

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

I DON'T WANT TO BE POWERFUL - I WANT TO BE STRONG

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

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The Gospel story for the 23rd Week in Ordinary time, in this year of St. Mark, is astonishing and rich with lessons for growing disciples!

Jesus is on the move. He is a Jew among Gentiles. His reputation has preceded Him so they bring to Him a deaf man who has an impediment in his speech. They are looking for a miracle but they are not going to get it without a masterclass in discipleship. Jesus must take the man away from the miracle mongers. They are well intentioned but they are spiritually weak. They are not yet ready to know 'the secret of the Kingdom of God' (Mk.4:11,34).

Ears detect sounds. Tongues produce sounds. But it is the heart, the spiritual centre of a person, that speaks. If the heart is open to the Spirit, then a person can hear and speak about spiritual things. If a person cannot hear or speak, it is because they have hardened their hearts and closed themselves off from the truth.

When Jesus pits His fingers in the man's ears, he reverses the flow of attention. The man is no longer struggling to hear what is happening outside of himself. He listens inwardly, to his heart. Jesus spits on His hand and touches the man's tongue with His spit. Spit comes from the inside and symbolises the Spirit. Jesus is connecting His spirit, the Holy Spirit, to the man's spirit. Now He, and the man, are in full communion with each other.

Then Jesus looks up to heaven. Since His own Baptism, the heavens remain permanently open to Jesus. God is available, the Holy Spirit always descending as Love. But people must look Up! They must open their hearts to sacred things. With a sigh, Jesus opens the man to God through His own openness to God. His words, 'Be Opened' are not addressed to the man's ears. It is a command to the heart to be open to the Love that is flowing through the Beloved Son. When he opens his hearts, his ears are unplugged and his tongue is loosened. This should be the story that is told - but it isn't.



In Marks Gospel Jesus is portrayed, not as powerful, but as one who has given up on power and moved to strength. His gentle strength is a key brushstroke in Mark's portrait. His strength comes from the certainty that He is loved by God and the certainty that He is the bearer of the Holy Spirit into a world of suffering and darkness. His strength is constant. It permeates all that He says and all that He does. No one can pull Him away from His core conviction. He holds fast to The Voice He heard at His Baptism.

But what is amazing is to watch Him in His endless quest to give this steady strength to his disciples. He only engages with what gives Him life; and that is giving life and love to others! It's such a beautifully simple teaching. That if we can hold onto the inner strength that comes from a heart drenched by love, if we can avoid getting sucked into the power mongering of others, we will make miracles. Here is testimony to the power of one. It is even greater testimony to the strength of a Community which refuses the lure of power over others.

Jesus, the healer, holds onto wholeness in a broken world. He will not allow anyone to suck Him into their chaos. Instead He brings Himself. If we let Him, He will stick His fingers in our ears so that we will be guided by the spiritual centre of our hearts. He will give His Spirit to anyone who asks. When our heart is United with His Heart we are fully open to God. Only then, when we hear God speak can we act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly in the world.



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

**CHAPTER 5 - continued**

**195.** All this can help us realize that what is important is not constantly achieving great results, since these are not always possible. In political activity, we should remember that, “appearances notwithstanding, every person is immensely holy and deserves our love. Consequently, if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life. It is a wonderful thing to be God’s faithful people. We achieve fulfilment when we break down walls and our hearts are filled with faces and names!”<sup>[193]</sup> The great goals of our dreams and plans may only be achieved in part. Yet beyond this, those who love, and who no longer view politics merely as a quest for power, “may be sure that none of our acts of love will be lost, nor any of our acts of sincere concern for others. No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted. All of these encircle our world like a vital force”.<sup>[194]</sup>

**196.** For this reason, it is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others. Good politics combines love with hope and with confidence in the reserves of goodness present in human hearts. Indeed, “authentic political life, built upon respect for law and frank dialogue between individuals, is constantly renewed whenever there is a realization that every woman and man, and every new generation, brings the promise of new relational, intellectual, cultural and spiritual energies”.<sup>[195]</sup>

**197.** Viewed in this way, politics is something more noble than posturing, marketing and media spin. These sow nothing but division, conflict and a bleak cynicism incapable of mobilizing people to pursue a common goal. At times, in thinking of the future, we do well to ask ourselves, “Why I am doing this?”, “What is my real aim?” For as time goes on, reflecting on the past, the questions will not be: “How many people endorsed me?”, “How many voted for me?”, “How many had a positive image of me?” The real, and potentially painful, questions will be, “How much love did I put into my work?” “What did I do for the progress of our people?” “What mark did I leave on the life of society?” “What real bonds did I create?” “What positive forces did I unleash?” “How much social peace did I sow?” “What good did I achieve in the position that was entrusted to me?”

**CHAPTER SIX**  
**DIALOGUE AND FRIENDSHIP IN SOCIETY**

**198.** Approaching, speaking, listening, looking at, coming to know and understand one another, and to find common ground: all these things are summed up in the one word “dialogue”. If we want to encounter and help one another, we have to dialogue. There is no need for me to stress the benefits of dialogue. I have only to think of what our world would be like without the patient dialogue of the many generous persons who keep families and communities together. Unlike disagreement and conflict, persistent and courageous dialogue does not make headlines, but quietly helps the world to live much better than we imagine.

**SOCIAL DIALOGUE FOR A NEW CULTURE**

**199.** Some people attempt to flee from reality, taking refuge in their own little world; others react to it with destructive violence. Yet “between selfish indifference and violent protest there is always another possible option: that of dialogue. Dialogue between generations; dialogue among our people, for we are that people; readiness to give and receive, while remaining open to the truth. A country flourishes when constructive dialogue occurs between its many rich cultural components: popular culture, university culture, youth culture, artistic culture, technological culture, economic culture, family culture and media culture”.<sup>[196]</sup>

<sup>[193]</sup> Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), 274: AAS 105 (2013), 1130.

<sup>[194]</sup> *Ibid.*, 279: AAS 105 (2013), 1132.

<sup>[195]</sup> *Message for the 2019 World Day of Peace* (8 December 2018), 5: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 19 December 2018, p. 8.

<sup>[196]</sup> *Meeting with Brazilian Political, Economic and Cultural Leaders, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil* (27 July 2013): AAS 105 (2013), 683-684.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**The Parish Office will have limited support from Friday 3 September until Friday 17 September 2021 inclusive, please give the office 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 funeral arrangements to be advised.  
*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.

**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 need volunteers to join our teams of Catechists to prepare families for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation. Please contact the Parish Office if you feel the Lord calling you to these Ministries, full training will be provided,



**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 5.

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

|         |                 |                |                                   |                          |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday  | 5 <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  | 6 <sup>th</sup> | <b>NO MASS</b> |                                   |                          |
|         |                 | 10.00am        | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                          |
| Tuesday | 7 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am        | Mass                              | <i>Neddy Byrne, RIP</i>  |
|         |                 | 11.00am        | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                          |

**THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Feast**

|           |                  |           |                                   |                                       |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00am   | Mass                              | <i>Alice Byrne, RIP</i>               |
|           |                  | 11:00am   | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                       |
| Thursday  | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00am   | Mass                              | <i>Hannah Soane, RIP</i>              |
|           |                  | 11.00am   | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                       |
| Friday    | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 12.00noon | Mass                              | <i>Paul Baker, RIP</i>                |
|           |                  | 1.00pm    | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                       |
| Saturday  | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am   | Mass                              | <i>Ann &amp; Patrick Grattan, RIP</i> |
|           |                  | 11.00am   | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                       |

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

|          |                  |           |                                   |                          |
|----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Saturday | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm    | Mass                              | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
| 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 |                          |

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All Masses, weekday and weekend, are now streamed live.

To **Watch Live** 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