

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven  
*Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
**CELEBRATING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026  
Missal Page 643

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Herod misuses his power and kills John. And, like all people who use their power to hurt, destroy or control others, the ghost returns to haunt him. Herod, now panicked by superstition, thinks that Jesus is a ghost. The world has become a dangerous place for the Beloved Son of God.

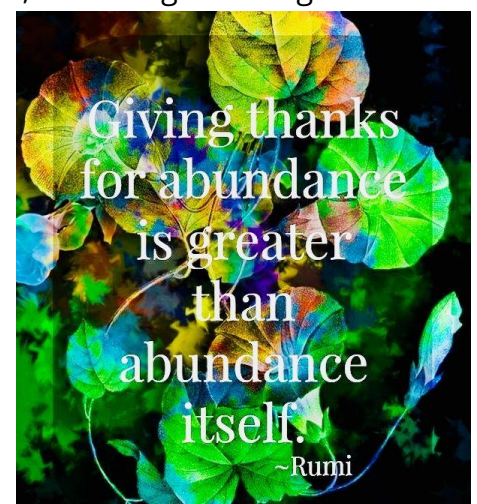
So Jesus goes to the place which, though useless to those who seek power, is a wellspring for those who seek God. Jesus is in the desert. And while it is true that He is rejected by some, He is pursued by others. The 'crowd' gather. He does not push them away. His heart goes out to them. As they move toward Him, He moves toward them. Mercy kisses misery and compassion is born. He heals their bodies and their anxious minds, restoring Peace to their community. They see in His Presence, Gods' presence and care, and they come to be bound in a covenant of love to each other and to God.

But the setting sun brings a new hunger, and the desert has little to offer. His closest disciples think that the solution is for them to leave now and go to the markets to buy food. Why, because they think they do not have enough. Jesus asks them to bring what they already have and draws them to understand that they already have enough. Five loaves and two fish. Five plus two equals seven. A Sacred number symbolising that whatever we have is a gift from God. Now they have two choices. To look at what they have and say it is not enough or to recognise that what they have is a gift from God which hides abundance.

When the disciples are no longer overwhelmed by the needs of these people, the desert becomes a garden. People sit on green grass. Jesus looks to heaven and gratitude fills His heart to overflowing. What is freely given is freely given away. Everyone is satisfied!

It does seem to me that there is a powerful teaching for us here. If we always start by thinking that the need before us is too great, and we will never have enough to meet that need, nothing will ever happen. We talk ourselves into doing nothing beautiful for God. Whereas, the Beloved Son of God, moves our attention to what we already have. He asks us not to look outside ourselves for the answer but to turn our gaze within. Going and buying may work for some, but for Jesus knowing what you have is the first step in spiritual transformation. He asks us to bring what we have, He gives thanks for what we have and asks us to join Him in gratitude, then He gives the gift to those who need it, and who, in their turn give it away to others.

This new way of living - self-awareness, gratefulness, generosity and communal love does not only satisfy the need before us, it produces an abundance - twelve baskets. So when we find ourselves in the desert, we know what to do. We either celebrate our assets and live or tell ourselves we will never have enough and die. Powerful teaching! Giving us the strength to say Yes!



## Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

*"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!"*

Psalm 27:13-14



### GIVE Campaign Update #135



**\*Thank you to those\*** who came forward to volunteer as sacristans for the Saturday 6pm Mass. However we are still looking for welcomers for the 6pm Mass on Saturday and the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, and additional catechists and helpers for children's liturgy at both Sunday Masses. We are also still looking for people 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, so please contact the parish office.

**\*Over the last 2 years\***, at various times, we have made a request for volunteers to run a toddler group in the parish. The time has come for us to seriously think and reflect; is this something as a parish we really want to provide? Despite repeated requests, no one has come forward to run the group. As a result, if we find ourselves in a position of no one wishing to do so by the end of September, it would be our intention to seriously consider that opportunity not being made available. So please, if you're interested and feel that a toddler group is something that we should be providing to ourselves and the wider community, come forward and volunteer.

**\*One of our polish parishioners\*** is looking for help filling out a document as she is having trouble making sense of it. If anyone with a solid grasp of the polish language is able to help, please contact the office, thank you.



### **\*New and exciting Parish outings\*** are as follows:

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

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

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

-Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**

For clarification, the bill going through parliament is the 'Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life)' bill. Individuals have started to call this the assisted dying bill or the assisted suicide bill, however it's important in all correspondence to MP's or others involved in the bill that we refer to it by its proper name. However, it was quite refreshing this week to hear our prime minister say "Before any assisted dying is considered in England and Wales, the funding of palliative and social care should be fixed."

## Magnifica Humanitas

For those enquiring about the encyclical, you can read it online for free here:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>. You can also purchase a hard copy of the encyclical from the Catholic Truth Society for £6.95.

### Diocesan Catechist Day – 10/10/2026 - 9:30am-1:30pm - St Bede's, Basingstoke



Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to **form missionary disciples**. Inspired by Jesus' words, "*Go therefore and make disciples...*" (Matthew 28:19), we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend.

To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan, Formation for Mission Team Leader at [ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### Online Alpha Forum for Parishes in Portsmouth Diocese – 07/09/2026 - 7:30pm–8:30pm

Has your parish run Alpha, or are you thinking about starting one? Join the Formation for Mission team for an online Alpha Forum designed to encourage, support, and connect parishes across the Diocese. This informal gathering is an opportunity to share experiences, learn from one another, explore best practice, and discover fresh ideas for running Alpha in your parish.



To register for the meeting please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/0TNBkTR7z8> or email [ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). A link will be sent out nearer the time.

| 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<br>7:30pm-9pm | Church Hall                   |
| New Parent Coffee Morning  | 07/08, book in advance       | Church Hall                   |
| Soup & Roll                | 11/09, 12:45pm               | Church Hall                   |
| Parish Prayer Group 🙏      | 04/08, 7pm                   | Church Hall                   |
| Monthly Filipino Mass      | 02/08, 5pm                   | St. Joseph's Church           |
| Orthodox Mass              | 02/08, 12:30pm-2:30pm        | St. Joseph's Church           |

### 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         |                     | 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](mailto: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](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

### EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

|          |                 |         |      |                          |
|----------|-----------------|---------|------|--------------------------|
| Saturday | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 6pm     | Mass | <i>Colman Joyce RIP</i>  |
| Sunday   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 8:30am  | Mass | Parish Intentions        |
|          |                 | 10:30am | Mass | <i>Donna Ireland RIP</i> |

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> **NO MASS**

**St John Vianney, Priest, memorial**

|           |                 |      |      |                          |
|-----------|-----------------|------|------|--------------------------|
| Tuesday   | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 10am | Mass | <i>Andrew McCann RIP</i> |
| Wednesday | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 10am | Mass | <i>Janet Read RIP</i>    |

**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, feast**

|          |                 |         |                                     |                                                          |
|----------|-----------------|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 10am    | Mass                                | <i>Joana Ferreira Dos Santos &amp; Alvaro Dos Santos</i> |
| Friday   | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 11am    | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |                                                          |
|          |                 | 12 noon | Mass                                | Parish Intentions                                        |

**St Dominic, Founder, memorial**

|          |                 |      |                       |  |
|----------|-----------------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday | 8 <sup>th</sup> | 10am | <b>NO MASS</b>        |  |
|          |                 | 11am | <b>NO CONFESSIONS</b> |  |

### NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

|          |                 |         |      |                                                             |
|----------|-----------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 8 <sup>th</sup> | 6pm     | Mass | <i>Kathleen O'Connor RIP &amp; Joel and Angela O'Connor</i> |
| Sunday   | 9 <sup>th</sup> | 8:30am  | Mass | <i>Brian Stapley RIP</i>                                    |
|          |                 | 10:30am | Mass | <i>Bruna Desouza</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](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