

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

STEERING CLEAR OF TRAPDOORS

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020



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-edged 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.

Safeguarding... is everyone's responsibility

Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics acknowledge as coming directly from God's creation of male and female in His own image and likeness. This implies a duty to value all people and therefore to support them and protect them from harm.

FAQ 1. How can I find out more about Safeguarding in the Catholic Church?
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/safeguarding>

2. Who are my Parish Safeguarding Representatives and what do they do? Marion, Paula, and Sarah make up our Parish Safeguarding Team and they are here to help! As Parish Safeguarding Representatives, the Safeguarding Team work closely with Father Danny to make the Parish aware of the importance of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults; promoting good and safe practice. Working together with Father Danny and the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-Ordinator, Ruth Attfield, they assist in the administration of the National Safeguarding policies and procedures.

3. When & how can I contact our Parish Safeguarding Team? Please contact us when...

- You would like to volunteer for a 'role' within the Parish.
- You currently volunteer but would like to change your role or take up an additional role.
- You currently volunteer and would like to check if your Safeguarding Training is up to date. (Refresher training is required every three years).
- You would like to start up a new Parish group.
- You would like to run an event within the Parish.
- You are concerned about your own or someone else's welfare.

This is not an exhaustive list, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any of your Safeguarding queries or concerns. Parish Safeguarding Team Emergency mobile: 07712 048 695. Parish Safeguarding Team Email Address: safeguarding@bracknellcatholicurch.org

USEFUL SAFEGUARDING INFO/LINKS

• What to do if we have any Concerns If you suspect that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is being, has been or is likely to be, abused, you must take action. To do nothing is not an option. Do not investigate. The key principles to follow are Listen – Record – Refer.

Do not, under any circumstances, alert the alleged abuser, either directly or indirectly, to what has happened. This is very important.

If there is an immediate danger or the matter is urgent, you should report your suspicion, without delay, to the Police or to Social Services (Children's or Adults' services, as appropriate) and then inform the Diocese.

Diocese of Portsmouth—Safeguarding Contacts
 There are many people who may be able to help, including:
IN AN EMERGENCY, CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999 OR 101

Ruth Attfield , Safeguarding Coordinator Diocesan Safeguarding Office St. Edmund House Bishop Crispian Way Portsmouth PO1 3QA		Telephone 02394 216487 Work mobile 07554 427064 Email rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	
Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS)	Tel 020 7901 1920 www.csas.uk.net	NSPCC	Tel 0800 800 500 www.nspcc.org.uk
Child Line	Tel 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk	Stop it Now Helpline	Tel 0800 1000 900 www.stopitnow.org.uk
Action on Elder Abuse	Tel 0808 808 8141 www.elderabuse.org.uk	Age UK	Tel 0800 16906565 www.ageuk.org.uk
National Domestic Violence Helpline, with Refuge & Women's Aid	Tel 0808 2000 247 www.womensaid.org.uk	Papyrus - Prevention of Young Suicide www.papyrus-uk.org	Hopeline UK Tel 0800 068 4141, Text 0786 0039967, email pat@papyrus-uk.org

Your Local Social Services: (01344) 352005 or Out of Hours (01344) 786543.
 Parish Safeguarding Team Emergency mobile: 07712 048 695
 Parish Safeguarding Team Email Address: safeguarding@bracknellcatholicurch.org

PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

1. God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.
2. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.
3. Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth.
4. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labours. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Grief to Grace is a specialised 5-day programme of spiritual and psychological healing for anyone who has suffered sexual, physical, emotional or spiritual abuse in childhood, adolescence or adulthood, including those who are the victims of rape, incest or abuse by a member of the clergy.

<https://www.griegtograceuk.org/>

email: info@griegtograceuk.org

Phone: 020 8971 2918 or 077410 687 596



Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales or the Church in Wales.

Tel: 0300 303 1056 (answerphone available when closed)

Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

Website: www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk



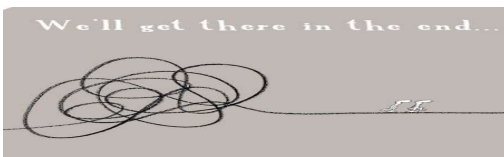
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:

MARIE SOL FAULKNER, RIP and her family. Marie Sol's Requiem Mass will be **Friday 30 October 2020** at 10.00am, Easthampstead Park Cemetery at 11.30am

WILLY CHARLES LEON PRETOT, RIP, Funeral Service and burial at Easthampstead Park on **Wednesday 28 October 2020** at 2.00pm

SANTINA BAXTER, RIP and her family. Santina's funeral details to be advised.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



WE ARE NOW OFFICIALLY LIVE!

After many months and countless bumps in the road, we have finally made it! The broadband has been upgraded, the camera is now installed, and the audio system has had an overhaul, which means that you can now virtually enter our beautiful church anytime, 24/7 via the internet. All Masses are now streamed

live and for the first time since March, we are able to resume public Mass on Sundays (limited attendance.) at 10.30am. **Church doors open at 10.00am and will close prompt at 10.30am start of Mass**, please arrive in plenty of time for the Stewards to COVID-19 process you before entering the Church, please don't arrive late which will disturb the Mass.

To Watch Live, head over to our website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live

To reserve your seat for Mass, book online: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org



JOIN US for the first meeting of our new **FAITH FORMATION GROUP**, online and weekly on **Thursday evenings from 7:30pm-9pm**. The starting point for reflection and discussion each week is the Sunday readings, to help us come to a better understanding of how scripture calls us to a continuing deepening and development of our faith, and what it means to be Catholic in our contemporary world in these times. Our first meeting is on **Thursday 15th October at 7:30pm** - email Mary McNab for the zoom link bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Hope to see you there!



PASTORAL CARE - Are you lonely? Are you shielding? Are you ill and in need of prayer and/or support? Perhaps you haven't had contact with the Catholic Church for a while. Whatever the reason, please get in touch for a chat by emailing pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or by calling **07394 440 938** (Pastoral Care team mobile)

"Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation." Pope Francis



SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT de PAUL - Do you need help, particularly, as a result of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic The local Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) may be able to provide some assistance, as we have access to limited additional hardship funds from a variety of sources, including the generosity of local parishioners. Please contact **IN CONFIDENCE** the local SVP on 07731 862 349

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, Tony Andrews, Derek Alexander, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Jenny Bashford, Donal Hanley, Jim and Frances McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Terry and Mary Brennan, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Doreen Pryor, Sharon Bryan, Sarah Bryan, Fr John Chadwick, John Cliffe.

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.

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Sunday	18 th	10.30am	LIMITED ATTENDANCE MASS	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Monday	19 th	No Mass or Private Prayer – CHURCH CLOSED		
Tuesday	20 th	10.00am - 10.30am	Mass	<i>The Pitt Family</i>
		11.00am - 12.00 noon	Private Prayer & Exposition	
Wednesday	21 st	10.00am - 10.30am	Mass	<i>Theresa Evette Turner, RIP</i>
		11.00am - 12.00 noon	Private Prayer & Exposition	
Thursday	22 nd	10.00am - 10.30am	Mass	<i>Willy Charles Leon Pretot, RIP</i>
		11.00am - 12.00 noon	Private Prayer & Exposition	
Friday	23 rd	10.00am - 12.00 noon	Private Prayer and Exposition	
		7.30pm - 8.00pm	Mass	<i>Martin, Mary Kate & Silvester Tighe, RIP</i>
Saturday	24 th	10.00am - 10.30am	Mass	<i>Justin Peter Grattan, RIP</i>
		11.00am – 12.00 noon	Private Prayer and Exposition	

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Sunday 25th 10.30am **LIMITED ATTENDANCE MASS** *Parish Intentions*

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**THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR 30 MINUTES ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY MORNINGS AFTER MASS TO SANITISE THE CHURCH BEFORE RE-OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND EXPOSITION AT 11.00am. THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS, THE DOORS WILL BE CLOSED AT THE START OF MASS.**

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

**Telephone: 01344 425729**

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

**Pastoral Care: 07394 440938 Email: [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

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

**Follow us on Facebook**

**DIRECT DEBIT, STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE (drop down menu "Planned Giving")**

**BANK DETAILS: Account Name: PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph**

**Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520; Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc, Palmerstone Road, Southsea**

**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 phone and email: 07712 048695 [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**