

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
COSTING NOT LESS THAN EVERYTHING

Sunday 26th July 2026

Missal Page 639

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Solomon has it all! He even has God talking to him in his dreams! His dreaming self hears the question God is always asking, "What is it that you want?" When we wake up, of course, the question is harder than it looks. Why? Because it can only be answered with great care. The word we speak coming straight from our heart.

I know a lot of jokes about genies wriggling out of bottles or fairies swooshing their wands, who ask the lucky finder the same question. Usually, the answer is a request for endless wealth. Solomon does not need to ask for what he already has, so he asks God for the gift of 'Wisdom'. A Wisdom that supports a community to grow. A Wisdom for relating! Notice how this stirs surprise and delight in Gods' own heart. And God is delighted to answer this prayer. The Psalmist must have had a similar experience. You can hear it as she sings, "The law from your mouth means more to me than silver or gold." Or in the words and experience of Saint Paul, God adorns us in Glory. What are they all telling us? What lesson can be learned here?

First of all, something happens. A baby looks at you and smiles and, no matter what you're feeling, you just have to smile back. Because, first of all, something happens. You're standing at a graveside, tears your only prayer, as the storm of grief rages from your heart to your eyes. Someone takes your hand and joins you in that lonely place which is now less lonely. First of all, something happens. A secret weakness is exposed, but the support of a good friend is stronger than the shame that threatens to engulf us. First of all, something happens. We are unexpectedly kissed; we see an old person refusing to be old. First of all, something happens.

These are the 'moments' that throw us into the Mystery we share with each other. We are suddenly face to face with the Presence within which we live our lives. God does not wait for a suitable moment or for a polite introduction. His presence breaks through our routines, demanding our attention, insisting that we talk. When God speaks, we may laugh or cry, we might sing or fall silent. But whatever we do we are praying at our best. The 'moment' the 'encounter' has changed everything.

We pray for the coming of God's Kingdom. But when it arrives it is always a surprise! In farming a field, a treasure is stumbled upon. A door opens and the perfect pearl is for sale. Out of nowhere there is a gold embossed invitation to the Kings' Banquet! Every genuine encounter with Jesus is always a surprise. Lawyers who expected justification are challenged. A rich young man asks for advice and is offered a vocation. Zacchaeus, hoping for a glimpse of a prophet, dines with his Saviour. A woman at a well leaves with a bucket full of self-revelation. All of them got more than they asked for. Their emptiness suddenly brimming over, their ravaged lives called to greatness.

These experiences bring us to prayer. Our own story now made more by our encounter with Jesus. We begin to make links with the Prophets and disciples who have gone before us. In their company, old worlds are subverted, new worlds rise from the ruins. We are blessed by a Love stronger than death. We are suddenly filled with a new confidence. We have become the prayer.

Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"Pray as though everything depended on God.

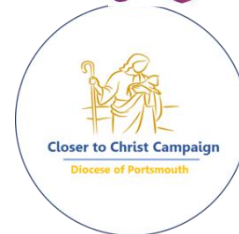
Work as though everything depended on you."

St. Augustine of Hippo

GIVE Campaign Update #134



The second offering this week is for the Closer to Christ campaign. 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 have now been looking for an additional 2 sacristans for the 6pm Mass for over 2 months. As a parish family, there are a number of regular opportunities that must be filled, otherwise too much falls on the other individuals. If we all volunteer for one thing, it would make parish life a lot easier. As we approach summer, it would be really nice if, come September, or before, we had two people volunteer. We have sufficient people who regularly come to the 6pm Mass on a Saturday, who, in the grand scheme of things, are not as involved as other people. It would be unfair if yet again, people who undertook multiple jobs to keep the parish going volunteered for this role, so please consider coming forward and volunteering.

Volunteers needed for Masses from September onwards. We currently have no welcomers for the 6pm Saturday and 10:30am Mass on a Sunday. Welcoming is such a valuable and important service given by individuals to the whole parish family. We are seeking individuals to fulfil these roles. We are also hoping to reintroduce the offertory procession and widen the number of people who provide intercessory prayers. Please, please come forward, to be welcomers, to volunteer for the offertory procession, and to write intercessory prayers.

The Prayers of Intercession are much more than a list of intentions. Having listened to God's Word, we bring the needs of the world, our local community and all those in need before God. These prayers form a bridge from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We would love to welcome a few more people to share in this prayerful ministry of preparing the Prayers of Intercession for our weekend Masses. It offers an opportunity to reflect on the Sunday Scriptures and help give voice to the prayers of our parish community. If you have a contemplative heart, enjoy prayerful reflection, and would love to use your gifts to serve the parish, please get in touch. No special qualifications are needed, just a willingness to spend some time with the Sunday readings. Guidance and support are always available.

We have over 200 families in this parish. Just think if each family and each individual offered to do the offertory procession and intercessory prayers once. It would probably mean that people would only have to do it once every two years. We are not asking for a huge commitment here, so do please come forward. If any of these ministries speak to your heart, or you would simply like to find out more, please contact the parish office.



New and exciting Parish outings are as follows:

-Sun 9th August 1:00pm @ Bracknell Cinema: Andre Rieu, £13.50

-Sat 31st October 2:30pm @ South Hill Park: Come From Away- Musical, £22

- Tues 1st December 7:15pm @ Bracknell Cinema: Nutcracker by the Royal Ballet, £23

-Sat 2nd January 7:00pm @ South Hill Park: Aladdin - Adult Panto version, £30

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

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, 11th 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.

Parish Events

When?

Where?

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
7:30pm-9pm

Church Hall

Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 🧒🧒

TBA

Church Hall

Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕

TBA

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

26/07, 12:30pm-2:30pm

St. Joseph's Church

Rest In Peace...



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

Carole Mayes

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

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	25 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Socorro Barretto RIP</i>
Sunday	26 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Madale Mouttou RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Pedro Santana Alexio RIP & Especiosa Serula Fernandes RIP</i>
Monday	27 th		NO MASS	
Tuesday	28 th	10am	Mass	
Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus, memorial				
Wednesday	29 th	10am	Mass	
Thursday	30 th	10am	Mass	<i>Deborah Dias RIP</i>
St Ignatius of Loyola, Founder, memorial				
		11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Friday	31 st	12 noon	Mass	
St Alphonsus Liguori, Founder, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial				
Saturday	1 st	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	2 nd	6pm	Mass	<i>Colman Joyce RIP</i>
Sunday	3 rd	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Donna Ireland RIP</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://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