

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
PENTECOST SUNDAY
EVERY DISCIPLE IS CALLED TO BE A LEADER

Sunday 24th May 2026
Missal Page 336 (Vigil)/342 (Sunday)

It is evening on the first day of the week. Remember that St. John's Gospel is rewriting the creation story in Genesis. Earlier, the Beloved Disciple and Mary of Magdala realise that Jesus is with God. Now, they discover that He is also in their midst. Jesus is with God (*ascension*) and with them (*resurrection*) at the same time. He is the bridge connecting us with God. The Mediator between the Sacred and the Creation. He is as He has always been. 'And there was evening and there was morning, the first day'. (Genesis 1:5)

Notice how the first words He speaks are words of Peace! These words are spoken with the gesture of opening His hands and showing His side. He shows them what Love has done to Him. How the waters of new birth now flow from His Heart to them and through them. They are being sent as He was sent. Staying in His Peace, and being faithful to the Love that has no end, will be their guide and their strength.

And then, when all has been said and done, there is really only one message that the new community has to bring. It is a message of forgiveness. This is the word that will make or break the new creation, just as it makes or breaks us.

I turn once again to John O'Donoghue, who puts this call to lead in the work of reconciliation more beautifully than I could. It is his 'Blessing for Love in Time of Conflict'.

*When the gentleness between you hardens,
And you fall out of your belonging to each other.
May the depths you have reached hold you still.*

*When no true word can be said, or heard,
and you mirror each other in the script of hurt.
When even the silence has become raw and torn,
may you hear again the echo of your first music.*

*When the weave of affection starts to unravel,
and anger begins to sear the ground between you.
Before the weather of grief invites
the dark seed of bitterness to find root
may your souls come to kiss.*

*Now is the time for one of you to be gracious,
to allow a kindness beyond thought and hurt.*

*Reach out with sure hands
to take the chalice of your love
and carry it carefully through this echoless waste.
Until this winter pilgrimage leads you towards the
gateway to spring.*





GIVE Campaign Update #124



The Closer to Christ campaign provides ongoing formation for our parishes, retirement accommodation for clergy, and support for our seminarians. Please support the Closer to Christ campaign through our contactless giving portals if you are able. A second offering for the campaign will take place at this weekend's Masses.



We are looking for an additional sacristan for the **Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass**. Full training will be provided. Please contact the office if you think you may be able to help!

On Thursday 21st May the Governors at St Joseph's formally appointed Nicola Philpott as the new headteacher at St. Joseph's school. We are delighted to have made this appointment and we believe that she will be an excellent headteacher to take the school forward. Please keep her in your prayers.



St. Joseph's primary school are looking for 3 foundation governors. If you believe you will be able to bring something fresh and original to the board of governors, please contact the office.

You may be aware of a crisis in Sudan that's been going on for about 3 years now. As per the CAFOD website "Sudan was already one of the poorest countries in the world (ranked 170 out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index). Sadly, three years of war have made the situation so much worse."



The war has displaced around 9.3 million people in Sudan. A further 4.3 million are now refugees in neighbouring countries, such as South Sudan or Egypt. Refugee camps along the White Nile in South Sudan are already at four times their capacity, with 1,000 more people seeking shelter every day. Women and girls are the worst affected, with sexual violence at a critical level. Families are suffering from severe food shortages, which can lead to acute malnutrition."

CAFOD needs our help. There are 2 ways to do this:

- Please donate at <https://cafod.org.uk/about-us/where-we-work/africa/sudan>
- Please sign a petition requesting Yvette Cooper the Home Secretary to act now: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/183860/petition/1>

Thank you.

If you are in need of a white double duvet, please contact the office.

Fire Alarm Installation

On the 26th/27th May, fire alarms are being installed and as a result there will be no Mass on either of the days. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

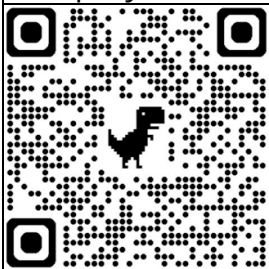
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

If you are curious about the Catholic faith, asking questions, or simply wanting to explore a little further, you are very welcome to join our RCIA group. RCIA now takes place on **Thursday evenings from 7:30pm-9:00pm in the hall at St. Joseph's Church** and is open to everyone across our pastoral area. For more information, please e-mail rcia@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk.

CELEBRATE has a multitude of free resources to accompany families from Ascension to the Feast of Pentecost.

For family activity packs: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks>

For prayer resources: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/celebrate-prayer-resources>



Life in the Spirit Seminars

The fifth Life in the Spirit seminar is online on **Thursday 4th June, 7:15pm**, and is a 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit' catch-up session.

The seminars themselves will continue most Thursdays until 18th June. Full details can be seen on the posters at the entrances to church. They will be delivered via Zoom. Registration is now open, scan the QR code with your smartphone or head to <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0ntyh8dxTF6b72BXv1LByg#>- please join us if you can!

Rosary on Zoom

The Knights of St. Columba Parish Fatima Devotions Group prays the rosary **over Zoom each day, Monday - Friday at 13:30pm**, and invites everyone to say the Rosary with them as Our Lady has asked us to do. If you wish to join in week commencing 18th May 2026, details are as follows:

Zoom Access ID: **823 5866 7093** Password : **rosary**

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	27/05, 2pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	10/06, 2pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
RCIA	Every Thursday 7:30pm-9pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 🧒🧒	07/06 & 21/06	Church Hall
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕	Every Tuesday (term time only), 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
New Parent Coffee Morning	05/06, book in advance	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	12/06, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Life in the Spirit Seminar	04/06, 7:15pm	Online
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	19/05, 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	07/06, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	31/05, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church



We pray for the repose of the soul of Raymond Savage. The funeral service for Raymond Savage (Ray) will take place on **Tuesday, 9th June at 12 noon here at church**, followed by a committal at **Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 2:00pm**.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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	
Arthur Hardy	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Judith Newman	Peggy McCullough	Vilma Taborda
Audrey Lam	Dymphna Slade	Margaret Finnieston	Raf Roberts	Vivienne Halfpenny
	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

PENTECOST SUNDAY, solemnity

Saturday	23 rd	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	24 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Christopher Havers</i>
		10:30am	Mass	

ORDINARY TIME RESUMES (Week 8)

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, memorial

Monday 25th **NO MASS**

St Philip Neri, Priest, Founder, memorial

Tuesday 26th **NO MASS**

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Bishop, feast

Wednesday 27th **NO MASS**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, the ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST, feast

Thursday 28th 10am Mass

Friday 29th 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 noon Mass *WEDDING: Alice Williams & Jason Cardoz*

Saturday 30th 10am Mass

11am Confessions

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, solemnity

Saturday 30th 6pm Mass *Joan Byrne RIP (anniversary)*

Sunday 31st 8:30am Mass Parish Intentions

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

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