

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW – On Earth as it is in Heaven
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
STEERING CLEAR OF TRAPDOORS

Sunday 18th October 2026

Missal Page 688

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The Pharisees construct a trapdoor for Jesus under which lies a bottomless pit. They want Him to say something they can use against Him. This is why they invite the Herodians into their scheming. The Herodians want to keep Herod in power, and Herod stays in power only if the Romans say so. The Romans keep him in 'power' because he is their first and best tax collector. If Jesus says something against taxes - and who doesn't! - he can be accused of sedition against Rome. The Herodians will testify that they heard it with their own big ears.

If, however, Jesus submits to the tax, he will discredit Himself among his followers. They hate everything Roman, but especially taxes, which were often raised from painful to excruciating by bribery and corruption. If Jesus sanctioned the tax laws, He would have to contradict most of His teaching.

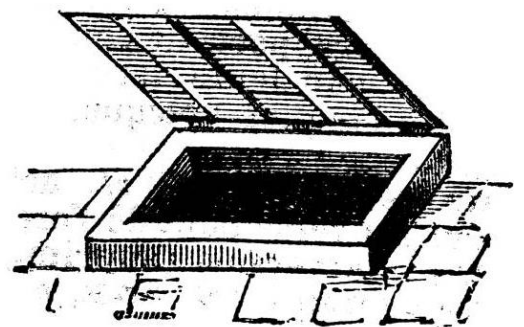
So, the Pharisees swing a two edges sword at Jesus. He drums his fingers on the heart of God asking, what to do, what to do? Worse still, the Pharisees have iced the ground beneath Him. He might slip on their flattery as He tries to reveal himself with plain speech. They remind Him of his honesty and integrity and that He is a prophet who will say what most people are thinking. What to do, what to do?

Their flattery is right, of course. Jesus knows the malice in the hearts of those who are trying to set him up. He sees their hypocrisy - their untrustworthiness -. What they are saying with their mouths does not match what they are saying in their hearts. They are not interested in taxes. Worse still, they are even less interested in God! Their real interest is in obliterating the message of the Saviour of the World.

Jesus does not have a Roman coin and has to ask for one. What does that mean? He then invites them to answer their own question and rounds His response off with the now famous, 'give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God'. He just won't answer their question!

So, let's tell the story one more time. We might find it helpful to identify the 'trapdoors' when we are dealing with a difficult situation. Trap One: The Ego Massage. Trap Two: Did you win or lose? Trap Three: Choose between two false alternatives, Yes or No.

Notice how Jesus avoids all three. He does not give too much weight to the compliments being dished out. Instead, He names the malice and the egos behind the game that is being played. Then, He doesn't seem to be overly invested in winning. Isn't it better when everyone wins? Finally, He offers an alternative to yessing or no-ing everything by offering new terms for discernment - the everlasting tension between God and those who think they are God - like, say, a Roman Emperor. Is this a better map in a complex world and especially in the places where faith commitments and social responsibilities meet? Well, there was once a man who screamed at the people in the boat that was heading towards a collision with his own. They seemed to be ignoring him, so he screamed louder. He only stopped when he realised the other boat was empty and no real threat. He steered clear, reminding himself that it can be easier to fight to be right than it is to be empty to be true.



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you."

Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego



GIVE Campaign Update #147



This Sunday is World Mission Sunday. The Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio –



his charity for world mission – through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Good News of God's love, which has the power to transform lives and

heal our world. To donate, please use the Missio envelopes, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

Pope Leo has recorded a special video to mark the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday. Follow the link to watch this message in which he encourages us all to 'commit to contributing to the great mission of evangelisation – which is always a work of love':

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i318XLeZV4s>



Could you walk alongside someone discovering the Catholic faith?

— RCIA • SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA —



You don't need to have all the answers.

You don't need a theology degree; you just need an open heart.

Our RCIA process is seeking sponsors to walk alongside those exploring the Catholic faith. Being a sponsor isn't about knowing all the answers— it's about being a friend, a listening ear, and a companion on the journey.

If you love your faith and have a heart for others, we would love to hear from you.

Guidance, preparation and ongoing support will be given.

Will you walk with someone?



Contact Louise at
rcia@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

An initial conversation carries no commitment.

There is a minimum suggested donation for candles of 30p per candle to ensure we break even on our new, purer, beeswax candles, which are more environmentally friendly as they burn cleaner.



At 7:30pm on the 31st October, John Weeks will be hosting an event based on the journals of Mrs Papendiek. Readings, music, art, food and drink of the time (Georgian era), it's bordering on unmissable- please make it if you can.



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.



Daily Rosary on Zoom

The Knights of St. Columba Parish Fatima Devotions Group prays the rosary over Zoom each weekday at 1:30pm. Next week's access ID (19-23/10)
Zoom Access ID: 826 3105 7433 Password : rosary



Mass for the Bereaved Sat 7th Nov @ 10am

You are invited to a Mass which is specially dedicated to those who have been bereaved.

Please arrive early if you wish to light a candle or place a photo of your loved one on the Altar.

Afterwards, please join us in the Hall for tea and cakes.

St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church
Bracknell

Recollection for Women

A great opportunity to pray, meditate and recharge.

Join us on 20th October 2026 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

Recollection Schedule:

- 7:00 Meditation
- 8:10 Rosary
- 8:30 Meditation
- 9:00 End

SAVE THE DATE:
20th OCT
7:00pm - 9:00pm

The priest will be available for confession and spiritual guidance from 6:30pm and between meditations

Venue: St Tarcicius, Camberley and Bagshot Parish,
227 London Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3EY



Parish Events

When?

Where?

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) 👧👦

01/11

Church Hall

Soup & Roll

13/11, 12:45pm

Church Hall

Parish Prayer Group 🙏

20/10, 7pm

Church Hall

Monthly Filipino Mass

01/11, 5pm

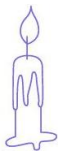
St. Joseph's Church

Orthodox Mass

18/10, 12:30pm-2:30pm

St. Joseph's Church

Rest In Peace...



We pray for the repose of the souls of Jean Flower and John Richardson. The funeral service for Jean will be on **Friday 30th October** from 2pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium. The funeral service for John will be on **Thursday 5th November** from 12:30pm here at church, followed by a burial at Easthampstead Park Cemetery at 2pm.

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
Angela Dossett Claire Berry
Ann D'Ambrosio Claire Hose
Ann O'Sullivan Colleen McCormack
Anne Hardy Debbie Hanley
Arthur Hardy Dorcas Innes-Grant
Audrey Lam Douglas Hunt
Dymphna Slade
Bridget Riordan Emma & Rico Morales
Carole Mayes Edmund & Kate Carroll

Evelyn Caruso
Inge Walker
Cherrilyn Clyne
Pat Sutton
Jean Lovejoy
Judith Newman
Margaret Finnieston
Marie Swash
Mary King

Mary Phelan
Mary Stocking
Mary Sullivan
Patricia Holmwood
Paula Sandford
Peggy McCullough
Raf Roberts
Vivienne Halfpenny
Veronika Jastrzebski
Cliff Nicholls
Rita Hayes
Sally Torode

Sarah Flemming
Susan Tobin
Terri & Andy Landmann

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	17 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Bertha Da Cunha RIP</i>
Sunday	18 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Grandma Theresa RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions- Bishop Visiting

Monday 19th **NO MASS**

Tuesday 20th 10am Mass

Wednesday 21st 10am Mass

Thursday 22nd 10am Mass

Diocesan Day of Prayer & Reparation for Life

Friday 23rd 11am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12 noon Mass

Saturday 24th 10am Mass

11am Confessions

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 24th 6pm Mass *Steve Ottewill RIP*

Sunday 25th 8:30am Mass *Derek Alexander RIP*

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