

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A
STEERING CLEAR OF TRAPDOORS

22 October 2017 - Psalter Week 1 – Missal Page 143

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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.

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

|           |                  |                |                           |                                          |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass                      | Parish Intentions                        |
| Sunday    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass                      | Peggy Pendergast                         |
|           |                  | 10.30am        | Mass                      | Alexander Elkington, RIP                 |
| Monday    | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |                           |                                          |
| Tuesday   | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass                      | Mr & Mrs Jose                            |
| Wednesday | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass                      | Martin, Mary Kate & Silvester Tighe, RIP |
| Thursday  | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass                      | Rita Robinson                            |
| Friday    | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 7.00am         | Exposition – until 5.00pm |                                          |
|           |                  | 12.10pm        | Mass                      | Dominica Roberts                         |
|           |                  | 4.30pm         | Benediction               |                                          |

### Ss SIMON & JUDE, Apostles

|          |                  |         |      |                    |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|--------------------|
| Saturday | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass | David Hancock, RIP |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|--------------------|

### THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

|          |                  |         |      |                    |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|--------------------|
| Saturday | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Elizabeth Fisher   |
| Sunday   | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Parish Intentions  |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Perry Sisters, RIP |

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Tuesday to Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help, 10.15 am Mother's Prayers; **Saturday:** 9.30am Rosary, 1st Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary. **Confessions** every Saturday at 10.45am or by prior appointment.

Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE
Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

Telephone: 01344 425729 **Email:** stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk

Please make cheques payable to: "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy

Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher **Pastoral Assistant:** Mary McNab

Safeguarding Representatives: Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read

Safeguarding email: safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW CHURCH

DID YOU KNOW...?



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – NEW DEADLINE: Midday on Tuesdays, please email your newsletter item(s) to the parish office stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY – Baby Oliver Daniel Plunkett who is being baptised on **Sunday 22 October 2017** at 12 noon. Please pray for Oliver and his parents David and Chido.



CHURCH SHOP CLOSED – For half term weekend Sunday 29 October 2017



OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY
27 October 2017 marks the **50th anniversary of the 1967 Abortion Act**. During October, please say a decade of The Rosary each day to pray for an end to abortion. **Friday 27 October 2017** there will be in the Church **Exposition** from 7.00am (dawn) until 5.00pm with **Benediction** at 4.30pm and **Mass** at 12.10pm. **Queen of the Most Holy Rosary - pray for us.**



STREET EVANGELISATION IN BRACKNELL spreading the Truth of the Church to the world. If you'd like to join us or want to find out more, please contact John: johnrodger1@me.com or follow this link: <http://streetevangelization.com/>



First aid

ARE YOU A FIRST AIDER AT WORK? – First Aiders needed for each weekend Mass, if you wish to volunteer for the Mass you attend, please contact the Parish Office with all your details.



ARE YOU A FIRE MARSHALL AT WORK? – Fire Marshalls needed for each of the weekend Mass. If you wish to volunteer for the Mass you attend, please contact the Parish Office with all your details.

BEWARE: LIGHTING CANDLES – Adults must accompany all children at the candle trays when lighting candles. Please ensure your children do not play around the candle trays, in the sand or with the lighted candles. Care must be taken when reaching across lighted candles wearing loose clothing, etc. It is important to remember that they can be the cause of major fires and serious injury.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR - OCTOBER – 28th Ss Simon & Jude
NOVEMBER – 1st ALL SAINTS (**Holy Day of Obligation**); 2nd All Souls; 4th St Charles Borromeo; 9th The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; 10th St Leo the Great; 11th St Martin of Tours; 14th Blessed Hugh Cook Faringdon & John Eynon & John Ruge; 16th St Edmund of Abingdon; 21st The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 22nd St Cecilia; 24th St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions; 30th St Andrew

CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR – Next weekend, Sunday 29 October.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – Monday 23 October at 22 Pondmoor. Meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. All are welcome.

KEEP FIT CLUB – Every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in the Hall.

TODDLER GROUP – Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am in the hall during term time. Spaces available.

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

SOUP & ROLL – Every Friday after Mass during term time.

YOUTH GROUP – **Closed until further notice.**



MASS OFFERINGS: £1866.40 THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY. Please make cheques payable to "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph". **Gift Aid envelopes and bankers/standing order forms available in the porch.**

SECOND OFFERINGS FOR OCTOBER: 22nd Foreign Missions

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: WOW, you have generously donated a total of **£1203.51** which includes the gift aid from the envelope forms that you completed. **THANK YOU** on behalf of all those who will benefit from your amazing kindness.

CAFOD is part of the DEC Rohingya crisis appeal. You can donate direct to CAFOD at cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis or by calling 08085 858885



CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK – 5th - 11th November. Gifts in your Will are a very valuable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Do please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information pick up a leaflet; contact Your Catholic Legacy on 020 7095 5370; go to www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk



CAFOD OFFICE VOUNTEER - Do you have a few hours free during the week to volunteer in the CAFOD Portsmouth office at St Mary's church Aldershot GU12 4RX. Office to help with a range of administrative tasks, data entry to contacting volunteers. If you are computer competent and happy using Word and Excel then please contact Jo on 01252 329385 or email jljewry@cafod.org.uk

We pray for the Sick and Housebound of our Community and for those who care for them.

Sick and Housebound:

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Adrian Sweeney, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Jadwiga Butcher, Lilijan Rodenburg, Josephine & Maurice Timms, Robert Mulcahy, Robbie McDonald, Eddie Moore.

Those who are unwell or in hospital:

Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Peggy Pendergast, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Nicholas Powell, Blanche Shap, Emma Flavelle, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Anna Tighe, Win McDermott, Angelina Ediale, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM BISHOP PHILIP – BAMENDA - It is with sadness and concern that I bring to your attention the deteriorating socio-political situation in Cameroon, particularly in the regions covered by our sister Diocese of Bamenda. Our two dioceses have been intimately linked for over forty years and, as you know, we currently have three priests from Bamenda serving in our parishes. The disturbances in Cameroon have complex origins in the relationship between the French and English speaking provinces and in the recent imposition of controls by the political authorities.

Most schools in Bamenda have been closed since last November. Peaceful demonstrations have led to arrests, torture and the killing of citizens by the military. It is instructive to read the statement from the Cameroon Bishops about the tensions in this week's diocesan Enews. At this time, I ask your prayers for peace, reconciliation and a just outcome. I have written to Archbishop Cornelius to express the prayers, solidarity and support of the clergy and faithful of our Diocese of Portsmouth. I invite you all to offer the Rosary this week for the intentions of Bamenda. Please also consider writing to your MP to ask our government leaders here in Britain to do all they can to assist the situation and to bring about peace and justice.

Bishop Philip has asked us to say daily the following prayer along with the rosary: "That all peoples in need may find help, and that peace and security may be firmly established everywhere, especially in our twin diocese of Bamenda, and throughout the Anglophone area of Cameroon".



TALKS ON SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES – We had a very positive response to the synopsis of the talks at last weekend's Masses.

All Talks are from **7pm to 9pm** in the church hall:

SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS : Shelter
Wednesday 25 October



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS – The Life in the Spirit Seminars will be every Tuesday evening from **26 September** until **7 November 2017** 8.00pm to 9.30pm in the church hall.

PRAISE – TALK – DISCUSSION

24th October – Inviting Him into our Lives

31st October – Growth

7th November – Transformation in Christ



Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2017 - More than 200 social entrepreneurs applied for the programme. Only 40 gained a place. Following a tough application process and a Dragons' Den-style panel, the judges then picked five finalists to run for Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 – based on the impact they create, the growth they've achieved and the potential of their plans

Maggie Sikora, Mapis, Bracknell – "A social enterprise which supports young people and adults from disadvantaged backgrounds to develop new skills and confidence to increase their employability, through qualifications in fashion, beauty and retail. This will allow her to open a learning centre in Bracknell offering free qualifications to the most disadvantaged."

Voting closes at 5pm, Tuesday 31st October. [Terms & conditions.](#) You can only vote once online https://www.the-sse.org/seva/Maggie_Sikora, [Mapis](#), but you can submit one more vote by text! Text 'SEYA17 [finalist's first name]' to 82228 (e.g. 'SEYA17 Maggie').

DEMYSTIFYING NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING - Saturday 11 November 2017 9.45am - 4pm at St Michael & All Angels, Rider Lane, Leigh Park, PO9 3BT, our Marriage and Family Life Team organised a day of presentations and workshops on Natural Family Planning. Theological Perspective, History & development of NFP, Understanding menopausal years, Improving fertility awareness, Achieving pregnancy, etc. Key speakers include: Mgr. Jeremy Garrett, Dr Helen Whiting, Dr Olive Duddy and Christine Bergess. Lunch, tea and coffee provided. There is no charge for the event, but donations are welcome.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION "ARE YOU READY?" – "ARE YOU READY" is the first step to celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. If your child and you, as parents, feel ready and wish to be considered for this Sacrament please send an email to the parish office with child's name, parents' names, telephone number and which is school attended, closing date **Tuesday 31 October 2017**

Inter Faith Week



'WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF FAITH IN MODERN BRITAIN?' - Bracknell Forest Faith & Belief Forum would like to invite you to 'Celebrate Interfaith Week 2017' on **Tuesday 14 November 2017** from 7pm - 9pm at Coopers Hill Youth and Community Centre, Crowthorne Road North, off Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 7QS. If you would like to attend this event

please contact kate.eatwell@hotmail.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Saturday 18th November 2017, Refresher Training – 10.00am – 12.30pm; The Holy Trinity, Bowenhurst Road, Church Crookham, GU51 3ST (Trainer – Sue Smy). For reservations please contact Soraya Ciccarone, PA to Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Diocesan Financial Secretary, tel: (Direct Dial) 023 92 836511/023 92 816396/023 92 825430 soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



FRUITFUL DISCIPLESHIP IN OUR DIOCESE - At

Winchester Parish Centre, **Saturday 18th November 2017** 9.30am – 5pm. For all keen to know and serve the Lord more deeply, be an active disciple in community. Bishop Philip will be hosting the day and giving a talk at the start and end. Talks by Katherine Coolidge (global head of Called and Gifted) on Fruitful Discipleship and developing personal relationship with the Lord. A number of testimonies from parishioners and parishes doing wonderful work in serving others.



WORLD DAY OF THE POOR - At the end of the Year of

Mercy in November last year, Pope Francis in his message *Misericordia et Misera* instituted a 'World Day of the Poor' to be the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, which this year is **Sunday 19 November 2017**. The Holy Father urges that parishes and all Christian communities "make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance" with the poor.



KERYGMA RETREAT –

At Winchester Parish Centre,
Sunday 19th November 2017

12noon- 6pm. This is a day that allows you to see, hear and respond to the story that Pope Francis reminds us we must hear and respond to "over and over" – the kerygma, the Great Story of Jesus. This is a reflective day, utilising the spoken word, art, quiet reflection and discussion.



TRAINING ON FAITH SHARING WITH OTHERS IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND THE PARISH - St. Bede's Basingstoke, **Monday 20th November 2017** 9.30am – 5pm. For those who would like training in

having conversations with those not yet active Catholics. Sharing your own story and Jesus's story with others, ie, family, friends, workplace, people in the parish. No particular background, but be a person who wants to share your faith. Also running the Kerygma Retreat in your parish.



OPEN MORNINGS - St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School is holding **Open Mornings** for any prospective parents wishing to tour the school 10.30am to 12.00 noon: **Thursday 7th December 2017** and **Tuesday 9 January 2018**. To book please call the school on 01344 424030 to book your space. For more information visit their website <http://stmargaretcitherowbracknell.co.uk/>