

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

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE MOST BLESSED OF ALL WOMEN

Sunday 16th August 2026

Missal Page 1035

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Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth proclaims Mary as 'The most Blessed of all Women'. Yet while her first instinct is to give thanks to the God for whom 'nothing is impossible', Elizabeth also praises Mary for her faith, her trust in the God who speaks and delivers on promises made. Mary is deeply connected to all who 'hear the Word of God and obey it'. (Luke 11:27-28). She is not just the Mother of the Beloved Son of God. She is a disciple, adorned as the first and the best, who shows us how to be intentional disciples in our own days.

This experience of Grace, where the 'Word of God' and 'human listening and obeying' unite, is key to understanding Mary's encounter with Gabriel. Out of her heart, Grace creates a song whose lyrics celebrate what God is doing, and how Mary is actively cooperating with this Sacred activity. God moves with love, faithfulness, and mercy to change the face of the earth. Anyone who does not have due reverence for the things of God, and who do not align themselves with God's purpose will be scattered in confusion and loneliness. Even if now, they sit on seats of great power and gorge themselves at feasts, they will be overthrown and emptied out. The injustices of the world are coming to an end, and those who align themselves to God's purposes will have their part to play in this ending.

The transformation of the face of the earth is not only inspired and directed by God it will also be completed by God. This is known as the Great Assurance. Communities and individuals who act against God's purpose are doomed to failure, but those who move in harmony with God's purposes are being carried into a destiny whose beginning and end is God Himself.

It is worth looking at the values which dance in the heart of the singer of the Song. She is a person of openness, humility, questioning, courageous, consulting, faithful and just. More to the point, all of these values are cradled in her pondering heart. She does not shrink from the difficult work of discerning what is right. God speaks, and casts a lure which will maximise our commitment to love and justice. This Divine lure is a call to beauty. But the work of restoring the beauty of creation will inevitably bring turmoil and trouble. When this happens, we can lose our footing and begin to doubt the whole enterprise. And this is where the pondering heart comes into its own. By placing ourselves in a constant state of discerning we are less likely to want to impose our will on others, less likely to fight for our way and leave havoc in our wake. We listen with our assumptions (bracketed) for the something more that is on its way. We may not know what it is but we will recognise it when it arrives.



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

The remnant- those who believe so that they may see, the chosen at heart- are being called.

It's time to bring what we know of the faith to the table of our actions.

God does not choose the equipped; S/He equips whom s/he chooses.

You are ready. We are ready.

Step out in faith, give grace a chance.

CONTACT KEN MAIMO IF INTERESTED (07983 419021)



GIVE Campaign Update #137



Thank you to those who came forward to volunteer as sacristans for the Saturday 6pm Mass. **We are now looking for sacristans to assist with the Sunday 10:30am Mass.** If this is your regular Mass and you are able to help us, please contact the office.

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**, which 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.

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.

One of our polish parishioners is *still* 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.



Gospel Community Singing

The local gospel community choir will be singing LIVE at the Lexicon, Bracknell, on **Saturday 5th September at 11:15am**. If the attendance is strong they will come and perform for us at church, so please do try and make it if you can! There might be one or two familiar faces partaking so a strong local show of support would be great.

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

26/08, 2pm-3pm

Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN

RCIA

Every Thursday
7:30pm-9pm

Church Hall

Soup & Roll

11/09, 12:45pm

Church Hall

Parish Prayer Group 🙏

18/08, 7pm

Church Hall

Monthly Filipino Mass

06/09, 5pm

St. Joseph's Church

Orthodox Mass

16/08, 12:30pm-2:30pm

St. Joseph's Church



We pray for the repose of the souls of **Derrick Anscomb** and **Janet Read**, who recently passed away. The funeral service for Derrick will take place on **Tuesday, 18th August at 2pm** here at church, followed by a burial at Easthampstead Park Cemetary at **3:30pm**. The requiem Mass for Janet will take place on **Thursday, 20th August at 11am** here at church, followed by a wake in the church hall and then committal at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at **3:30pm**.

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	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

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday	15 th	6pm	Mass	Margaret Keohane (Health Issues)
Sunday	16 th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	Jacob Vallanat RIP & Stella Jacob RIP

Monday	17 th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	18 th	2pm	Funeral Service	Derrick Anscomb
Wednesday	19 th	10am	Communion Service	

St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church, memorial

Thursday	20 th	11am	Requiem Mass	Janet Read
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St Pius X, Pope, memorial

Friday	21 st	11am	NO EXPOSITION	
		12 noon	Communion Service	

The Queenship of Mary, memorial

Saturday	22 nd	10am	NO MASS	
		11am	NO CONFESSIONS	

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	22 nd	6pm	Mass	Angela Jacobs RIP
Sunday	23 rd	8:30am	Mass	Thanksgiving- Susan & Simon Mwanje
		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**

JOB'S AVAILABLE IN THE DIOCESE: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 119956