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

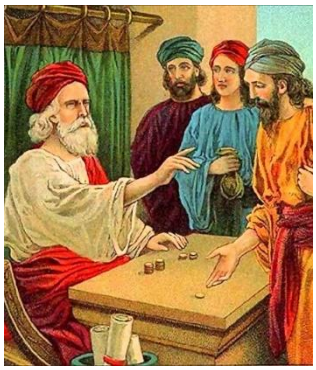
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DO NOT BE AFRAID

Sunday 15th November 2026

Missal Page 703

Wise sayings, or proverbs, are usually written on the back of experience. 'Too many cooks spoil the broth', 'A stitch in time saves nine'. Our first reading this weekend is taken from the Book of Proverbs. In a nutshell, if we are looking for a perfect wife, husband, friend, or partner – we will never find them. But if we are lucky enough to find someone who is wise, we will probably be as close as we're going to be to the dream. So, while Wisdom is praised, and praised again as more precious than money, so too is reverence for Sacred Things. The Psalmist declares that those who move with reverence in the world, in their homes and communities rarely lack anything and are never lonely. We can find many examples of this through all Sacred Scripture.



Then, just when we thought that we were beginning to understand the spiritual laws that govern our lives, Jesus comes along and stands them on their head. The format of this weeks' parable is tried and tested. Usually, after the Master has given his gifts and instructions and then departs, the first two get it wrong and the last one gets it right. When it is told in this way, everyone loves the comedy and are delighted to see the underdog winning for a change. But Jesus' version turns the story into a tragedy. Worst still, the one who has the least going for him, gets it wrong and loses even that! What's going on here?

Notice that the servants are not in a competition with each other. But they are in a competition with themselves. What will they do with what has been given to them? Well, first they must understand the spiritual laws that govern their lives. God gives everything to them freely. They are then invited to give away what they have received. According to physical laws, when we give something away, we no longer have it. But according to spiritual laws, when we give it away, we are astonished to see that it doubles! Now comes a new understanding of how Spirit grows and a greater responsibility to make that happen. This is what the parable calls, 'entering into the joy of your Master.' The Master who knows spiritual laws, calls these servants 'good and faithful'. They have been faithful to goodness by imitating it. It was given to them, they gave it to others, and now they watch it grow and unfold.

But alas, the same law of the spirit proposes a 'use it or lose it' adventure. If Spirit is given away, it increases exponentially. If it is buried, it is lost. The Master, who knows the flip side of the law of happiness, takes the talent away from the one he calls, 'wicked and lazy'. And, since it cannot stand alone, it is given to the one who has ten.

The Master calls this servant, wicked and lazy but the servant rejects this description claiming that his whole life was diminished by being afraid of everything – especially the Master! Notice, the Master does not disagree. In fact, he repeats what this servant has said. But then he draws a different conclusion. Either way, he should have acted to double the gift he had been given. His failure to understand puts him in deeper darkness with only tears of regret for company.

So, here's the thing. We should not take God for granted and instead, nurture in our lives a healthy reverence for what we do not yet know. At the same time, we must never, ever, ever, turn God into a terrorist. Our own experience in prayer should give us a clearer view of the tenderness which enfolds us. If fear immobilises us, we need to find a new strength with the support and presence of good and faithful servants of the Lord. They have much to teach us. But perhaps the most shocking aspect of what Jesus does with this Parable is to remind us that when we lose the Icon of Gods' Face from our hearts, we can talk ourselves into spectacular loss.

Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"If I could live in a tiny dwelling on a rock in the ocean, surrounded by swelling waves, cut off from the knowledge and sight of all, I would still not be free from the cares of this fleeting world nor from the fear that somehow the love of money would come and snatch me away."

- St. Cuthbert

GIVE Campaign Update #150



The second offering this week is for the Priests' Retirement Fund. Our priests have walked alongside us on our journey of faith and are still part of it when they retire. They deserve a dignified retirement, secure in the knowledge that the care and support they need will always be there for them. Our Priests' Retirement Fund ensures that all priests who have faithfully served Christ and His Church are cared for in their retirement.



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.



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

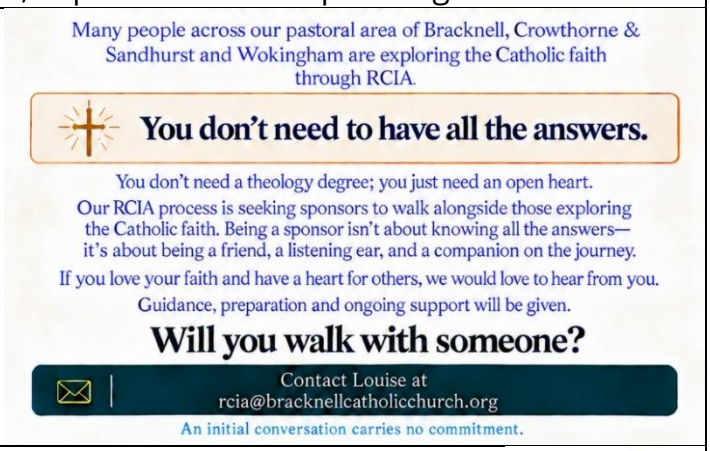
They will need to be available for rehearsals on 6th, 13th and 20th December.

Some roles will also need parental assistance. Thank you!

Confirmation 2027

We look forward to welcoming all registered Confirmation candidates and their parents/carers to our introductory meeting on **Monday 16th November** at 7:30pm in St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church Hall. This is an important part of beginning the Confirmation journey and will provide key information about the programme, expectations and upcoming events.





Immaculate Conception Christmas Fayre



If you can make it, please come to the Christmas Fayre at the Immaculate Conception church, Sandhurst , GU47 9BS, on Saturday 21st November, 10-4pm. They have an amazing array of Christmas gifts and cards, toiletries, jewellery, china, glass, toys and games and much more. Parking on site. We look forward to seeing you there.

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	16/11, 2pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	09/12, 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)** 👧👧	29/11	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	11/12, 12:45pm	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	17/11, 7pm	Church & Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	06/12, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church
Orthodox Mass	15/11, 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	
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		**Elizabeth Lewis**
Carole Mayes	Emma & Rico Morales	Mary King	Rita Hayes	**Angela Dossett**
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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	14th	6pm	Mass	*Jacob John Vallanatt & Stella Jacob RIP*
Sunday	15th	8:30am	Mass	*George & Stella Lansley RIP*
		10:30am	Mass	
ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, Bishop, Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese, *solemnity*				
Monday	16th		**NO MASS**	
Tuesday	17th	10am	Mass	*Paul Ly RIP*
Wednesday	18th	10am	Mass	*Mc Tague/ Mc Namara/ Morrissey Families*
Thursday	19th	10am	Mass	*Roger Aslin RIP*
Friday	20th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	
Saturday	21st	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE				
Saturday	21st	6pm	Mass	*Sister Victorine (celebrating 50th Franciscan Missionary of Mary)*
Sunday	22nd	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	*Marcelino Da Conceicao & Jacinta Da Conceicao 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