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A handful of wheat, a fistful of mustard seeds, a pinch of yeast. Jesus uses these beautiful things to say something amazing about the Kingdom of God. He begins with the great reassurance that love is invincible. No matter how small the beginning, no matter how vulnerable or threatened the middle, the end is never in doubt. In life and in death, the Kingdom will come and Gods' will, will be done.

Next. He will not allow us to take a simplistic, no grey in the middle, view of the world. We are all complicated. There is no neat division of people into the 'good' and the 'bad'. We are all a strange mixture of both. Take the first disciples as an example. One moment they are all over Jesus like a rash, then they are following at a distance or not following Him at all. And if we are honest, we don't always go along with Holy things. We drift from time to time. The Great Reassurance of God walks with the Great Not-So-Sureness of the human heart.

And so the struggle goes on. Or the struggle goes well. It is a struggle for bread, for shelter and for Compassion. Only the Wisdom which allows the wheat and darnel to remain intertwined can make this happen. This Wisdom puts us in a place of unending repentance as we await the time of harvest.

This invitation to unending repentance is one of the big themes of Saint Matthews Gospel. It is an invitation to shake ourselves free of anything in us which causes hunger, homelessness and despair. And when we have completed this work, we start all over again. This labour goes on and on throughout our lives. This is why, when we leave the retreat centre, full of good intentions and two minutes into the journey home we are screaming at someone who cut us up on the road, we smile. Or we leave Holy Mass full of love, kindness and consideration which evaporates the minute someone presses the wrong buttons. We smile! How many times have we witnessed Saint Peter proclaim his love unto death for Jesus being chastened and illuminated by his own betrayal? Perhaps we dream more than we can do. Perhaps not.

In the teaching of Jesus weeds and wheat grow together. Small seeds become huge trees. Leaven raises dead dough into bread. All are given the gift of time. Time to try again. Time to become repeat repenters and not just repeat offenders. But one day the time will run out and the urgency of the struggle is clear. We all fail and we are all ashamed of the failing within us. But we must not give up on ourselves. Out of our errors and frailty come some of life's most important lessons. There is a freedom that awaits us. It can only be found by those who carry the light, of a certain kind of love, into darkened places.



## Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

*"You must not abandon the ship in a storm because you cannot control the winds. What you cannot turn to good, you must, at least, make as little bad as you can."*

St. Thomas More



### GIVE Campaign Update #133



**\*The second offering\*** this weekend is for Stella Maris, formerly the Apostleship of the Sea. Stella Maris, originally founded as the Apostleship of the Sea in 1920 Glasgow, provides essential support to seafarers globally. Evolving from hostels to the world's largest ship-visiting network, they adapt to the modern shipping industry's changes. With over 1,000 chaplains and volunteers in 330 ports across 60 countries, Stella Maris makes 70,000+ annual ship visits. They offer practical, pastoral, and emotional support, including onboard Mass, crisis assistance, and free Wi-Fi for families. Rooted in Catholic faith and named after the patron saint of seafarers, Stella Maris remains dedicated to the well-being of all seafarers, regardless of background.

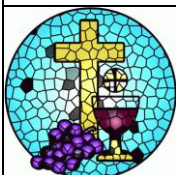


STELLA MARIS

**\*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.

**\*Warfield Tesco\*** has the LIFE house as one of its good causes at present. Please use your blue token to support this cause if you happen to be shopping there- thank you!



### 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 **31<sup>st</sup> July**. You should attend Mass regularly and be registered in the parish on Churchsuite.

### Oppose Assisted Suicide (Again...)

A Private Members' Bill on assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying – has been reintroduced to the House of Commons. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026.

You know the drill by now, please ask your MP

to vote NO to assisted suicide, here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote>

Your vote matters more than ever if you live in Bracknell as our MP previously voted in favour of the assisted dying bill, thank you.

### Sacramental Catechesis Day

Are you currently involved with, or have an interest in helping with, Sacramental Preparation? The Pastoral Area is holding a Sacramental (Catechesis) Day on Saturday 25th July from 11:00am until 3:30pm at Corpus Christi Church, Wokingham, RG40 2HE. At this event catechists from the parishes will discuss their own experience and plan a way forward for preparing people for the sacraments in this area. If you would like to attend please contact the parish office and a place will be reserved for you. Tea and Coffee will be served but please bring a packed lunch.



| Parish Events                           | When?                                   | Where?                        |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Gospel Outreach with Music              | 22/07, 2pm-3pm                          | Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN |
| Gospel Outreach with Music              | 07/08, 2pm-3pm                          | Bickerton House, RG12 2JB     |
| Gospel Outreach with Music              | 12/08, 2pm-3pm                          | Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN |
| Gospel Outreach with Music              | 26/08, 2pm-3pm                          | Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN |
| RCIA                                    | Every Thursday<br>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                             | 11/09, 12:45pm                          | Church Hall                   |
| Parish Prayer Group 🙏                   | 28/07, 7pm                              | Church Hall                   |
| Monthly Filipino Mass                   | 02/08, 5pm                              | St. Joseph's Church           |
| Orthodox Mass                           | 19/07, 12:30pm-2:30pm                   | St. Joseph's Church           |


 We pray for the repose of the soul of **Kevin Byrne**, who recently passed away. The funeral service for Kevin will take place on **Wednesday, 29th July 2026** at **12:30pm** at Easthampstead Park Crematorium. 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   | Charles Beard             | Evelyn Caruso       | Mary Phelan       | Sarah Flemming        |
| Angela Dossett      | Claire Berry              | Inge Walker         | Mary Stocking     | Stan & Margaret Aburn |
| Ann D'Ambrosio      | Claire Hose               |                     | Mary Sullivan     | Susan Tobin           |
| Ann O'Sullivan      | Colleen McCormack         | Janet Read          | Patricia Holmwood | Terri & Andy Landmann |
| Anne Hardy          | Debbie Hanley             | Jean Lovejoy        | Paula Sandford    |                       |
| Arthur Hardy        | Dorcas Innes-Grant        | Judith Newman       | Peggy McCullough  | Vilma Taborda         |
| Audrey Lam          | Douglas & Bernadette Hunt | Margaret Finnieston | Raf Roberts       | Vivienne Halfpenny    |
|                     | Dymphna Slade             | Marie Swash         | Rico Morales      |                       |
| Bridget Riordan     |                           | Mary King           | Rita Hayes        |                       |
| <b>Carole Mayes</b> | Edmund & Kate Carroll     | 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](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

*Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical letter Magnifica humanitas offers powerful insights into the protection of the human person in the age of artificial intelligence, recognising a profound epochal shift. It places the dignity of the human person at the centre as the criteria for guiding technical progress. The Church's social teaching accompanies these transformations, pointing to the common good, solidarity and subsidiarity as the fundamental benchmarks for understanding and interpreting the transformation currently underway. It proposes, as an alternative to the culture of power and war, a civilisation of love founded on justice, dialogue and shared responsibility.*

**Below is a link to a video about the encyclical, and a series of infographics to read/download to guide you to a deeper understanding of Magnifica humanitas:**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/magnifica-humanitas-overview/>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

### MASS TIMES

#### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

|          |                  |         |      |                        |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 6pm     | Mass | <i>Kevin Byrne RIP</i> |
| Sunday   | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 8:30am  | Mass | Parish Intentions      |
|          |                  | 10:30am | Mass |                        |

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> **NO MASS**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 10am Mass

**ST MARY MAGDALENE, feast**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:20am Mass *St Joseph's Year 6 Leavers Mass*

**ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, Foundress, Patron of Europe, feast**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am Mass

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Mass

**ST JAMES, Apostle, feast**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 10am Mass

11am Confessions

#### SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 6pm Mass *Socorro Barretto RIP*

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 8:30am Mass *Madale Mouttou RIP*

10:30am Mass *Pedro Santana Alexio RIP & Especiosa  
Serula Fernandes RIP*

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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://www.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*