

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE EYE OF THE STORM

Sunday 9th August 2026
Missal Page 647

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One of the most popular pieces of writing is a little thing called 'Footprints in the Sand'. It's a sentimental piece where God appears to carry us when the storm clouds gather and the wind is trying to bowl us over. It is a favourite of a particular kind of disciple. However ...

The disciple is not asked to say prayers but to become prayer. But the reality for many people is that they only ever 'say' prayers when they are in trouble, or their life is in danger or when they want something badly. Once the storm has passed and they feel lifted out of the raging sea, they are grateful and then drop God until the next crisis or need appears.

The real adventure of faith, as it is outlined in today's Gospel, is to be rooted in Gods Saving Presence with every breath that we take. Danger creates fear and fear is a prison cell which will not allow Gods presence. The boat, Matthew's great symbol for the Church, is in danger of sinking. The disciples (men of little faith still) become afraid and lose their rudder. But they are not just taking a walk on a dark country lane at night.

We are instead struggling for community in an age of holocaust. Struggling for an end to war and violence, struggling to make poverty, hunger and disease things of the past, struggling to uphold dignity and respect for all of creation, for lives that are pure with love, struggling for beauty and truth in art and education, in healthcare, education and in politics. Working for higher consciousness of the Sacred in our Midst. In Matthew's language, trying to bring heaven to earth!

As we reach for these things, we become afraid. Afraid for our lives, Afraid of Failure. We notice the winds of change are stronger than we thought. We imagine that the tsunami of violation, greed, injustice, and cruelty will make our own little efforts seems ridiculous.

But we might keep this on the breath of our prayer. Before the outstretched arm of Christ reaches out to hold us up, there is no better way to sink!



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"Leadership starts with self. We only lead others as well as we lead ourselves. Conflict is a signal that the soul is restless. An invitation to introspect, deliberate and ultimately to contemplate. Emotions tell a story, feelings carry the pulse, actions express feelings, the Lord alone is our refuge." - Matthew 11:28



GIVE Campaign Update #136



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.



If anybody happens to have a garden shed going unused or a greenhouse that doesn't see as much fruit and veg as it used to then please let the office know, as the SVP have put in a request for one of each of these for their allotment- thank you!

New and exciting Parish outings are as follows:

- 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.



St John Diploma: Spiritual Theology & Formation

Claritas Spiritual Theology offers flexible online learning with their two-year Diploma in Spiritual Theology and Formation (or personal enrichment without assignments). Rooted in Scripture, Tradition, and the wisdom of the Saints, these interactive courses are designed to deepen one's own personal holiness and to equip all involved in evangelisation, spiritual direction, and pastoral ministry to accompany others more fruitfully. They explore the workings of grace, the virtues, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the mystical life, the path of prayer, meditation and contemplative prayer (primary text: St Teresa of Avila's Interior Castle) Lectio Divina, the three stages of the spiritual life, the dark nights, discernment of spirits, concomitant phenomena, spiritual direction and more. Live weekly two-hour sessions, with notes (audio recordings provided if unable to attend). To register or to find out more, please visit: www.claritas-st.com or email us at info@claritas-st.com.



Stand with Palestinian Families

The suffering in the Holy Land has gone on for far too long. One of the greatest obstacles to building peace is the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements across occupied Palestinian territory. As settlements expand, Palestinian families are driven from their homes, often amid repeated violent attacks, and are forced to watch while settlers take over. The result is widespread poverty and suffering. That is why we are calling on the trade secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, to ban trade with settlements, including ending the import of produce grown on illegally occupied land. You can e-mail the new trade secretary using this link: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/196290/action/1>.



Parish Events

When?

Where?

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

Resumes in September

Church Hall

Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕

Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm

Church Hall

New Parent Coffee Morning

04/09, book in advance

Church Hall

Soup & Roll

11/09, 12:45pm

Church Hall

Parish Prayer Group 🙏

11/08, 7pm

Church

Monthly Filipino Mass

06/09, 5pm

St. Joseph's Church

Orthodox Mass

09/08, 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	Emma Morales	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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

ST LAURENCE, Deacon, Martyr, *feast*

Monday 10th **NO MASS**

St Clare, Foundress, *memorial*

Tuesday 11th 10am Communion Service

Wednesday 12th 10am Communion Service

Thursday 13th 10am Communion Service

St Maximilian Maria Kolbe, Religious, Priest, Martyr, *memorial*

Friday 14th 11am **NO EXPOSITION**

12 noon Communion Service

Saturday 15th 10am **NO MASS**

11am **NO CONFESSIONS**

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 15th 6pm Mass *Margaret Keohane (Health Issues)*

Sunday 16th 8:30am Mass Parish Intentions

10:30am Mass *Jacob Vallanat RIP & Stella Jacob 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

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