

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
ON HOW NOT TO COMPARE OURSELVES WITH OTHERS

Sunday 20th September 2026
Missal Page 671

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Jesus speaks to the heart of the disciple and to the community of disciples He has chosen. To them He has given an amazing gift - the gift of working with Him to bring to birth a new humanity and a new community. They sit at His feet, and He clearly hopes that they will grow to be like Him. They think they want the same until a Parable pulls the carpet out from under their feet. It only does this because there is a question, like the elephant in the room, that is waiting to be answered. 'What's in it for me?'

In extravagant prose, Jesus assures His disciples that if they choose to do God's work it will bring them to the pinnacle of human fulfilment. Every sacrifice they make will be restored to them a hundred times over and eternal life will flow into them. If they are worried about a poor pay-off, Jesus overwhelms them with a vision of abundance. But first they have to listen to and try to understand the Parable.

Kingdom workers are like people on a zero-hours contract. They are vulnerable. They have no claim on their employer. The only agreement on the table is that when they awaken each day, they do not waste the gift of a new day in idleness. God will give them all that they need for the day. It will be enough for those who want to continue to rely on God's goodness.

Enthroned in the Lord's Prayer is the certainty that God will not give more or less than is needed for the day. "Give us this day our daily bread". It is assumed that they are friends of the Landowner and have grasped the truth about God that Jesus is trying to teach them. That when we 'seek first the Kingdom' (Matthew 6,33) and pray to follow God's will (Matthew 6,10) there is no need to ask for what we need. Our Father already knows, and gives what is needed, (Matthew 6,8;32-33) to those who work in the vineyard. But the gift of daily bread bears no relation to the amount of work done. It flows out of the generous heart of God, who is now vulnerable to an accusation of being unfair.

This feeling of unfairness is rooted in a social construct everyone takes for granted. More work=More pay. In this version of reality, I am the centre of the universe, and my job is to promote myself and my own well-being. If I am denied this possibility I am entitled to have a good old moan. But the Parable puts God at the centre of the universe, and we are invited to stretch high enough to see the sacred point of view. Only here can we begin to relish the work that is being done. We are, to paraphrase Gerard Manley Hopkins, "burnished in use". We no longer live in the envious world of comparisons, but in the overflowing world of God's Generosity. In this world, God gives us good eyes to better see. These eyes connect us to our soul and to the expansive works of the Spirit. Seduced, the labourers flow like liquid light, releasing Grace everywhere they go.



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"Competing as we are in the arena of the living God, we are receiving training in this present life that will make us worthy to be crowned in the life to come."

From a homily written in the second century

GIVE Campaign Update #142



**Essential Volunteers Urgently Needed:
SACRISTANS NEEDED FOR ALL 3 WEEKEND MASSES
INTECESSORY PRAYER WRITERS NEEDED
PLEASE!**

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

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 expansion) **after Masses on 27th Sept**. We would love to see as many people in attendance after Mass as possible! If you would like to be involved in planning the occasion, please contact the office.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2026/2027 — Last Chance to Register!

We warmly invite parents and guardians to register their young person if they would like to take part in our Confirmation programme. Registration is open to young people currently in Year 10 or above and applications close on **30th September 2026**. To register interest, please follow these steps:

***Register your family on ChurchSuite** (if you have not already done so). This is quick and straightforward. You can register via the parish website:

<https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-life/parish-registration/>

***Complete the Confirmation Registration Form** once your family registration is complete. The form can be accessed by scanning the QR code or using the following link:



<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/-/forms/vv9dkled>.

Thank you to all who have already been in touch - you will have been sent the registration link via email.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Youth Team at Youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.

Hats and Scarves Needed for School Dress-Up!

The children at **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School** are looking for donations of hats and scarves, to help enhance their imaginative play and learning activities. If you have any **clean**, unwanted hats or scarves, that are no longer needed, they would be very grateful to receive them. Donations can be dropped off at the parish office or directly at the school. Thank you!



Our annual **Quiz Night** is being held this Saturday along with our very exciting Grand Raffle. Raffle tickets are available to purchase after Mass in the hall or from the parish office. Tickets are just **£1 per strip of 5 tickets**, giving you the chance to win some fantastic prizes while supporting the parish.

The **Prize Draw** will take place on **Sunday 4th October** in the parish hall following the 10:30am Mass. Thank you for your support, and good luck! 🍀

Many Congratulations to all the wonderful staff, pupils, and governors at **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School** on being rated "Strong" in every category by Ofsted following a recent inspection. The report highlights the school's high academic standards, inclusive ethos, and outstanding pupil behaviour. Inspectors praised the school's commitment to ensuring that every child is valued, supported, and encouraged to achieve their full potential.



This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication, hard work, and faith-filled commitment of the entire school community.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	23/09, 2pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Gospel Outreach with Music	12/10, 2pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
RCIA	Thursdays, 7:30pm-9pm	Church Hall
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕	Every Tuesday (term time only), 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👶 👶	20/09	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	09/10, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	22 & 29/09, 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	04/10, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	20/09, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church



We pray for the repose of the souls of **Vilma Taborda, John Kerins Snr, Mary 'Bernadette' Hunt, Kazia Pietrzak, Nora Bassom, Stan & (recently) Margaret Aburn**. The Requiem Mass for **Mary 'Bernadette' Hunt** will take place on **Tuesday 29th September, 1pm** here at church, followed by a committal at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, **2:30pm**.

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
Angela Dossett	Claire Berry	Inge Walker	Mary Stocking
Ann D'Ambrosio	Claire Hose	Cherrilyn Clyne	Mary Sullivan Susan Tobin
Ann O'Sullivan	Colleen McCormack	Pat Sutton	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 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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	19 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Pat O'Grady RIP</i>
Sunday	20 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Thanksgiving: Marion & Lauren McGuire</i>

ST MATTHEW, Apostle, Evangelist, *feast*

Monday 21st **NO MASS**

Tuesday 22nd 10am Mass

St Pio of Pietrelcina, Religious, *memorial*

Wednesday 23rd 10am Mass

OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM, *feast*

Thursday 24th 10am Mass

Friday 25th 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 noon Mass *Blessings for Francis & Maisy Barton-McDonagh*

Saturday 26th 10am Mass
11am Confessions

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 26th 6pm Mass *Parish Intentions*

Sunday 27th 8:30am Mass *John Collins RIP*

10:30am Mass *Allan James 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

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