

**THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK  
EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM**

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

**FREEDOM FROM A LIFE OF FANTASY**

**SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2021**

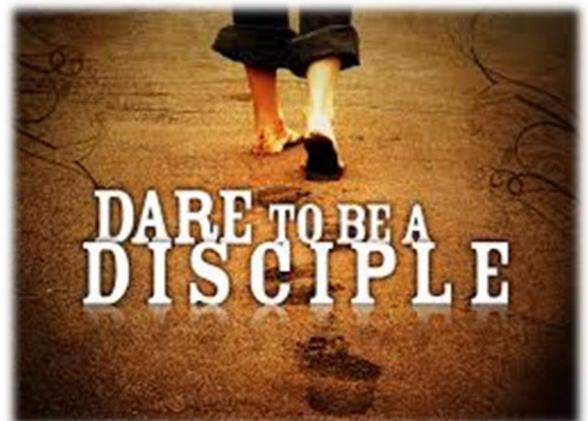
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The question, 'Who is Jesus?' will be asked sooner or later. His closest disciples talked about this when they were alone. But now it is Jesus who asks the question. The people place Him within the prophetic tradition. Some identify Him as having the Spirit of Elijah and of John the Baptist. This means He is the one who is ushering in the Messianic Age. But does Jesus fit this picture? Peter is the one who calls Him Messiah. Peter has the right word, but he doesn't have the right meaning.

The Messiah is the Son of Man. The Son of Man is one who lives in solidarity with God and Creation. This is certainly Jesus Himself, but it is also true of His disciples. They are the new humanity that His teaching will bring to birth. The new humanity, however, will not be welcomed by the religious and political elite. They will be rejected. They will suffer for it and be killed. But their efforts will not be in vain. The Father's energy (three days) will resurrect it.

Peter is not happy with what Jesus is saying. He obviously has something different in mind when he uses the word Messiah. Although he is only a disciple, he rebukes Jesus, reversing their roles. But Jesus pulls him to a deeper understanding. One rebuke deserves another. Jesus reasserts His role and commands Peter to get back in line and follow Him. If he rejects Jesus' teaching on the role and destiny of the Son of Man, Peter will join the ranks of those who wish to subvert God's plan.

David Rhoads contrasts the 'things of God' with the 'things of humans'. The Things of God are faith, courage, losing one's life for the sake of the Gospel, being least, being servant and doing good. The Things of humans are lack of faith, fear, saving one's life, being great, lording it over others and doing harm. (Reading Mark: *Engaging the Gospel*. p.88). It is time to be clear about what discipleship is all about. It is not about the chronic concern to save and enhance our lives at the expense of others. The larger, more valuable life flows from God's love and follows the impulses of that love. Instead of wanting to become great, we become small. Instead of wanting to have power over others, we grow in service. This way of thinking is deeply troubling to the rich and powerful who will not just look the other way. They will want to make us suffer but we must accept this as the price of loving in a loveless world. This is the way of heaven.



Will Jesus' straight talking dislodge one of our favourite fantasies?

We are little people. Even if we have status, it is never high enough. Even if we have money, we are never wealthy enough. Even if we command respect, there will always be someone who demeans us. We long to be important and we eagerly promote ourselves as much as we protect ourselves. We sense the utter fragility of our lives. A fall from the little Grace we have, haunts us. We fear becoming sick, and old, and dying. So, we fantasise. We become Tevye from 'Fiddler on the Roof' and sing of the days when we will have enough! We can even spin this fantasy into scenarios of revenge. We imagine ourselves being 'in charge', making decisions that impact thousands who offer us due adulation. We may be little in reality but in our dreams, we are large.

Some Messiahs will feed this fantasy, and, for a short while it looked as if Jesus would do the same. But perhaps the real reason He came was to free us from our fantasy. The Son of Man walks a different pathway and commands all who follow Him to do the same. He chooses a life of trusting in God and of service to others. He does not harm anyone to secure His own status or His own life. In fact, saving Himself is the last thing on His mind. And that is why He will not sanction our chronic concern with our own status and position. That is why He will not permit us to look the other way while others suffer so we can have a better life. In short, the True Messiah is revealed in the precise moment that He will not give us what we want.



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

**CHAPTER 6 – continued**

**200.** Dialogue is often confused with something quite different: the feverish exchange of opinions on social networks, frequently based on media information that is not always reliable. These exchanges are merely parallel monologues. They may attract some attention by their sharp and aggressive tone. But monologues engage no one, and their content is frequently self-serving and contradictory.

**201.** Indeed, the media's noisy potpourri of facts and opinions is often an obstacle to dialogue, since it lets everyone cling stubbornly to his or her own ideas, interests and choices, with the excuse that everyone else is wrong. It becomes easier to discredit and insult opponents from the outset than to open a respectful dialogue aimed at achieving agreement on a deeper level. Worse, this kind of language, usually drawn from media coverage of political campaigns, has become so widespread as to be part of daily conversation. Discussion is often manipulated by powerful special interests that seek to tilt public opinion unfairly in their favour. This kind of manipulation can be exercised not only by governments, but also in economics, politics, communications, religion and in other spheres. Attempts can be made to justify or excuse it when it tends to serve one's own economic or ideological interests, but sooner or later it turns against those very interests.

**202.** Lack of dialogue means that in these individual sectors people are concerned not for the common good, but for the benefits of power or, at best, for ways to impose their own ideas. Round tables thus become mere negotiating sessions, in which individuals attempt to seize every possible advantage, rather than cooperating in the pursuit of the common good. The heroes of the future will be those who can break with this unhealthy mindset and determine respectfully to promote truthfulness, aside from personal interest. God willing, such heroes are quietly emerging, even now, in the midst of our society.

***Building together***

**203.** Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other's point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns. Based on their identity and experience, others have a contribution to make, and it is desirable that they should articulate their positions for the sake of a more fruitful public debate. When individuals or groups are consistent in their thinking, defend their values and convictions, and develop their arguments, this surely benefits society. Yet, this can only occur to the extent that there is genuine dialogue and openness to others. Indeed, "in a true spirit of dialogue, we grow in our ability to grasp the significance of what others say and do, even if we cannot accept it as our own conviction. In this way, it becomes possible to be frank and open about our beliefs, while continuing to discuss, to seek points of contact, and above all, to work and struggle together".<sup>[197]</sup> Public discussion, if it truly makes room for everyone and does not manipulate or conceal information, is a constant stimulus to a better grasp of the truth, or at least its more effective expression. It keeps different sectors from becoming complacent and self-centred in their outlook and their limited concerns. Let us not forget that "differences are creative; they create tension and in the resolution of tension lies humanity's progress".<sup>[198]</sup>

<sup>[197]</sup> Apostolic Exhortation *Querida Amazonia* (2 February 2020), 108.

<sup>[198]</sup> From the film *Pope Francis: A Man of His Word*, by Wim Wenders (2018).

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The Parish Office will have limited support until Friday 17 September 2021.  
Please give the office volunteer support team your respect and patience.**



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:**

**OLGA MAGUIRE, RIP** who died on Sunday 29 August 2021.

Olga's Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on **Friday 17 September 2021 at 10am**

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



**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.

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!** – If your heart is calling you to a volunteer role to help with Sacramental Preparation in the parish (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation) please contact the parish office 01344 425729 or [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARE REGISTERED WITH THE PARISH FOR ONE YEAR IF YOU WISH TO APPLY FOR ANY OF THE SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE**  
<https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-life/parish-registration>



**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 Chapter 6.

**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***

**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

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

***"Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation." 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, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Ann Newton, 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|        |                  |           |                                   |                          |
|--------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am    | Mass                              | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
|        |                  | 10.30am   | Mass                              | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
|        |                  | 12.00noon | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                          |

|        |                  |                |                                   |  |
|--------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Monday | 13 <sup>th</sup> | <b>NO MASS</b> |                                   |  |
|        |                  | 10.00am        | Private Prayer, Porch access only |  |

## THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS, Feast

|         |                  |         |                                   |                              |
|---------|------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass                              | <i>Elizabeth Devine, RIP</i> |
|         |                  | 11.00am | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                              |

## OUR LADY OF SORROWS, Memorial

|           |                  |         |                                   |                        |
|-----------|------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Wednesday | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass                              | <i>Pam Savage, RIP</i> |
|           |                  | 11:00am | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                        |

## Ss CORNELIUS, Pope and CYPRIAN, Bishop, Martyrs

|          |                  |         |                                   |  |
|----------|------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Thursday | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass                              |  |
|          |                  | 11.00am | Private Prayer, Porch access only |  |

|        |                  |         |                                           |  |
|--------|------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------|--|
| Friday | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 10:00am | <b>Requiem Mass for Olga Maguire, RIP</b> |  |
|        |                  | 11:30am | Private Prayer, Porch access only         |  |

|          |                  |         |                                   |                            |
|----------|------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass                              | <i>Frances McEvoy, RIP</i> |
|          |                  | 11.00am | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                            |

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|          |                  |        |      |                          |
|----------|------------------|--------|------|--------------------------|
| Saturday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm | Mass | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
|----------|------------------|--------|------|--------------------------|

|        |                  |           |                                   |                          |
|--------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am    | Mass                              | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
|        |                  | 10.30am   | Mass                              | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
|        |                  | 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)