

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

KEEPING VIGIL WITH THE GOD WHO IS COMING

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

1 December 2019 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 82 - Psalter Week 1

Pope Francis has invited every Catholic to focus on the Word of God in this new year. We say goodbye to St. Luke as he fades, to create space for this year of St. Matthew. The key for a better understanding of Matthew's Gospel can be found in the Lord's Prayer and especially in the phrase, "on earth as it is in heaven". In this prayer Jesus shares His inner world with His disciples, but disciples have to work to make that world their own. For while it is true that Jesus is well aware of and sensitive to every human need, He does not see this as a good starting point for prayer. Jesus begins with Heaven and encourages us to do the same. If we nurture heaven consciousness we will return to earth with heaven's agenda. God's name will be forever in our hearts, we will be energised by His will and pursue His Kingdom. The prayer of Jesus enfolds us as heaven's children moulding the earth into the world that God wants. We might say that the whole of Matthew's Gospel is written to remind us of that we are blessed and sent to infuse the earth with the power of the Spirit.



Matthew's Gospel speaks to those who are sleeping, blind, deaf, lost, dead, and overanxious about themselves and the affairs of the earth. The Spanish poet Antonio Machado said, 'All His words were one word: "Wake Up!" Disciples are to be awake, seeing, hearing, living and found. With this growing awareness of the nearness of God and of love for all creation, especially our neighbour, disciples must act in the world. Shuttling between Sacred attention, understanding and action, of lessons learned and integration, teach us how to read the Gospel and drink from it as a well of spiritual wisdom.

On this first Day of the year and this first Sunday of Advent, there is a clear invitation to 'stay awake' in our everyday lives. When God is around things cannot be planned in a normal way. Preparing for the day of the Son of Man is about choosing to live in this deeper awareness. In the two examples given by Jesus this inner vigilance makes all the difference to people who look like they are doing the same thing. In this context, a literal approach is not helpful. In the literal view, a day will come when Jesus will return and those who have fallen asleep and who have not been faithful will be judged negatively. There will be no time for a last-minute revision! Those who are awash with this kind of enlightened self-interest cling to scrupulous observance. Even worse, the other take which says, 'wake me up when He is getting nearer', demolishes the real reason we should be faithful and attentive to His voice.

What if the 'Day of the Lord' or the 'Coming of the Son of Man' is really an invitation to enter into the fullness of our lives through Christ. God is eternally present and near to us. The Beloved Son calling us to the fullness of life. It is precisely our lack of awareness of this Sacred reality which needs to change. Each time God's saving presence rises in human awareness, the Son of Man has arrived. It is a breakthrough that can and does happen at any time. When it does, and we receive it as Grace, we are dry in Noah's Ark, taken into the Kingdom, and safe in our own house. What time is it? It is now and it is the moment to wake from sleep.

Once upon a time God and a man were walking down the street and the man says to God, 'What is the world like?' God says to the man, 'I cannot talk when I am thirsty. If you could get me a drink of cool water, we could discuss what the world is like. There is a village nearby. Go and get me a drink'. The man goes into the village and knocks on the door of the first house. A beautiful woman answers the door. His jaw drops but he manages to say, 'I need a glass of cold water'. The woman invites him in and invites him to stay for lunch. 'I am hungry' he says, looking over his shoulder. 'And your offer is a great kindness'.

Thirty years go by. The man who wanted to know what the world was like, and the woman who welcomed him into her home have married and raised five children. He is a respected merchant and she is an honoured member of the town council.

One day, a terrible storm comes in off the coast and threatens their life. The merchant cries out, 'Help me, God!' And a voice from the middle of the storm says, 'I'm still waiting for my cup of water'.

Matthew's Gospel is written to show disciples how not to get lost. There is always too much to do and not enough time to do it. Our busy lives can rob us of passion, purpose and real pleasure. We wrongly treat Spirit as a luxury and our spirits wilt when we do. Our desire to enter into and hold onto the fullness of our lives needs to be supported by strategies which help us to stay focused. Simple choices like a morning offering, a grace before a meal or a night prayer can help us to stay awake to the eternal beauty in which we live. I pass a Christmas tree on my way to work. It reminds me of the connection between heaven and earth and that the ground on which I stand is Holy. Then I meet someone and, I notice that they are always more than they seem. My conversation with them is more respectful, patient and has more reverence. My heightened awareness of Spirit brings pleasure, passion and purpose to my day. I see a constancy to my love growing because I have been vigilant and watchful for how God is coming into the world today and how this day, like every day, belongs first to Him and comes to me as pure Gift.

DID YOU KNOW...?



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Midday on Tuesdays, please email the item text you need to make known to the parish via the newsletter to stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PASTORAL CARE/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION - Our Pastoral Care team and Bereavement Support Group, offers support and home visits to the sick, the housebound, the lonely and the bereaved. We visit you at home with Holy Communion if required. If you, a relative or friend who lives in our parish would like a home visit or to meet for a chat please email pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care) or 07376 790 256 (Bereavement Support).



THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (The SVP) - Provides practical help and support whenever possible for those who need it. Are you lonely? Are you in need of help of any kind? or do you know someone who is? If so, contact the SVP on 07731862349 to arrange a visit. All calls are completely confidential.

PARISH REGISTER – Have you registered you and/or your family on the parish register yet? If not, please go to the website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org drop down “Parish Life” and click on “Parish Registration”, this is a secure database and very important for our parish and parishioners especially when applying for any of the Sacraments.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR – December: 7th St Ambrose; 9th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 13th St Lucy; 14th St John of the Cross; 25th The Nativity of the Lord; 26th St Stephen; 27th St John; 28th The Holy Innocents; 29th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Thank You!!!

MASS OFFERINGS: £1,870.94

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY

PARISH FINANCE UPDATE. The Parish Financial Year finished at the end of August. Our expenditure for the year was **£172,791** and the income was **£169,884** giving a deficit of **£2,907** overall. As you can see, although we are still running at a **loss**, we have done better this year. A more detailed update will be provided in due course. Please increase your offering if you can.

Please make cheques payable to (full name) **“PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”**. **“General Gift Aid”** envelopes and **Banker’s/Standing Order** forms available in the porch, please complete and return all forms and general Gift Aid envelopes to the parish office. Registered Charity No. 246871 (Diocese of Portsmouth)

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – 2nd & 4th Mondays 7.45pm-9:30pm. Please contact the parish office for venue details.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP – Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am during term time in the hall.

KEEP FIT – Tuesdays 2pm in the hall.

PRAYER GROUPS – Hall Evening : 1st/3rd Tuesdays 7.45pm to 9.30pm. Day: 1st/3rd Wednesdays 10.30- 11.30am

Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”

RCIA – Thursdays 7:30pm-9pm in the hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE – Thursdays 7:30pm-8:30pm in the church. All are welcome.

MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: Every last Friday in the month at 12.10pm Mass, refreshments after Mass in the hall.

Car park reserved for persons with limited mobility.

Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”

TEAS & COFFEES – After all weekend Masses

FRANCISCAN MEETING - Saturday 7 December 2pm-4pm in the hall.



BERKSHIRE CREDIT UNION CONTACT POINTS AND DATES: Come along and have a chat with a trained volunteer at one of the locations points:

Mondays 10am – 12pm: St Paul’s Church, The Square, Ralphs Ride, RG12 9LP **AND** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

Tuesdays 10am – 12pm: St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

Wednesdays 2.15pm: 4.15pm: Crown Wood School, Opladen Way, Bracknell RG12 0PE

Thursdays 10am – 12pm: Holy Trinity Church, The Langley Hall, The Ring, Bracknell RG12 1HD **AND 1.30pm – 3.30pm Walk-In Café, Gt Hollands Square.**

Fridays 10am – 12pm: St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, RG12 1BE

Visit Berkshire Credit Union at <https://www.cslberks.org.uk>



SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, Bracknell, RG12 1BE Tel: 01344 425729

Fr Kevin Bidgood, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot, SL5 9HG Tel: 01344 620591

Fr Marcus Brisley Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS and Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, RG45 6JG, Tel: 01252 876820

Fr Simon Thomson, Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE Tel: 0118 9780348

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

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Peter Dossett, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Derek Alexander, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Doreen Gladwin, Manuela Maria Barros, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D’Souza, Donal Hanley, Jacquie Rawstron, Jim and Frances McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Brenda Hook, Simon Brennan, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Pauline McShane, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, David Malcolmson

If you would like to add a name to this list with consent, or if you want a name removed, please contact the Parish Office.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: BETTY WINN, RIP who passed away on Tuesday 26 November 2019. Arrangements for Betty's funeral will be made known as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for Betty and all her family.

May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 1 DECEMBER 2019

Pilgrim Hearts and all participating churches* invite you to our Service of Thanksgiving, Prayer and Commissioning for the Bracknell Homeless Shelter

2:45pm: Advent "Walk of Witness" from Holy Trinity Church, The Ring, RG12 1HD

3:30pm: Service of Thanksgiving, Prayer and Commissioning at St. Joseph & St. Margaret Clitherow Church, Braccan Walk, RG12 1BE

4:30pm: Service ends. Refreshments served in the church hall. All are welcome.

*St Joseph & St. Margaret Clitherow Church; Holy Trinity Church; St. Mark's Church, Binfield; Easthampstead Baptist Church; Newbold College; Ss. Michael & Mary Magdalene Church Easthampstead; Bracknell Methodist Church, Priestwood



YOUTH NEWS

THANK YOU!! - Thank you everyone for supporting our fundraising cake sale last weekend. We are so grateful for your outstanding generosity towards our Parish Youth Ministry. The amount raised currently stands at **£727...** And still counting!

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Friday 6th December - Ten Pin Bowling

Bookings are now closed for our joint youth group social event at the Hollywood Bowl.

YOUTH ALPHA – Coming in the New Year!! Watch this space...

It's so important to take time out to explore some of Life's BIG questions and Youth Alpha will help you to do just that. It's especially for those aged 13 -17, whether you are already Confirmed or not.

Thinking about Confirmation? Youth Alpha will provide you with a valuable opportunity to refresh your knowledge, consolidate your understanding of where you are on your faith journey and help you to decide whether joining the next Confirmation program is for you...

We have a great team in place, fully committed to making this the best Youth Alpha yet! Watch this space for further details about how to join the course starting in January 2020.

New to either of our youth groups? Want to make some new friends and have some fun? Register on our Parish website and just come along. We look forward to welcoming you!

For further information, please contact youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

CHRISTMAS ITEMS – CHURCH SHOP: Come and browse the beautiful range of advent calendars, Christmas cards, and 'Walk with Me' Advent journey booklets, also 2020 calendars and diaries.



PENITENTIAL SERVICE – For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area is:

Friday 13 December 2019, 7.30pm at St Francis of Assisi, Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG



ADVENT PRAYER VIGIL Friday 13 December from 8pm-midnight Start with lantern procession into town and back to Church, a talk by Fr Jim Barlow, then

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Refreshments then praise & worship. All are welcome to this celebration of Christ's birth.



SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm

All are invited to a family concert of Festive Favourites and a variety of Christmas music in St Joseph's Church. Tickets on the door: £12 Adults £10 Concessions. Children free.



ADVENT GIVING - During Advent we would like to reach out to those living in the **Life House, Women's Aid Refuges** as well as **Care Homes and Supported Living Homes in Bracknell** by providing wrapped gifts for children and adults for Christmas. If you would like to buy an age appropriate gift for a child, please email pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or tel 07394 440938. Also, we would like to provide items for children and adult Welcome Packs ie children specific toiletries – bubble bath, toothbrushes, toothpaste and/or adult specific toiletries - shampoo, conditioner, shower gels, toothpaste, toothbrushes as well as towels and little treats. Individual items can be brought in and placed in the collection box in the porch weekends of **7/8 December** and **14/15 December** or you can provide a welcome pack for a child or an adult by filling a small bag or box with toiletry items requested. Secondhand clothing and toys are not requested at this time. Thank you



FRIDAY SOUP & ROLL: We still need more volunteers to make soup. This requires a level 2 food hygiene certificate easily completed online all funded by the parish.

Please email pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care).



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

VULNERABLE ADULTS AWARENESS TRAINING - Saturday 7th December – 10am-12:30pm

To book a place on the training **here in our parish**, please email safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org If you have previously attended full training for child and or vulnerable adult awareness, you only need attend the **REFRESHER** training.

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR OF MATTHEW

Saturday	30 th	6.00pm	Mass	Martin, Mary Kate & Silvester Tighe, RIP
Sunday	1 st	8.30am	Mass	Patrick Doherty, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Sally Clark
Monday	2 nd	No Mass		
Tuesday	3 rd	No Mass		
Wednesday	4 th	9.30am	Mass	Paul Baker, RIP
Thursday	5 th	9.30am	Mass	Ifeanyi Emmanuel Harrison
Friday	6 th	11.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.10pm	Mass	Veronika Jastrzebski (Thanksgiving)

ST AMBROSE, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Saturday	7 th	10.00am	Mass	Pro-Life
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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

Saturday	7 th	6.00pm	Mass	Catherine Riordan, (Get Well Mass)
Sunday	8 th	8.30am	Mass	Frank and Marie-Claire Ducasse, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Deceased Families of Hatch and McHugh

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**Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer**

**Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help**

**10.15 am Mother's Prayers**

**Saturday: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary**

**Confessions: Every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment**

**THESE WILL BE CANCELLED FOR "REQUIEM MASS AND "NO MASS"**

**Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE**

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm**

**Telephone: 01344 425729**

**Email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

**Website: [bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

**Follow us on Facebook**

**Please make cheques payable to (full name): PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy**

**Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch**

**Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher**

**Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab**

**Safeguarding Representatives: Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read**

**Safeguarding email: [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

**PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL**