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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

NEW HEARTS, NEW MINDS, NEW SHOES

Sunday 27th September 2026

Missal Page 675

People in authority and people with power spend a lot of time checking for erosion. So, in today's Gospel, the leaders and elders are less interested in what Jesus is doing, and more interested in who authorised it, especially if it wasn't them! Remember the time Jesus healed the man with the withered arm. They could have said, "Nice Arm!" But they couldn't see the arm. If all you have is a hammer, all you can see is a nail.

They are, of course, looking to set a trap. If Jesus says he acts on Divine Authority, then God help him because that is their area of expertise. So, He resets their trap and springs it on them. Now watch them squirm. And they squirm so much they get all tangled up to the point where all they can say is that they don't know. Not a great answer from those who claim to speak for God.

Jesus, like John, wants Metanoia, a new mind. By profession the priests and elders are expected to be close to God. By profession, tax collectors and prostitutes are expected to be far from God. The only difference being that when the latter heard the call to change, they changed. New Mind, New Heart, New Shoes.

From the Sufi Wisdom stories:

Once upon a time, there was a court case against Mulla Nasruddin. The judge asked him, “How old are you Nasruddin?" And he answered, " Of course, you know and everybody knows I am forty years old." The judge was surprised. "But five years ago, you were also in this court. When I asked you then how old you were you said forty. How is this possible? After five years you are still forty?" Nasruddin said, " I am a consistent man, sir. Once I say I am forty, I will remain forty. I'm not going to keep changing my mind about that."

Loyalty to the mind is useless. Holding the same position despite the evidence carries a very high price tag. The Sufis say the mind is a good servant but a poor Master. Clinging to what we ' think' robs us of the ability to tune into the deeper rhythms of our hearts. The religious leaders could not listen to Jesus because their minds were already made up.



I wonder if the same dilemma still plagues us today?

Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace."

St. Leo the Great, pope (400-461 A.D.)

GIVE Campaign Update #144

Essential Volunteers Urgently Needed:
SACRISTANS STILL NEEDED FOR BOTH SUNDAY 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. Please leave your donations in the hall.

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. **Applications close on 30th September 2026**.

To register interest, please follow the steps below:

Ensure your family is registered on ChurchSuite. This is quick and straightforward. You can register using the link below (also available on the parish website under Parish Registration): https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-life/parish-registration/.

Once registered, please complete the following on-line form by scanning the QR code or using the link provided: 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.

Gazing on Grace: A Global Rosary Journey

October is the month of the holy rosary- a season to draw closer to Christ through Mary. Throughout this month, you are invited to unite your personal rosary intentions with prayers for peace, justice, and our global neighbours. Please sign up for October 2026 prayer emails: https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/october-rosary-journey

Autumn ClothesBank Giveaway

The Autumn Clothes Bank Giveaway is on **Tuesday 6th October** from 10.15am to 1pm at St Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH.

The free minibus shuttle (courtesy of Newbold College) will be operating between Bracknell train station and St. Mark's Church and the minibus will leave from the train station at 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 11.30am and 12pm. Vouchers can be requested from the office, during office hours.





There will be a parents information evening for the **First Holy Communion and Reconciliation** on **Wednesday 14th October at 7pm** in the hall. Attendance at this meeting will be **compulsory** for anyone who wishes their child to receive these Sacraments next year. If you plan to come along a please register using the following link:

First Holy Communion Information Evening (14-Oct-2026) · ChurchSuite Events

Formation Day for Readers

It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team on **17th October, 9am** at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.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 office or directly at the school. Thank you!

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	12/10, 2pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	28/10, 2pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
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)** 👦👧	04/10	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	09/10, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	29/09, 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	04/10, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	27/09, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church



We pray for the repose of the soul of ***Mary Bernadette Hunt, Stan and Margaret Aburn.*** The Requiem Mass for **Mary Bernadette Hunt** will take place on ***Tuesday 29th September*** at **1pm** here at church, followed by a committal at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at **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	Sarah Flemming
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-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*
Monday	28th		**NO MASS**	
THE HOLY ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, *feast*				
Tuesday	29th	1pm	Requiem Mass	*Mary Bernadette Hunt, RIP*
St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*				
Wednesday	30th	10am	Mass	
St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Religious, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*				
Thursday	1st	10am	Mass	
The Holy Guardian Angels, *memorial*				
Friday	2nd	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	*Mary Bernadette Hunt, RIP*
Saturday	3rd	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	3rd	6pm	Mass	
Sunday	4th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	*Marta Carvalho and Dominigas Alves 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://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