

Fifth Sunday of Lent

TRUSTING IN LOVE

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Missal Page 133

Grief is a wild ride. We might map its face, predict its stages and guess how long it might last. But this is the luxury of those who, for now anyway, have not been pulled into the land of loss. They have the luxury of observation. But when the loss of a loved one takes up residence in our heart and soul, we become occupied territory.

Perhaps that is why I like the weeping Jesus being swept on a tidal wave of grief towards the tomb of his friend Lazarus. We are all eager for love but in our eagerness, we forget that every affectional bond we make will be broken by death.

Of course, we don't think about this when we are giving our hearts away. Within our short lives, the advent of Love carries the seed of grief. Gabriel Marcel said, 'To love someone is to say, 'Thou shalt never die.' Even if we do not say it out loud, even if we only whisper it in the cellar of our heart, love readies us for tears. The first kiss and the first tears are linked.

It is here we must not forget that this same love will console us. But we must trust this love to take us all the way. It must reveal to us that there is more than meets the eye here. This love which holds us at the bedside of the dying and takes us to their graves after they die, is telling us something very important about God's love. Our reluctance to let loved ones go makes sense as we watch Jesus raising Lazarus from death. The Love that distresses Jesus, that makes Him weep uncontrollably and makes Him go after Lazarus and free him is worth pondering. Love will not let him go so death has to set him free.

The Song of Songs 8,6 sings of the Love that is stronger than death. In the face of the stench of death, this insight may not come easily to us. We might find ourselves being drawn to other solutions to our pain. But it does seem to me that the more we grow our contemplative heart (Mary) and integrate what we find there into our busy lives (Martha) we will find an enduring strength that will bring us through to the other side of grief.

Love brings grief and consolation. St. Paul put it best of all when he wrote, "Do not grieve as others do who have no hope." It is the weeping Jesus who cries out, 'Lazarus, come out!'



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement
"The soul is in God and God in the soul, just as the fish is in the sea and the sea in the fish."

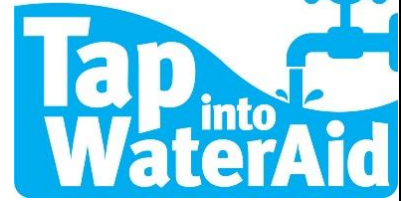
St. Catherine of Genoa



GIVE Campaign Update #116



The countdown of WaterAid donations is almost complete and will definitely exceed our planned target. Money given via the Dona card portals alone reached £449, excluding the extra £112 gift aid that will come from the government. So many of you have given to our Parish WaterAid effort at this challenging time, thank you.



**Save
the
Date**



New and exciting Parish outings are as follows:

- Fri 20th March 2:30pm @ South Hill Park Cinema: Elvis in Concert, £11
- Sat 11th April 2:30pm @ Windsor Theatre: Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat (performed by a youth group)
- Wed 17th June 7:45pm @ South Hill Park: One Night in Dublin, £29
- TBA July: Boat Trip in Windsor (40 mins/£13, 2 hours /£20)
- Thursday 15th October 2:30pm @ Windsor Theatre: The Mousetrap, £36

Please call or text 07395 077913 (Rita) to register your interest, or to discuss future events.

Car Parking

We would like to remind everyone again that parking on Sundays and regular Masses is only for those with accessibility and mobility issues, thank you.



Life in the Spirit Seminars - starting in April



Life in the Spirit Seminars are a guided, community-based journey into a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit, rooted in Catholic teaching and Charismatic Renewal. You'll attend a series of talks, discussions, and prayer sessions, mainly online, designed to help you experience a renewed relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. The sessions are run by our Diocesan Charismatic Renewal team, and are widely encouraged within the Catholic Church, from Pope Francis onwards.

The seminars are designed to help you understand God's love, rediscover salvation and the core Gospel message, experience new life in Christ, become open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, receive prayer for a "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" (a deeper release of the Spirit) and learn how to grow and live a Spirit-filled Christian life.

This year world-renowned speakers have been secured to inspire us around these topics, including Fr Chris Thomas, Daniella Stephens, Gerry Penfold, Ros Powell and Allegra Mutanda, amongst others. This year, they start at 7.15pm on Thursday 23rd April, and continue most Thursdays until 18th June. They will be delivered via Zoom, aside from the Holy Spirit Day. Registration (and attendance link) will be shared closer to the time- please join us if you can!

Lenten Penitential Service

On Thursday 26th March, from 7:30pm-8:30pm, the church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS, will be holding a penitential service to prepare us spiritually for Easter.





Polish Community Easter Basket Blessing

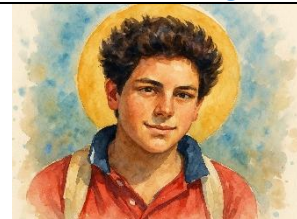
Once again, St Joseph's Bracknell will celebrate Świąconka - the blessing of the Easter baskets - with members of the Polish community on Holy Saturday, at 12 noon.

Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation and the Liturgy Formation team invite you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on Saturday 9th May 2026 commencing with Mass at 9 am. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk focusing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Eucharistic Miracle Exhibition & Relics of St Carlo Acutis

Corpus Christi Wokingham will be hosting a Eucharistic Miracle exhibition, which is on from Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 7th June 2026. This exhibition will be open and available to view during most days.



The visit of the Relics of St Carlo will be at Corpus Christi on Saturday 30th May and Sunday 31st May 2026. There is a programme of events being defined and details will be available shortly. There is also a youth event on Saturday 30th May 2026 starting at 7:00pm, the itinerary of which will be posted closer to the time.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	25/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	10/04, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 🧒🧒	22/03, 29/03	Church Hall
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕	Every Tuesday (term time only), 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
New Parent Coffee Morning	03/04, 9am-10:30am	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	10/04, 12:45pm	Church Hall
ALPHA	26/03, 8pm-9pm	Online
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	24/03 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	05/04, 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	Joseph Rice
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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday	21 st	6pm	Mass	<i>Anne Adams RIP</i>
Sunday	22 nd	8:30am	Mass	<i>Mary Morris RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
Monday	23 rd		NO MASS	
Tuesday	24 th	10am	Mass	<i>Frederick Byrne RIP</i>
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, solemnity				
Wednesday	25 th	10am	Mass	<i>Thanksgiving Mass: Stella (70th birthday)</i>
Thursday	26 th	10am	Mass	<i>Paul Dean</i>
Friday	27 th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	28 th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord				
Saturday	28 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Fr Padraig Faughnan (Fr Pat)</i>
Sunday	29 th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Annie Cardoz RIP (1st Death Anniversary)</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**

JOB AVAILABLE IN THE DIOCESE: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 119956