THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

FINDING OR LOSING OUR LIFE

Sunday 30th August 2026

Missal Page 659

It looks like the suffering and death of Jesus will be the work of the religious leaders in Jerusalem. Still, Jesus must go, must suffer, must be killed and must be raised from death. All Peter can hear is the first bit, so he takes Jesus aside to talk some sense into him. He wants God to forbid the suffering and death of Jesus. The Lord turns. The rock on which the New Humanity is to be built now looks like a stumbling block. Jesus speaks to Peter, taking back the role of leader that Peter has just stolen. Peter must submit. He must set aside ordinary thinking and reach for higher ground. To do this, Peter will have to deny himself and his desire to avoid suffering and loss at any cost. He must make space in his panic for what he cannot hear - Resurrection. Disciples are to take up the cross gladly. If they do this, it will be a path of transformation for others and the doorway to resurrection for themselves.

Jesus hopes they will have the wisdom to see that when they are following Him, what looks like loss is really gain. Nothing the world has to offer can come close to the Kingdom of Heaven. They cannot be traded. And, at the end of time, the Son of God will come and repay everyone in accordance with how they have responded to His offer of a new humanity. The whole scene - the Father's Glory, the Son of Man, the Angels, the gathering of all time and space - is an invitation to see how our small contribution has been well received. The end of history judges all history and the end of history belongs only to the Son of Man and the new humanity who follow Him.

It is a sad fact of life that those who stand up get knocked down. A police officer reports corruption in his team and is shunned for the rest of his working life. A woman reports accounting 'inaccuracies' in her office. She is thanked and made redundant a few weeks later. Criticism and cover up go hand in hand. And Jesus was a fierce critic of the hypocrisy of many so-called religious leaders. They were taken up with their own importance, loving the trappings of their status rather than its substance. They loved money, elaborate robes, seats at the top table, ego massages in the town centre and being called teachers. They polished the outside of the cup. They kept people from the knowledge that would help them. They laid burdens on others and enjoyed watching them stumble and fall. Jesus saw the organisational abuse and he named it. When He did this, he was not naive. He knows that those who have power over others, destroy those who question them.

Anyone who takes a stand knows that there will be reprisals. So why do people continue to criticise this kind of wrongdoing? Some say, 'I just couldn't let it go on.' Others say, 'I couldn't live with myself if I kept quiet any longer.' But whatever the reason for the critique, it is because the right thing means so much for them. And in the Gospel, the deeper life of God depends on the voice of prophets. Every time the 'Cross' is taken up, a double revelation unfolds. God's Love is easier to see, as is the resistance of those who stand against it. The Cross is the symbol of the standoff between divine Love and Human sin.

And Jesus must take you and me aside to explain to us why this is necessary. Given who God is and who we are, it cannot be any other way. And as Jesus talks to us about the need to take up our cross and follow Him, He must keep saying the word we cannot hear - the word that was lost in the sound of our hearts pounding and our feet running from suffering and death. The sacred word. The most sacred word of all. Resurrection.

Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

In despair- when stress, duress, and distress press in- faith is tested and proven true. Not our strength, but His: omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient.

You are called by name. Let His love- your true identity- flow through your vessel, His temple.

Ken Maimo- Contemplative Life- 07983 419021

GIVE Campaign Update #139

Essential Volunteers Urgently Needed:

SACRISTANS

Needed for both Sunday Masses

INTECESSORY PRAYER WRITERS

If every family volunteered to write the prayers of intercession once, people would not need to do it more than once every couple of years

Please come forward.

We are looking to reintroduce the offertory processsion, so if there are any families that could come forward to help us with this that would be very much appreciated.

The parish toddler group will be dissolved at the end of September if nobody volunteers to help run it between now and then. Any toys/equipment that are currently in our storage will be donated to local charities so they actually see use. 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.

The next shipping container heading to schools in Ghana at the end of September courtesy of Thomas Donkor is now open for donations. We are looking for any books, sporting equipment, or anything else that you think a primary school would be able to put to good use.

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Thomas Donkor, on behalf of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, will also be holding a 14 year anniversary celebration of the SVP's presence in our church (and now in neighbouring churches following their recent expension) after Masses on the last weekend of September. We would love to see as many people in attendance after their Mass as possible! If you would like to be involved in planning the party, please contact the office.

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.

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

Please, if speaking about the Assisted Dying/Suicide bill, can you refer to it by its proper name, the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. It can be deemed insensitive by referring to it as anything else other than its actual name.

On another pro-life note, Dominica is looking for a successor to lead the local pro-life group and to be the parish rep for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). If you feel particularly drawn to preserving the sanctity of life in its infinite preciousness then please contact the office.

Come and Support Our Local Gospel Choir

The fantastic local Gospel Community Choir will be singing LIVE at The Lexicon, Bracknell, on **Saturday 5th September** at **11:15am** - and it would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible!
If they get a strong turnout and feel the support from our local community, they may come and perform for us at church!
There might even be one or two familiar faces amongst the singers!
So please do come along if you can, bring your family and friends, and let's make sure they get a fantastic welcome. The bigger the show of support, the better.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
RCIA	Thursday, 7:30pm-9pm	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	11/09, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	01/09, 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	06/09, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	30/08, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church

Rest In Peace...

We pray for the repose of the souls of ***Vilma Taborda***, ***John Kerins Snr***, ***Mary Hunt*** *and* ***Kazia Pietrzak***. 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		Patricia Holmwood	Terri & Andy Landmann
Anne Hardy	Debbie Hanley	Jean Lovejoy	Paula Sandford	
Arthur Hardy	Dorcas Innes-Grant	Judith Newman	Peggy McCullough	
Audrey Lam	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Margaret Finnieston	Raf Roberts	Vivienne Halfpenny
	Dymphna Slade	Marie Swash		
Bridget Riordan	Emma & Rico Morales	Mary King	Rita Hayes	
Carole Mayes	Edmund & Kate Carroll		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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	29th	6pm	Mass	*Jacob & Maria Ramos RIP*
Sunday	30th	8:30am	Mass	*Rochelle Joyce Alexander-90th Birthday*
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
Monday	31st		**NO MASS**	
Tuesday	1st	10am	Communion Service	
Wednesday	2nd	10am	Communion Service	
ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope, Doctor of the Church, *feast*				
Thursday	3rd	10am	Communion Service	
Friday	4th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Communion Service	
Saturday	5th	10am	Mass	*Vilma Taborda RIP*
		11am	Confessions	
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	5th	6pm	Mass	*Colin Collier RIP*
Sunday	6th	8:30am	Mass	*Private Intentions: Sarah Wear*
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

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