of life is always available to those who walk with generous hearts before God. These are the ones who bring strength and healing to a broken and troubled world.

In the Transfiguration narrative Jesus radiates outwards. This is the sign of His communion with God. Neither God nor Jesus abandon this troubled world or her troubled people. They move in sync to restore what was lost. This is what disciples are meant to understand. That feeling grounded and at home and flowing into the world with compassion and blessing, they find a deeper compassion and more abundant blessing. Thus, they are transfigured with Christ.

Cyprian Smith states the case beautifully: "It is possible for human beings, living, thinking and acting in God, to think, see and do as God does. Instead of standing within the created world, looking in it for signs of a God who is outside it, we stand within God and it is the world that now appears outside, we are greater than it. It appears as a pale and imperfect reflection of the dazzling and brilliant truth in which we are living and making our home". (The Way of Paradox: Spiritual Life as Taught by Meister Eckhart.)



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement
*Come Lord, work upon us, set us on fire and clasp us close,
be fragrant to us, draw us to your loveliness,
let us love, let us run to you.*

A prayer of St. Augustine



GIVE Campaign Update #113



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. **This weekend** will also have a second offering after each Mass on behalf of CAFOD.



Catholic Social Teaching

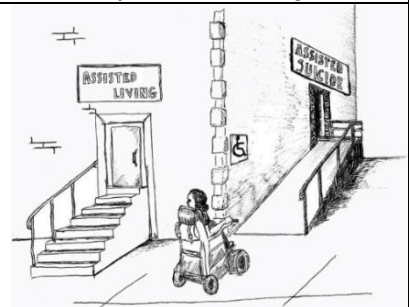
You may have noticed the 7 facets of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) on the wall in the hall. CST emphasises the inherent dignity of the human person, the common good, and the importance of community and solidarity in addressing social issues. It provides a moral framework for addressing contemporary social issues, advocating for justice, and the well-being of people. By emphasising human dignity, the common good, and solidarity, CST encourages individuals and communities to work towards a more just and equitable society. These principles serve as a guide for Catholics and others seeking to engage with the world in a meaningful and responsible way.



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.



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.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	06/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	11/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	25/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 🧒🧒	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	13/03, 12:45pm	Church Hall
ALPHA	05/03, 8pm-9pm	Online
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	10/03 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



The war in Ukraine is four years old this month. Despite the tremendous cost in lives on both sides – some estimate two million soldiers – and despite the enormous push from Moscow, the invasion is still struggling to make progress. As NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte put it, Moscow's advance is running at "the speed of a garden snail." Leaving aside the unlawful annexation of Crimea in 2014, Russian troops have actually moved only about 30 miles into the Donetsk region, a testament to the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian forces. However, as we pass this four-year landmark, let us redouble our prayers for an end to this senseless war and for progress in the peace talks.

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

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>
Monday	2 nd		NO MASS	
Tuesday	3 rd	10am	Mass	
Wednesday	4 th	10am	Communion Service	
Thursday	5 th	10am	Mass	
Friday	6 th	11am	Stations of the Cross	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Christine and Vincent Neal</i>
Saturday	7 th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday	7 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Monsignor Kevin O'Callaghan</i>
Sunday	8 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Terry McCullough 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