

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
NEW HEARTS, NEW MINDS, NEW SHOES

Sunday 4th October 2026

Missal Page 679

Still wandering through the vineyards, the Beloved has another parable for religious leaders. Those who were chosen to be Guardians now see themselves as owners. Humble Servants now the proud possessors of authority. They wrap themselves in the robes of position and privilege and are immune to criticism. They quickly silence any voice that calls them to give an account of their stewardship. Finally, they will violently reject anyone who reminds them that God is the ultimate authority and that they will be unmasked as unfaithful. In a nutshell, they want it all, but it was never theirs and never will be theirs.

The Landowner, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, has given it all as a gift. The Israel of God must bring this revelation to clarity by producing good wine. What could possibly go wrong?

What goes wrong is the tenants. But the Landowner does not give up on them easily. If they treat His Servants (Prophets) badly He sends more. To His horror they do the same thing, so He decides to send His Beloved Son, hoping for some respect. But all the tenants see is an opportunity. Their motives, what drives them is revealed - They want it all for themselves, and only the death of the Beloved will guarantee their dreams. All connection with the Landowner will be severed and the Beloved Son will be thrown outside the vineyard (give Him to the Romans) and killed.

But these dark plans will not have the ending they want. The One who was rejected becomes the Resurrected leader of the new tenants. The stone which the builders rejected becomes the Cornerstone. This is the work of the Creator - a marvel to behold. The vineyard will bear fruit and the crucified and resurrected Christ and His disciples will produce the best wine, the exquisite wine, the world is waiting for.

As our own world becomes loveless, more violent, and frightening, we see how we are surrounded by people and nations who want it all. They do not want to be accountable to God or to the poor. By excluding others and isolating themselves from reality, they have become greedy. But this approach to the gift of creation and life is truly crazy. Its social face is about grabbing and greed. Its relational face is accusation and defensiveness. Its spiritual face is about the God I own rather than the God who owns me.

Here is a little parable about what God does in a world like this:

The water of life, wishing to make itself known on the face of the earth, bubbled up in an artesian well and flowed, without effort or limit. People came to drink and were refreshed, cleansed, and healed by it, since it was so pure, clear and life giving. But human beings could not leave well enough alone. Some came and built a fence around the well, claiming ownership of the property around it and charging an admission fee. They made laws about who could come to the well and who could not, and they put locks on the gates. Soon, the well was the property of the powerful and elite. The water was angry and offended.

It stopped flowing and began to bubble up in another place. The people who 'owned' the property around the first well were so engrossed in their own egos that they did not notice that the water had vanished. They continued selling the non-existent water, and few people noticed that the power was gone. But some dissatisfied people searched with great courage and earnestness of heart and found the new artesian well. But all too soon that one came under the control of the unwise and the same fate overtook it. The spring took itself to another place - and this is how it has been since the foundation of the world.

We do not own the vineyard; we work in it. When we want it all - we end up with nothing.



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"No longer do we consider what is the will of God for us, but rather what it is in itself. For our life is in his will."

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



GIVE Campaign Update #145



Please continue to support CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this weekend, and help children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by contributing to the improvement of school water facilities, school crop gardens and overall nutrition. When children don't have enough to eat or drink, they don't just feel hungry and thirsty – they stop learning and the dreams they once had slip away.

Expressions of interest are sought from experienced individuals (clergy or lay) to serve as a paid part-time Roman Catholic chaplain at Broadmoor Hospital in Crowthorne. The hours of work would be either 3.75 hours per week or 7.5 hours every fortnight. Expressions of interest should, in the first instance, be shared with Bishop Philip Egan via bishop@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Bishop Philip will then direct individuals to the NHS manager responsible for recruitment of this post.



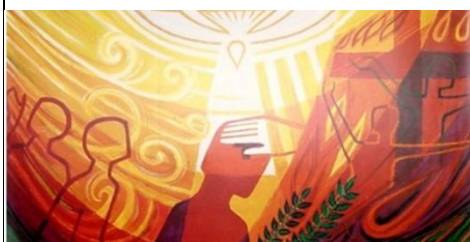
The Autumn Clothes Bank Giveaway is on **Tuesday 6th October** from **10:15am to 1pm** at St. Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH. The free minibus shuttle (courtesy of Newbold College) will be operating between Bracknell train station and St. Mark's Church and the minibus will leave from the train station at 10am, 10:30am, 11am, 11:30am and 12pm. Vouchers can be requested from the office, during office hours.

For the altar servers thank you for your continued commitment to serving our parish. Please note there will be another meeting in the church hall on **Saturday 17th October** at **4pm**. You will need to have completed the new registration forms in the Mass sign-in book in the sacristy.

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!



The Laying on of Hands, a Divine Gesture Within Everyone's Reach



Few actions in the Christian life are as charged with mystery, power, and tenderness as the laying on of hands. It is an apparently simple gesture: a hand placed on someone's head, shoulders, or body. But, through the eyes of faith, this act is much more than a symbol. It is a channel of grace, a means of consecration, an instrument of healing, and a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Beginning next weekend, after each of the weekend Masses, anyone in need will have the opportunity to have hands laid on them, or to be witness to it: an act of faith, of power, of divine love. If you ever have the opportunity yourself to lay hands on somebody, do so with the certainty that Christ can also work through you.



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:

<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/events/gx1elesw>.

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** at **9am** at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.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>.

Diocesan Days

On **Saturday 10th October** from **9:30am-1:30pm** at St. Bede's, Basingstoke there will be a Diocesan Catechist day.

On **31st October** at Christ the King, Reading there will be a Parish Evangelisation Cell Formation day.

To find out more or register your interest for either of these days, please e-mail

ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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) 👶👶	18/10	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	09/10, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	06/10, 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	04/10, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	04/10, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church



We pray for the repose of the souls of Stan and Margaret Aburn. The service for Stan and Margaret will be on **Thursday 15th October** from **2pm** at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	3 rd	6pm	Mass	<i>Stan & Margaret Aburn, RIP</i>
Sunday	4 th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Marta Carvalho & Dominigas Alves, RIP</i>

Monday 5th **NO MASS**

Tuesday 6th 10am Mass

Our Lady of the Rosary, memorial

Wednesday 7th 10am Mass *Healing prayers for Charmie Ann Talata Paguio*

Thursday 8th **NO MASS**

St JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Religious, Doctor of the Church, feast

Friday 9th 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 noon Mass *Aidan Fitzpatrick*

Saturday 10th 10am Mass

11am Confessions

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 10th 6pm Mass *Jan Papilier RIP*

Sunday 11th 8:30am Mass

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

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