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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

Sunday 8th November 2026

Missal Page 699

It's turning colder and the days are getting shorter. It's great to be able to flick a switch to push the darkness and the cold away. We live in blessed times! But how do we switch on to the teaching of Jesus, especially when we sit with Parables like the one given for this Sunday? The Kingdom of Heaven is first, a new way of seeing reality and a new way of living in that new reality. Disciples must be transformed away from the ordinary and have the courage to act in the world in an extraordinary way. This is not easy. Saint Paul, writing to the new community in Corinth (2:5,17) said that 'anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.' Today's Parable explores this theme but highlights the danger of missing the main event.

From the outset the Parable is strange. Usually only one person awaits the bridegroom - the bride. But here we have ten. The bridegroom is obviously Christ but who are these others who are separated as wise or foolish? The call goes out that in the darkest moment the bridegroom has arrived. Lamps must be lit so He can recognise the faces of those who are waiting for Him. But lamps don't work without oil. The foolish have none, and the wise seem to be selfish when they tell them to 'go and buy some for yourself'. The truth about the oil is that we need to have our own. Each of us must listen to the teaching of the Christ and make it our own. We cannot fly on the ticket of anyone else. Each person's lamp must produce its own wattage.

In the writings of the early Christians, Isaac of Nineveh wrote, " There is a Love like a small lamp, fed by oil, which goes out when the oil is ended; or like a rain-fed stream which goes dry, when rain no longer feeds it. But there is a love, like a spring gushing from the earth, never to be exhausted". The wise virgins are in touch with this river. So, their oil is continuously replenished and not consumed. The foolish have not found it yet. They live by buying and selling. They keep looking outside of themselves for what can only be found within. Worse still, right to the end, the foolish think that it is Jesus, implored as Lord, who will open the door for them. They have not understood that the Kingdom of God has been given to them and they can only open the door by themselves. It is the lamp of their new vision and the oil of Love which will open the door. The Parable insists that we must grow up, stand on our own feet, and do the will of the Father for ourselves. Even the disciples who claim to have healed, prophesied, and cast out devils 'in Jesus' name' (Matt,7:21-23) are told it is not enough. The Parable concludes with a caution that we must stay awake to this truth. Every breath we take is the day or the hour when He might come.

Gandhi once said, "My life is my message". St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel, but use words only when necessary". The last words of Buddha to his followers were, " Be a light unto

yourself". Martin Luther cautioned, "You are going to die alone, you better believe alone". Silesius asked, "What good if Gabriel hails the virgin and does not hail me?". This is the delicate balance needed to be a disciple of Jesus. On the one hand we proclaim from the heart that "He is Lord" yet worshipping Him from afar with extravagant praise and petition is not enough. We cannot ride Him as if he was a horse. He must be invited to take up residence in our hearts. Allowed to build us up from the inside. To confirm us a beloved daughters and sons of God and as sisters and brothers all who really, really care for each other. This is how the Divine pleasure flows through us. Perhaps that is why Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians, "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ living in me". (Gal:2,20). The Parable of the Ten Virgins alerts us to the situation where we might know everything about Him, except the one thing necessary. But if we awaken to the truth. If we take His Truth to heart. The door opens. We are like a person locked in a room, calling to be freed, who realises we had the key all the time.



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"Human life, fragile and marked for death, how many have you deceived, beguiled, and blinded? While in flight, you are nothing; while in sight, you are a shadow; while you rise up, you are but smoke. Every day you depart and every day you return; you depart in returning and you return in departing, different ending, same beginning, different pleasure, the same passing, sweet to the foolish and bitter to the wise.." **– St Columbanus, a 6th century wandering monk**

GIVE Campaign Update #149



GIVE A GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS, and help us share the Christmas Message We would like to invite our wonderful parish community to consider donating a Christmas gift for those around us who are most in need.

In the past, you have responded with overwhelming generosity to this appeal and, as a result, we have distributed Christmas gifts to the Berkshire Women's Aid Refuges, Bracknell LIFE House, local Care Homes and many needy families in the local community. This year, once again, we would like to distribute your gifts to these places- you can choose to give from any or all the following options:

a. Give a gift for a child by choosing a specified gift tag from our display

b. Give a gift of sweet treats e.g. for adults - boxed sweet biscuits or confectionery; for children - boxes or stockings of confectionery.

c. Give a gift of toiletry treats e.g. boxed gift sets for women, men or children

d. Give a gift for a mother or child at the Berkshire Women's Aid Refuge or Bracknell LIFE House. Please take a label from the display in the porch.

We can only accept the gift items specified above and these must be new, unused and, if edible, unopened and well within their sell by dates. Please bring your donated items unwrapped to St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church on:

- ***Saturday 14th,21st, 29th November/Saturday 4th December - before Mass.***
- ***Sunday 15th, 22nd, 30th November/Sunday 5th December between 9:30am -12:00pm.***

Thank you for your generosity!

We are also looking for volunteers to help collect and wrap the gifts prior to distributing them out. Collections will take place before the weekend Masses on 14/15th, 21st/22nd, 28th/29th November and 5th/6th December, with wrapping to take place on the morning of Wednesday 9th December. Please contact the office if you are willing to be a Christmas elf.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School are hosting a teacher-led, adults only line dancing evening on **Saturday 14th November**, from 7pm-9pm, at the school (RG12 9AP) to raise funds. Tickets are £10 and you will need to bring your own refreshments- nuts not permitted. To purchase, please visit: https://pay.collctiv.com/line-dancing-night-60379



The SVP have been offered a significant piece of land to continue the food share programme, where people will be able to grow enough fruit and veg for themselves, to support the food share initiative, and to raise funds to support the SVP.

Anybody with the time to offer their gardening skills or tools is being asked to get in touch with the local SVP branch on 07731 862349 to help make a big difference in our local community- thank you!

St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

There will be a Christmas Mass for children on December 24th, time TBC.

We are looking for children who would like to sing and read, as well as other roles. If your child would like to be involved please go to Churchsuite to sign up:



https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/events/hmktmelj

They will need to be available for rehearsals on 6th, 13th and 20th December. Some roles will also need parental assistance. Thank you!

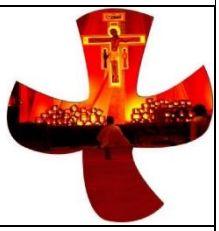
Wreath-Making Workshop



On **Saturday 21st November** at 11am, we will be hosting a Christmas wreath-making workshop in the hall, kindly led by Angela Lansley. Tickets are £20. To register (places limited) please complete the following form:

https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/-/forms/6vr0al5b

Prayer Group Invitation



The parish prayer group invite you on Tuesday 10th November to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, from 7pm-8:15pm.

This will be a time of prayer and praise, with hymns and singing of Taizé chants. There will also be a time for any intercessions to be made.



Laying on of Hands

The laying on of hands after the weekend's Masses will be continuing as normal this weekend. Please stay behind after Mass if you would like to participate.

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 (9-13/11)

Zoom Access ID: *810 4371 5165* Password : *rosary*

Parish Events	When?	Where?
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)** 👦👧	15/11, 29/11	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	13/11, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	10/11, 7pm	Church & Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	06/12, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	08/11, 12:30pm-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Amanda Killestein	Claire Berry	Evelyn Caruso	Mary Phelan	Sarah Flemming
Angela Dossett	Claire Hose	Inge Walker	Mary Stocking	
Ann D'Ambrosio	Cliff Nicholls	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	Veronika Jastrzebski
Audrey Lam	Douglas Hunt	Margaret Finnieston	Raf Roberts	Vivienne Halfpenny
Bridget Riordan	Dymphna Slade	Marie Swash		
Carole Mayes	Emma & Rico Morales	Mary King	Rita Hayes	
Charles Beard	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-McDonagh 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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	7th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	8th	8:30am	Mass	*All the O'Driscoll families (living and dead)*
		10:30am	Mass	*Healing: Charmie Ann Talata Paguio*
THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA, *feast*				
Monday	9th		**NO MASS**	
St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*				
Tuesday	10th	10am	Mass	*Pete Dossett RIP (irish blessing)*
St Martin of Tours, Religious, Bishop, *memorial*				
Wednesday	11th	10am	Mass	*Thanksgiving: Maria Isabelle Abriam (spiritual guidance & healing)*
St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr, *memorial*				
Thursday	12th	10am	Mass	*Anthony Nunes RIP*
Friday	13th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	Parish Intentions
Saturday	14th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	14th	6pm	Mass	*Jacob John Vallanatt & Stella Jacob RIP*
Sunday	15th	8:30am	Mass	*George and Stella Lansley RIP*
		10:30am	Mass	

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