

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

THE TEACHER TEACHES: HOW TO BE COMPASSIONATE

SUNDAY 18 JULY 2021



You could read this Sunday's Gospel from the point of view of overworked and stressed disciples. If you did it would be a mistake! Yes, they are back from the mission and the Teacher invites them to go away by themselves and rest. There is a revolving door of so many people with so many demands that the disciples cannot eat. They hop on a boat but the people continue to come to them - walking faster than their oars can push. When they step ashore, Jesus sees the crowds. His Compassion trumps the plan for eating and resting. Those who are suffering must come first. No rest for the disciples. The mission comes first.

Notice how the passage is awash with spiritual symbols. When the disciples have told Jesus about their words and works, it isn't time for a bit of R and R. It is time for a deeper teaching about mission and how it is to be done. They are invited to a 'deserted place' to 'rest' and to 'eat'. Food is not normally found in deserted places. The food that is on offer is learning how to be nourished by God. They are being invited to fall into the heart of God and to be fed there. Also, 'rest' does not mean time to splash on the sun tan lotion and pick up a good novel. This is Sabbath Rest. It is the rest wherein I make myself One with all creation and with the Spirit of the Creator. Here, I learn how to receive, from the heart of God, all I will need for the mission that has been entrusted to me.



This is not an easy thing to do. It requires a shift in awareness. So we must 'get in the boat' and 'cross over' to another way of thinking. This new way does not leave anyone behind. The problem is not the people or their needs. The problem is the way our activity takes us away from the wellspring. On the other shore, with renewed awareness, everything begins with Compassion. Everything is sustained by Compassion. In a world where nobody has any time for those who have nothing to give, Jesus is a magnet. Disciples must learn how to stay in touch with Compassion.

In our own days Compassion is seen as exhausting. We hear of compassion fatigue! When people arrive with their needs, we must find a way to empathise with them. Compassion demands a real relationship. We cannot keep our distance. But living in the world of another's need can be draining. This is why so many 'professionals' complain about compassion fatigue.

Yet, for Jesus, Compassion is a form of rest. How can this be possible? When we think we are in a superior position to someone in need; when we imagine that we are called upon from our greatness or expertise to help another, we very quickly act as if they are a dead weight needing to be lifted up. This is heavy lifting and it is exhausting. For Jesus, Compassion arises from sameness. This cannot be manufactured. It must be genuinely perceived. We must refrain from thinking we have the edge, the possession, the gift, the skill, the knowledge or the luck which makes us better than anyone else. This can only happen in the 'deserted place' and with 'rest'.

Bede Griffiths, a Benedictine monk lived in India for many years and worked to develop this new awareness. He created the 'deserted place' and the 'rest' by choosing the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus, Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner". This meditation brought him into community with all people. He wrote:

"I unite myself with all human beings from the beginning of the world who have experienced separation from God, or from eternal truth. I realise that, as human beings, we are all separated from God, from the source of our being. We are wandering in a world of shadows, mistaking the outward appearance of people and things for reality. But at all times, something is pressing us to reach out beyond the shadows, to face the reality, the truth, the inner meaning of our lives, and so to find God, or whatever name we give to the mystery which enfolds us".

When we realise we are the same as everyone else, our actions arise from communion. We are not steeling ourselves to exert influence in the foreign territory of another. Our mission arises from what ultimately unites us, a common humanity longing for a common compassion. Compassion cannot be achieved. It can only emerge when we recognise the deepest truth that we are all one. This new awareness is a place of rest from which mission flows easily. Whenever you find pushing, shoving, pressure or tension, you can guarantee that Compassion has been lost.



ENCYCLICAL LETTER
FRATELLI TUTTI
OF THE HOLY FATHER
FRANCIS
ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP

CHAPTER 5 - FORMS OF POPULISM AND LIBERALISM continued

The benefits and limits of liberal approaches

163. The concept of a “people”, which naturally entails a positive view of community and cultural bonds, is usually rejected by individualistic liberal approaches, which view society as merely the sum of coexisting interests. One speaks of respect for freedom, but without roots in a shared narrative; in certain contexts, those who defend the rights of the most vulnerable members of society tend to be criticized as populists. The notion of a people is considered an abstract construct, something that does not really exist. But this is to create a needless dichotomy. Neither the notion of “people” nor that of “neighbour” can be considered purely abstract or romantic, in such a way that social organization, science and civic institutions can be rejected or treated with contempt.^[138]

164. Charity, on the other hand, unites both dimensions – the abstract and the institutional – since it calls for an effective process of historical change that embraces everything: institutions, law, technology, experience, professional expertise, scientific analysis, administrative procedures, and so forth. For that matter, “private life cannot exist unless it is protected by public order. A domestic hearth has no real warmth unless it is safeguarded by law, by a state of tranquillity founded on law, and enjoys a minimum of wellbeing ensured by the division of labour, commercial exchange, social justice and political citizenship”.^[139]

165. True charity is capable of incorporating all these elements in its concern for others. In the case of personal encounters, including those involving a distant or forgotten brother or sister, it can do so by employing all the resources that the institutions of an organized, free and creative society are capable of generating. Even the Good Samaritan, for example, needed to have a nearby inn that could provide the help that he was personally unable to offer. Love of neighbour is concrete and squanders none of the resources needed to bring about historical change that can benefit the poor and disadvantaged. At times, however, leftist ideologies or social doctrines linked to individualistic ways of acting and ineffective procedures affect only a few, while the majority of those left behind remain dependent on the goodwill of others. This demonstrates the need for a greater spirit of fraternity, but also a more efficient worldwide organization to help resolve the problems plaguing the abandoned who are suffering and dying in poor countries. It also shows that there is no one solution, no single acceptable methodology, no economic recipe that can be applied indiscriminately to all. Even the most rigorous scientific studies can propose different courses of action.

166. Everything, then, depends on our ability to see the need for a change of heart, attitudes and lifestyles. Otherwise, political propaganda, the media and the shapers of public opinion will continue to promote an individualistic and uncritical culture subservient to unregulated economic interests and societal institutions at the service of those who already enjoy too much power. My criticism of the technocratic paradigm involves more than simply thinking that if we control its excesses everything will be fine. The bigger risk does not come from specific objects, material realities or institutions, but from the way that they are used. It has to do with human weakness, the proclivity to selfishness that is part of what the Christian tradition refers to as “concupiscence”: the human inclination to be concerned only with myself, my group, my own petty interests. Concupiscence is not a flaw limited to our own day. It has been present from the beginning of humanity, and has simply changed and taken on different forms down the ages, using whatever means each moment of history can provide. Concupiscence, however, can be overcome with the help of God.

167. Education and upbringing, concern for others, a well-integrated view of life and spiritual growth: all these are essential for quality human relationships and for enabling society itself to react against injustices, aberrations and abuses of economic, technological, political and media power. Some liberal approaches ignore this factor of human weakness; they envisage a world that follows a determined order and is capable by itself of ensuring a bright future and providing solutions for every problem.

^[138] A similar point could be made with regard to the biblical category of the Kingdom of God.

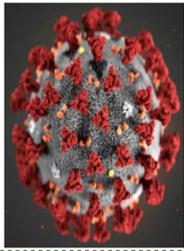
^[139] PAUL RICOEUR, *Histoire et Vérité*, ed. Le Seuil Paris, 1967, 122.



If you are off on your holidays in the next few weeks, we wish you all a very relaxing, safe, sunny, warm and harmonious holiday wherever it is you are going or even staying home and having "days out".

SACRISTANS – We need volunteers for weekend Sacristans. Sacristans dress the altar and sanctuary for Mass, this is a special and very important Ministry, full training will be provided. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

**WE NEED YOU!
TO MAKE IT HAPPEN**



COVID GUIDELINES – STEP 4 – We will follow the **SAGE** guidelines with regard to Step 4 on 19 July. We will take a cautious and considered approach to changes and extensions within our church as transmission rates (R) and hospitalisations are presently increasing. **We ask you to please continue to wear face masks while in the Church, observe social distancing and the instructions of Stewards for Mass.**

SUNDAY OBLIGATION & COVID GUIDELINES REVIEW – The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales announced in 2020 that attending Mass on a weekday fulfills our Sunday obligation. If you can, please attend Mass during the week so as to free up seat bookings for those who can only attend Mass at weekends so they can fulfil their Sunday Obligation.

GUIDANCE FOR ATTENDING MASSES: Everyone is very welcome to attend any weekday or Sunday Masses. However, attendance is limited for all Masses and you must book seat(s) in advance online via the parish website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org Bookings are available from 9am, Mondays. Please be aware that arriving without a booked seat risks refusal if no seat(s) available. The church doors open 30 minutes before Mass for the Stewards to process you on Track & Trace, NHS Track & Trace, temperature taking, health questions, mobility and Mass procedure, even if Mass has started you will still be processed by Stewards in the porch before entering the church, **PLEASE ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME TO AVOID DISTURBING THE START OF MASS. Face-coverings (nose and mouth) are still in force at our Church, except for those with a medical exemption.** We continue to maintain social distancing in the Church at all times. All Masses are livestreamed on our parish website.



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LETTER – 'FRATELLI TUTTI' - His third encyclical inspired by the life and example of St. Francis of Assisi, completed during the pandemic, speaks to the possibility that, through it, we may rediscover a sense of common humanity, we are serialising the whole letter. This week we continue with Chapter 4 and commence Chapter 5 **"A Better Kind of Politics, Forms of Populism and Liberalism"** /continued.

PASTORAL CARE AND BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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).

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Are you in the land of loss & would appreciate a chat with one of our group? If so please either phone **07376 790256** or contact the parish office on 01344 425729, or email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

"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

SICK AND/OR HOUSEBOUND: If you or your relative are housebound or because of illness cannot come to Mass wish to receive Holy Communion at your home, please inform the parish office (telephone 01344.425729 or email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) so that arrangements may be made for you to receive Holy Communion from a Minister of the Holy Eucharist. Ministers are now allowed to resume visits and continued safety protocols will be adhered to: wearing masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing, etc.



"The Eucharist is essential for us: it is Christ who wishes to enter our lives and fill us with his grace". Pope Francis

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, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Josephine Timms, 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, Donal Hanley, Jim McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Terry Brennan, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Doreen Pryor, Sharon Bryan, Chantal Addley, Terry and Peggy McCullough, Meg Knowles. John Moir, Beryl Pilgrim, Charles Hose, Douglas & Bernadette Hunt, Phyllis Whitehouse, Clarita Kokou-Tchri, Meg Knowles, Margaret Finnieston, Louis Burgisser, Prim & Ian Maynard.

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Sunday	18 th	8.30am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
		10.30am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
		12.00noon	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	
Monday	19 th	NO MASS		
		10.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	
Tuesday	20 th	10.00am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Miroslaw Zakoscielny, RIP</i>
		11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	
Wednesday	21 st	10.00am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Gloria Baclayon, RIP</i>
		11:00am	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	

ST MARY MAGDALENE, Feast

Thursday	22 nd	10.00am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Kathleen Walsh, RIP</i>
		11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	

ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN, Foundress, Patron of Europe

Friday	23 rd	12.00noon	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Anita Guionnet, RIP</i>
		1.00pm	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	
Saturday	24 th	10.00am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Donna Ireland, RIP</i>
		11.00am	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday	24 th	6.00pm	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday	25 th	8.30am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
		10.30am	Limited Attendance Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
		12.00noon	Private Prayer & Exposition, Porch access only	



All Masses and Exposition, weekday and weekend, are now streamed live;
To *Watch Live* or *book your seat*, head over to our website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org
CONFESSIONS by appointment only, please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch

Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab

Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA Follow us on Facebook

Telephone: 01344 425729 Email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org

DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS, PLEASE CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING:

ONLINE 'GIVE AS YOU LIVE' BUTTON; DIRECT DEBIT, STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID FORMS
ARE ALL ON THE PARISH WEBSITE (drop down "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

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocese, Registered Charity No. 246871

Pastoral Care: 07394 440938 Email: pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org Bereavement Support Group: 07376 790256

Safeguarding Representatives: Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read

Safeguarding phone and email: 07712 048695 safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org