

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LIVING WELL AND ENDING WELL

Sunday 17th May 2026

Missal Page 322

.....

The Gospel text for the Seventh Sunday in Eastertide reads like the last will and testament of Jesus. Notice how Jesus does not see his death as ending his life, or as a catastrophic loss for his disciples. He sees it both as a returning to the Father and as a new way of being with those that he loves. We watch him at prayer. There is no panic or desperation in his words. Instead, his words reveal the depth of his relationship with the Father and they strengthen the mission which they share together. His prayerful heart expands to include and embrace those who see him clearly. Caught up in the intimacy Jesus enjoys with the Father, they are given their first insight into the gift of eternal life which is being given to them. Of course, this gift has to be continually unwrapped. This can only happen when disciples share the gift with others. When we hear Jesus praying in words, we are given a moment of grace in which we see who he really is, enter into his heart and begin to wonder what our own vocation will be as we embrace the Divine Plan.

The Gospels sometimes say that Jesus looks up to heaven as he prays. At other times, his eyes are closed as he touches the Kingdom of God within. Either way is good because he teaches and reveals this profound truth. That prayer is not an attempt to make contact with God but a conscious celebration of the One who is always near us.

The death of Jesus is near at hand. He holds this ending within sacred space and time. For even though it looks like his death will happen at the hands of evil people, he sees so much more. The 'Hour' which has come, will in reality be a life giving and saving event for all who are able to receive it. "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself" (Jn:12:32). This ending becomes a moment of 'Glory'. And it is glorious because those who stand at the foot of the cross with loving hearts receive life without end. God glorifies the Beloved Son by attracting people to Him and the Beloved Son glorifies the Father by giving them the gift of eternal life. The flow of life between the Father and the Son, which was moving before creation was begun, is now gifted to his disciples whose only mission is to pass it on to others.

As we sit with this beautiful text it is becoming clearer that the best way to engage with the disruptive and painful reality of dying or ending is to be able to claim for ourselves these words which Jesus prays, "I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do". (Jn 17:4). This is a much better interpretation of our lives. It trumps any ending which may be tarnished by regret for missed opportunities, failures in love or fear in the face of the unknown. It is worth remembering here that, from a social point of view, the death of Jesus was a failure and a brutal interruption to a life lived in beauty and nobility. Betrayed, deserted, mocked, rejected and obliterated - He did not die at the right time. His life was taken from him.

And what about us? Even if we die after a ripe old age, our achievements behind us, our family and friends around us, we die incomplete from a purely social point of view. In this limited view there is no perfect death and there is no right time to die.

And yet we can talk about an accomplished life in spiritual language. If the mission of life is to be a vessel which pours Sacred love into the world, it can only be sustained by recognising that every person is a child of God, who dwells in their hearts, and reveals his face and his name to them. We cannot say that we believe in the Fatherhood of God and not believe that everyone is our sister and our brother. Whenever this identity emerges, whenever the Beloved Son and the Father are glorified by what love reveals is the 'hour' of our own lives where the work we are sent to do is accomplished.

This prayer of Jesus are the words our hearts are waiting eagerly to hear. Not only do they make his relationship with the Father crystal clear, they also evaluate life from a beautiful theological perspective. To nurture a steadfastly spiritual love of every person will help us to see what we might miss in the turbulence and noise of our social selves. What is it that he wants us to see? That you and I are a mission of Love, sent to stir love in others. When we do this, God is glorified and life is complete.

Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord"

Proverbs 16:1



GIVE Campaign Update #123



Sunday 17th May marks the 60th World Day of Social Communications. This year's theme is Preserving Human Voices and Faces. The second offering this weekend supports the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, particularly its websites, publications and social media channels. The Bishops' Conference works hard to foster positive relationships with media outlets to communicate the Good News of the Gospel. For more information, and to read Pope Leo's message for World Communications Day 2026, please visit:

cbcew.org.uk/wcd/.

You can make an offering by visiting this link <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/catholic-communications-network-second-collection> or by scanning the QR code.



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!

Electrical Work & Fire Alarm Installation

On the 18th/19th May, there will be electrical work happening in and around the church which may lead to some general disruption. **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.

Recollection for Women

A great opportunity to pray, meditate and recharge. The priest will be available for confession. Join them on **Wednesday 20th May 2026 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm at St. Tarcisius, Camberley, GU15 3EY**.



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 fourth Life in the Spirit seminar is online on **Thursday 21st May, 7:15pm**, and is titled 'Receiving God's Gift' by Abby Thomas.

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, aside from the Holy Spirit Day on the 23rd May. Registration is now open, scan the QR code with your smartphone or head to

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/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**

An International Exhibition, 'The Eucharistic Miracles of the World' is coming to Wokingham from the **23rd May to 7th June 2026**. We invite everyone to visit this exhibition at Corpus Christi Church, Sturges Rd, Wokingham RG40 2HE. Bring your friends and neighbours. Free Entry.

This exhibition was designed and created by St. Carlo Acutis (1991-2006), an Italian teenager and computer whiz kid, referred to as the "patron saint of the internet".



The Relic of St. Carlo Acutis will also visit the church on **30th & 31st May 2026**. A number of events are planned for these 2 days. More details can be found at <https://corpuschristi-wokingham.org/>.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	22/05, 2pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	27/05, 2pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
RCIA	Every Thursday 7:30pm-9pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 🧒🧒	24/05, 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	21/05, 7:15pm	Online
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	19/05, 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	07/06, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	24/05, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church



We pray for the repose of the souls of Brenda Lynch and Raymond Savage. The funeral service for Brenda Lynch will take place on **Wednesday, 20th May 2026 at 11:00am here at church**, followed by a committal at **Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 12:30pm**.

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER				
Saturday	16 th	6pm	Mass	<i>John Ellerton RIP Birthday</i>
Sunday	17 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Thanksgiving: Rohan Pais & Family</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>David Wear RIP</i>
Monday	18 th		NO MASS	
DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN, PORTSMOUTH, <i>feast</i>				
Tuesday	19 th	10am	Mass	<i>Brenda Lynch RIP</i>
Wednesday	20 th	11am	Requiem Mass	<i>Brenda Lynch RIP</i>
Thursday	21 st	10am	Mass	<i>Albera Chagadama RIP</i>
Friday	22 nd	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Visitation Barreto RIP</i>
Saturday	23 rd	10am	Mass	<i>John Baptist Robertson RIP</i>
		11am	Confessions	
PENTECOST SUNDAY, <i>solemnity</i>				
Saturday	23 rd	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	24 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Christopher Havers</i>
		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**

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