

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
BEING AT PEACE, BEING AT REST

Sunday 5th July 2026
Missal Page 627

Jesus found out that, no matter what you do, you just can't please some people. His beautiful teaching is rejected by the religious and political elite. They bypass the beauty of His Word because they prefer to sit in cafes and bars making dark judgements. They are learned and clever about the 613 dictates of the Law. They tithe herbs to God but ignore the justice God longs for. They like being in charge. They like to be seen and seen as movers and shakers. They like telling other people what they ought to be doing. But they are only interested in the outside of the cup. They are masters of the detail, obsessing over surface rather than depth.

If anyone should come to them with a new idea, it is rejected if it doesn't fit in with how they see things. And surely how they see things is the only way to see things. Experts at categorising others for exclusion, they are clever enough to maintain their own position of privilege. They argue endlessly about God, Morality and Theology, not because they want to Grow in Wisdom, but to keep God at a distance. They never ever come to Jesus seeking the truth. They come to compete and to try to trap Jesus in a maze of their own making.

But Jesus teaching is being accepted by those who are not 'learned' or 'clever'. Jesus praises His Father for working in this way and decides that, if the Father hides and reveals in this way, this is how the Mission of the Son should unfold.

The mind of a child is eager and open. It is not cluttered or defensive. The mind of a child is always changing and growing and adapting to novelty. But most importantly, the mind of a child is relational. This openness gives the Father huge pleasure, so He pours life and love into the hearts of those with a child mind. If they find pleasure in God, they will effortlessly walk the pathways of Justice and Peace.

Jesus exemplifies this child mind. He stretches out His hands to those who struggle to be good by conforming to the endless petty laws that defeat, rather than nurture, the human spirit. He calls all who have lost their taste for life to the banquet. He has a special place in His heart for those who are suffering, especially those whose suffering have caused them to lose heart. He offers them the rest which unfolds from a profound intimate relationship with His Father.

I do believe that Jesus still speaks to the many who are weary and exhausted today. Those who have to work too many hours. Those who are so anxious that they cannot rest. Those who believe they have to always be in control, and who can't trust enough to let go. He teaches that we can rest by disengaging from our mighty egos and becoming like children who are pleased to be carried.

Many poets have played with this experience of inner rest. Rainer Maria Rilke, in his 'Selected Poems' reflects on the experience of inner rest. He describes the awkward labouring steps of the swan walking on land. Who then,

... let's herself down into the water, which receives her gaily and which flows joyfully under, and after her, wave after wave, while the swan, unmoved and marvellously calm, is pleased to be carried,
each moment more fully grown. (p.141)

And DH Lawrence in his 'Pax', speaks of –

... a cat asleep on a chair, at peace, at peace ... Sleeping on the hearth of the living world, yawning at home before the fire of life, feeling the presence of the living God, like a great reassurance a deep calm in the heart. (p.700)

Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement
About Jesus Christ and his Church, I know only this. They're simply one thing. And we shouldn't complicate the matter.

St Joan of Arc

GIVE Campaign Update #131



After Masses this weekend there is a second offering for Peter's Pence. Peter's Pence is the name for the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need. Our offerings to the Holy Father are destined to Church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See.

We are still looking for two additional sacristans for the **Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass**. Sacristans work in pairs for safety and security purposes. Full training will be provided. Please contact the office if you think you can be of assistance, thank you.

We are still looking for new choir and instrumental members to join our team. Please speak to John Weeks after Mass, if you would like to get involved.

Any young adult (school years 10 to 13) who wishes to be considered for Confirmation in 2027, please send an email to the office to register your interest before **17th July**. This will allow us to plan for the 2026/27 Confirmation programme.

Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is seeking one volunteer from our parish to help with Sea Sunday on **11th/12th July**. This is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families, and takes a second collection to support the work of Stella Maris. The volunteer will read out the appeal (which Stella Maris will provide) at the end of Masses that weekend. If you can kindly do this, please contact roland.hayes@stellamarismail.org.



STELLA MARIS



First Holy Communion 2027

If your child will be in year 3 or above and you would like them to make their First Communion next year, then please email the office to register your interest by 31st July. You should attend Mass regularly and be registered in the parish on Churchsuite.

Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

EMERGENCY
Venezuela Earthquake Appeal



"We ask God that we may all face this together, finding comfort in God, and in solidarity and charity."
– Archbishop Raúl Biord Castillo, Archbishop of Caracas, Santiago de Venezuela

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the people of Venezuela after the devastating earthquakes and flooding. Many of our neighbours have been killed or injured, and buildings, including churches, seminaries and Caracas Cathedral, have been damaged.

CAFOD have launched an emergency appeal, found here: <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/venezuela-earthquake-appeal>.

We will also be having a second offering to support the appeal at next weekend's Masses.

We are also collecting essentials here at church to send over with the help of Berza Jiménez (elbabjimenezmujica@gmail.com / 07444 743662). Desirable items include:

- Solar lanterns
- Medical supplies: sterile gauze, bandages, adhesive tape, cotton, sterile swabs, disposable and sterile gloves, surgical masks, sterile syringes
- Over-the-counter medications: paracetamol (acetaminophen), ibuprofen (including children's syrup), diclofenac, Buscopan (hyoscine butylbromide), loratadine, cetirizine, oral rehydration salts, sterile saline solution
- Hygiene products: toothbrushes, toothpaste, roll-on deodorant (non-aerosol), sanitary towels
- Baby supplies: diapers and baby bottles

A collection point has been set-up in the hall. Alternatively please drop off items at the office during office hours. As always, thank you for supporting these initiatives as fervently as you do.



Deacon Aidan will be blessing the graves at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on **Saturday 11th July at 1pm.**

Parish Events	When?	Where?
RCIA	Every Thursday 7:30pm-9pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 🧒🧒	19/07	Church Hall
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕	Every Tuesday (term time only), 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
New Parent Coffee Morning	07/08, book in advance	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	10/07, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	14/07, 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	02/08, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	05/07, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church

Rest In Peace...



We pray for the repose of the souls of **Eamon McNeil, Kevin Byrne, and Jacqueline Marshall**, who recently passed away. The Requiem Mass for Eamon will take place on **Thursday 9th July at 10:30am**, here at church, followed by a committal at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at **12 noon.**

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. 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		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
		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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	4 th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	5 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Thanksgiving: Rinzel Pais</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Michael and Bridget Flynn RIP</i>

Monday	6 th		NO MASS	
Tuesday	7 th	10am	Mass	<i>Marie-Danielle Tichbon RIP</i>
Wednesday	8 th	10am	Mass	
Thursday	9 th	10:30am	Requiem Mass	<i>Eamon McNeil RIP</i>
Friday	10 th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	

ST BENEDICT, Founder, Patron of Europe, feast

Saturday	11 th	10am	Mass	<i>First Holy Communion families</i>
		11am	Confessions	

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	11 th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	12 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Christy Henry RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>First Holy Communion families</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