

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

GROWING TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING

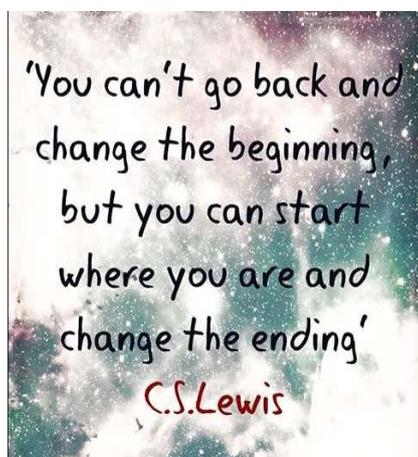
SUNDAY 22 AUGUST 2021

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It is true that some of the teachings of Jesus are hard to take. We should not be afraid of this. In the Gospels, some people like Him and some do not. But in today's Gospel, even those who liked Him are struggling to trust Him and to understand what He is teaching.

The core message of St. John's Gospel is stated one more. Jesus has come from the Father. His origins are in God and the life He speaks of is born in that place. His identity as 'Beloved Son', flows from this relationship. He offers this same experience to anyone who can trust Him and make His teaching their own. This is something completely new. The older consciousness cannot transcend death; it turns people, who are afraid, in on themselves. Here is a teaching that frees us from fear and opens us up to 'eternal life.'

The pairing of flesh and blood and eating bread from heaven sets the stage for the disciples to unwrap the gift they are being offered. They have been brought up to believe in the utter transcendence of God and their own smallness. What Jesus is saying does not fit well into that mindset. He understands how His teaching might give offence. Perhaps the offence could be less if He, the Beloved Son, started with Earth and ascended to Heaven. But even if it makes for an easier beginning, we still have to trust Him when he asks us to notice the partnership between the physical and the spiritual, earth and heaven, ascending and descending Angels and a descending and ascending Son of Man. Everything comes from above and it is there that we must look to find the truth. This change from 'flesh to spirit', to 'spirit to flesh', is a difficult shift. Many will walk away with their old mind intact rather than trust in the new possibility. Those who stay, do so because they trust the Father.



Staying with Jesus is always a decision and it is a decision that is not made only once. The disciples who left were unable to make the shift. They were not ready to eat the food that the 'bread' who 'came down from heaven' had prepared. The Twelve did stay because they were already eating. The words of Jesus had opened a window into eternal life. If Jesus could give them eternal life, He must come from God. This is the beginning of something amazing which will require them to trust and grow even more.

So, we have two choices. To leave or to stay. But it is the reason for staying that is intriguing. When Jesus asks the question, 'Are you going away too?', Peter answers, 'We have *come to believe and know..!*' What begins with trust is completed in a depth of understanding and flows as eternal life whenever we gather to fulfill His command, 'Do this in memory of me'.

The community of disciples - the church- only exists to disclose the meaning of Christ as the embodiment of God in the world. We exist for the salvation - health and well-being - of all people, not just for the comfort and consolation it brings us. This means that the only way to build the community of those who 'choose to stay' is to look outwards, to see how we might bring this Good News to the poor. The Church, like the Kingdom of God, cannot grow through following a programme. It will grow through the joyful witness of those who celebrate the gratuitous blessing of Christ. We have to return to the service of the Gospel and the command to spread it to all peoples. Today's Gospel is a heady reminder that this is a painful and costly process precisely because it means stripping away our old safety nets, our addiction to personal comfort and our riches -whether secular or not - which we think are so important for the maintenance of the church.

We must respond to the urgent promoting of the Spirit who gives Life and who through the community, upholds the life of all people. As Jesus clearly tells us; The power of God is at work in the world, the story of Salvation is being told, and we are the privileged and responsible stewards of God. This, it seems to me, is the solid ground of our trust and the reason why we are constantly seeking to deepen our understanding of the Beloved Son of God.



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

**CHAPTER 5 - continued**

**THE EXERCISE OF POLITICAL LOVE**

**186.** There is a kind of love that is “elicited”: its acts proceed directly from the virtue of charity and are directed to individuals and peoples. There is also a “commanded” love, expressed in those acts of charity that spur people to create more sound institutions, more just regulations, more supportive structures.<sup>[181]</sup> It follows that “it is an equally indispensable act of love to strive to organize and structure society so that one’s neighbour will not find himself in poverty”.<sup>[182]</sup> It is an act of charity to assist someone suffering, but it is also an act of charity, even if we do not know that person, to work to change the social conditions that caused his or her suffering. If someone helps an elderly person cross a river, that is a fine act of charity. The politician, on the other hand, builds a bridge, and that too is an act of charity. While one person can help another by providing something to eat, the politician creates a job for that other person, and thus practices a lofty form of charity that ennobles his or her political activity.

***Sacrifices born of love***

**187.** This charity, which is the spiritual heart of politics, is always a preferential love shown to those in greatest need; it undergirds everything we do on their behalf.<sup>[183]</sup> Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society. That gaze is at the heart of the authentic spirit of politics. It sees paths open up that are different from those of a soulless pragmatism. It makes us realize that “the scandal of poverty cannot be addressed by promoting strategies of containment that only tranquilize the poor and render them tame and inoffensive. How sad it is when we find, behind allegedly altruistic works, the other being reduced to passivity”.<sup>[184]</sup> What are needed are new pathways of self-expression and participation in society. Education serves these by making it possible for each human being to shape his or her own future. Here too we see the importance of the principle of *subsidiarity*, which is inseparable from the principle of *solidarity*.

**188.** These considerations help us recognize the urgent need to combat all that threatens or violates fundamental human rights. Politicians are called to “tend to the needs of individuals and peoples. To tend those in need takes strength and tenderness, effort and generosity in the midst of a functionalistic and privatized mindset that inexorably leads to a ‘throwaway culture’... It involves taking responsibility for the present with its situations of utter marginalization and anguish, and being capable of bestowing dignity upon it”.<sup>[185]</sup> It will likewise inspire intense efforts to ensure that “everything be done to protect the status and dignity of the human person”.<sup>[186]</sup> Politicians are doers, builders with ambitious goals, possessed of a broad, realistic and pragmatic gaze that looks beyond their own borders. Their biggest concern should not be about a drop in the polls, but about finding effective solutions to “the phenomenon of social and economic exclusion, with its baneful consequences: human trafficking, the marketing of human organs and tissues, the sexual exploitation of boys and girls, slave labour, including prostitution, the drug and weapons trade, terrorism and international organized crime. Such is the magnitude of these situations, and their toll in innocent lives, that we must avoid every temptation to fall into a declarationist nominalism that would assuage our consciences. We need to ensure that our institutions are truly effective in the struggle against all these scourges”.<sup>[187]</sup> This includes taking intelligent advantage of the immense resources offered by technological development.

<sup>[181]</sup> Catholic moral doctrine, following the teaching of Saint Thomas Aquinas, distinguishes between “elicited” and “commanded” acts; cf. *Summa Theologiae*, I-II, qq. 8-17; M. ZALBA, S.J., *Theologiae Moralis Summa. Theologia Moralis Fundamental. Tractatus de Virtutibus Theologicis*, ed. BAC, Madrid, 1952, vol. I, 69; A. ROYO MARÍN, *Teología de la Perfección Cristiana*, ed. BAC, Madrid, 1962, 192-196. <sup>[182]</sup> PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 208.

<sup>[183]</sup> Cf. SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* (30 December 1987), 42: AAS 80 (1988), 572-574; Encyclical Letter *Centesimus Annus* (1 May 1991), 11: AAS 83 (1991), 806-807.

<sup>[184]</sup> *Address to Participants in the World Meeting of Popular Movements* (28 October 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 852.

<sup>[185]</sup> *Address to the European Parliament*, Strasbourg (25 November 2014): AAS 106 (2014), 999.

<sup>[186]</sup> *Address at the Meeting with Authorities and the Diplomatic Corps in the Central African Republic, Bangui* (29 November 2015): AAS 107 (2015), 1320.

<sup>[187]</sup> *Address to the United Nations Organization, New York* (25 September 2015): AAS 107 (2015), 1039.



**WE WELCOME INTO OUR COMMUNITY: NEIL JOJI IBARRIENTOS** and his family that they will be surrounded by God's love.

**PLEASE NOTE: Monday 30 August 2021 is a Bank Holiday and the Parish Office will be closed.**

**The Parish Office will have limited support from Friday 3 September until Friday 17 September 2021 inclusive, please give the office support volunteers respect and patience.**



Are you struggling with stress and poor sleep? Just about managing but generally feeling low, maybe lonely, unfulfilled, not particularly happy? Maybe you're in recovery from a diagnosed mental health condition or addiction and struggling to find new meaning and purpose in your life?

If you've answered **YES** to any of these questions, then we may have a solution! **Stepping Stones** recovery college has just opened in Bracknell and it offers inspiration, information, education, fun and friendship to anyone struggling with life's challenges or supporting someone who is.

We provide a compassionate learning environment where you can relax and flourish and join lots of exciting courses and workshops that will help you understand what you're going through, explore your skills and creativity and bring meaning and happiness back into your life. At **Stepping Stones**, we learn together and from each other and we value all forms of knowledge, especially your own experience. **Stepping Stones** is like no other college. It's completely **FREE** and absolutely anyone aged 18 or older, who lives or works in the Bracknell Forest area can join.

We are now open for registration and you don't need to be referred by anyone or have any formal diagnosis of anything. Just log onto our website [www.steppingstonesrecovery.co.uk](http://www.steppingstonesrecovery.co.uk) and register online. Or call us on **01344 300333** and come in and register at our premises at: **The Court House, Broadway, Bracknell, RG12 1AE.**

**We are just outside the Lexicon, close to Bracknell bus and train stations and open between 9:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.**

Courses and Workshops start on **6<sup>th</sup> September BUT do REGISTER NOW** to ensure a place on what you want to attend. Meet the **Stepping Stones** team in the Lexicon on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August**. We'll be there from 9am till 5pm and we'd love to meet you too!

**Stepping Stones is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Charity No 1189763**



**CAFOD RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES ACROSS THE WORLD.** CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world this week. We are working with local Church organizations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people

affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. We are supporting local aid workers to deliver urgent food and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of people facing extreme hunger in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. You can read more about how we can all express solidarity with our sisters and brothers affected by these emergencies on the **CAFOD** website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

**IF YOU WISH TO APPLY FOR ANY OF THE SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE, YOU MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE PARISH FOR ONE YEAR. REGISTRATION VIA THE PARISH WEBSITE.**

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT! – We hope to commence our precious Sacramental journeys of Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We need volunteers to join teams of Catechists who walk with families through these wonderful Sacraments, without volunteers we cannot run these Sacraments. Full training will be given. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in volunteering.**



**POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LETTER – 'FRATTELI 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 **"Forms of Populism and Liberalism" /continued.**

**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](mailto: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, Margaret Finnieston, Louis Burgisser, Prim & Ian Maynard, Susan Thomson, Vivienne Halfpenny, Francis Franklin, Ann O'Sullivan.

**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-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 8.30am Mass *Parish Intentions*  
10.30am Mass *Lucas Pascoe (FHC)*  
12.00noon Private Prayer, Porch access only

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> **NO MASS**  
10.00am Private Prayer, Porch access only

**ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mass *Thanksgiving – Morales Family*  
11.00am Private Prayer, Porch access only

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mass  
11:00am Private Prayer, Porch access only

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mass  
11.00am Private Prayer, Porch access only

**ST MONICA**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 12.00noon Mass *Sebastian Silveira, RIP*  
1.00pm Private Prayer, Porch access only

**ST AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mass *Catherine & Peter Grattan, RIP*  
11.00am Private Prayer, Porch access only

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Mass *Parish Intentions*

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 8.30am Mass *Parish Intentions*  
10.30am Mass *Parish Intentions*  
12.00noon Private Prayer, Porch access only



All Masses, weekday and weekend, are now streamed live.  
To *Watch Live* head over to our website: [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://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](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Website: [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)