

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

BLENDING TIME AND ETERNITY

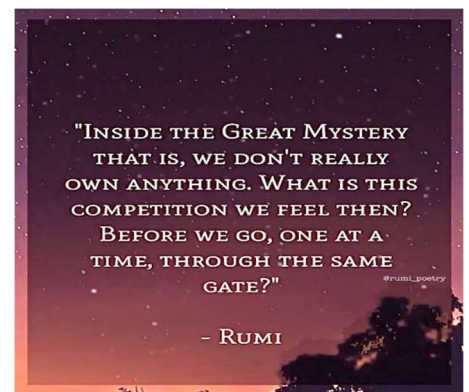
SUNDAY 10 OCTOBER 2021

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The running man is eager and respectful. He is a true seeker. He calls Jesus 'Good Teacher' and he is right! But Jesus needs him to shift his focus elsewhere - to the goodness of God. Eternal life is God's gift to us. It flows from the heart of love. In this Sunday's Gospel, both seeker and disciple will receive a masterclass in how to understand God and the goodness of God.

The seeker has a problem or two! He is focused on being good in order to get the best. He lives in a world of action and reward. He has kept the commandments from his youth. He has a young person's spirituality, all eagerness, energy and EGO! Before Jesus takes him to the next level, He looks at him and loves him. All he has done has brought him to Jesus. He has completed step one and now step two beckons him. What Jesus is about to say is not a criticism but a leg up to the answer to his question. How does someone receive the life that flows from the goodness of God?

Suddenly Jesus starts talking about 'treasure in heaven' v.21. The thing we must prize more than anything else is our relationship with God. The path to this 'God centredness' is to let go of all that now possesses him and give it to the poor. The seeker understands but cannot believe what he is hearing! In shock and grief he turns away. Jesus sweeps a penetrating gaze towards his disciples and suggests that all who are weighed down by wealth will find it difficult to enter the kingdom of God. His disciples are first puzzled and then astonished by this. Then Jesus escalates the situation from 'difficult' to 'impossible'. Now His disciples are in shock. The Teacher waits, then makes His final thrust. He must lift them out of conventional consciousness to illumination. What is impossible for human beings is possible for God! This is the karate chop which will dismantle the obstruction and open their hearts to another Way.



The good God wants to give them eternal life and they must look to Heaven as Jesus does so often. Humans are addicted to looking everywhere else. No earthly treasure will be a ticket to eternal life. Owning and accumulating does not work in the world of the Spirit. If the heart longs for 'eternal life' it is wrongheaded in the extreme if the heart thinks it can do this by accumulating good deeds.

Peter jumps in. "Okay, let's not talk about this guy or other rich people. We haven't walked away. What's in it for us?" Peter is still playing 'quid pro quo' with God. In return for his sacrifice he expects a reward. Peter is fearful of being cheated. He may have left everything but his mind has not. Jesus addresses his fear with comic exaggeration. All you have given will be returned with interest - the good God is not stingy. But the spiritual law still applies - If you want to be first, you will be last. But if you are last, thereby opening yourself to the goodness of God, you will be first. Every blessing has to be received as a free gift.

The drive to assuage insecurity can be ruthless. It can make us extremely self-absorbed and, worse still, it leads to terrible injustices. Even worse, we may tolerate injustice and cruelty as long as we benefit from them! Couple the moral defects which come with the drive to accumulate, with spiritual ignorance, and the whole project is doomed to failure. Accumulation is futile in the face of death. Temporal life is insecure by its very nature. No strategy within time will ever change that.

In Anthony de Mello's 'The Song of the Bird', there is a great little Parable about holding onto life with an open hand.

In the 19th century an American tourist visited the famous Polish Rabbi Hafez Hayyim. He was astonished to see that the Rabbis' home was only a simple room filled with books. The only furniture, a table and a bench. 'Rabbi, where is your furniture?' asked the tourist. 'Where is yours?' Replied Hafez. 'Mine? But I'm only a visitor here'. 'So am I,' said the Rabbi.

As someone who dances to the rhythms of time and eternity, we must live in time but have our eyes fixed on heaven. This will turn our lives around, we will instantly cure ourselves of anxiety and the desire to have power over others. We must not delude ourselves. Even while we have possessions, we must disown them. We cannot allow them to own us in such a way that they close our hearts to the suffering of others or to the astonishing generosity and goodness of God.



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

**CHAPTER 6 – continued**

**RECOVERING**

**222.** Consumerist individualism has led to great injustice. Other persons come to be viewed simply as obstacles to our own serene existence; we end up treating them as annoyances and we become increasingly aggressive. This is even more the case in times of crisis, catastrophe and hardship, when we are tempted to think in terms of the old saying, “every man for himself”. Yet even then, we can choose to cultivate kindness. Those who do so become stars shining in the midst of darkness.

**223.** Saint Paul describes kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit (*Gal* 5:22). He uses the Greek word *chrestótes*, which describes an attitude that is gentle, pleasant and supportive, not rude or coarse. Individuals who possess this quality help make other people’s lives more bearable, especially by sharing the weight of their problems, needs and fears. This way of treating others can take different forms: an act of kindness, a concern not to offend by word or deed, a readiness to alleviate their burdens. It involves “speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement” and not “words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn”.<sup>[208]</sup>

**224.** Kindness frees us from the cruelty that at times infects human relationships, from the anxiety that prevents us from thinking of others, from the frantic flurry of activity that forgets that others also have a right to be happy. Often nowadays we find neither the time nor the energy to stop and be kind to others, to say “excuse me”, “pardon me”, “thank you”. Yet every now and then, miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference. If we make a daily effort to do exactly this, we can create a healthy social atmosphere in which misunderstandings can be overcome and conflict forestalled. Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue. Precisely because it entails esteem and respect for others, once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships and the ways ideas are discussed and compared. Kindness facilitates the quest for consensus; it opens new paths where hostility and conflict would burn all bridges.

**CHAPTER SEVEN**

**PATHS OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER**

**225.** In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.

**STARTING ANEW FROM THE TRUTH**

**226.** Renewed encounter does not mean returning to a time prior to conflicts. All of us change over time. Pain and conflict transform us. We no longer have use for empty diplomacy, dissimulation, double-speak, hidden agendas and good manners that mask reality. Those who were fierce enemies have to speak from the stark and clear truth. They have to learn how to cultivate a penitential memory, one that can accept the past in order not to cloud the future with their own regrets, problems and plans. Only by basing themselves on the historical truth of events will they be able to make a broad and persevering effort to understand one another and to strive for a new synthesis for the good of all. Every “peace process requires enduring commitment. It is a patient effort to seek truth and justice, to honour the memory of victims and to open the way, step by step, to a shared hope stronger than the desire for vengeance”.<sup>[209]</sup> As the Bishops of the Congo have said with regard to one recurring conflict: “Peace agreements on paper will not be enough. We will have to go further, by respecting the demands of truth regarding the origins of this recurring crisis. The people have the right to know what happened”.<sup>[210]</sup>

<sup>[208]</sup> Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (19 March 2016), 100: AAS 108 (2016), 351.

<sup>[209]</sup> *Message for the 2020 World Day of Peace* (8 December 2019), 2: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 13 December 2019, p. 8.

<sup>[210]</sup> EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF THE CONGO, *Message au Peuple de Dieu et aux femmes et aux hommes de bonne volonté* (9 May 2018).



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

**Bridie Maughan** Requiem Mass on **Wednesday 13 October 2021** at **12noon**,  
Easthampstead Park Crematorium 2pm

**Margarette Moore's** Requiem Mass on **Friday 15 October 2021** at **11am**, Easthampstead Park Crematorium 1pm

Please also remember Bridie and Margarette's families in your prayers.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen*

**SCHOOL GOVERNOR VACANCY - ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There is a vacancy on St Joseph's School's Governing Body. If you can spare approximately eight hours or more a month, have a real willingness to help, can listen carefully, read important documents, ask questions, attend training and be able to actively contribute at meetings, please consider applying for this post.

As a governor you will have an opportunity to work with the school to ensure they maintain their excellence and continue to improve the school for the benefit of all their children. The skills you have could be very useful; particularly if you have analytical and organisational skills, including finance or IT experience or background.

Further information can be found on the school website: <http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/information/governors/>

If you would like to talk to someone about the role before applying, please contact either; Chair of Governors, Paul Sutton, Headteacher, Juanita Dunlop, or Clerk to Governors, Adele Valentin, all via the school office. Tel - 01344-425246 Email - [secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk)

Please contact Clerk to Governors for an application form: [a.valentin@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk](mailto:a.valentin@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk)

Closing date for applications is **Friday 15th October 2021**

**PARISH CONSULTATION - HAVE YOUR SAY** - As we begin to emerge from the other side of the pandemic, we want to understand exactly what our future vision as a parish is: what do we value most, how do we see our role both within the parish and in the wider community, and how can we use our buildings to support our vision? Over the next few weeks, we are asking you to complete a short survey, so that together, we can begin this process. You can find the survey on our parish website, or you can follow this link: <https://forms.gle/wtsmJGvELQdJ9AZo6> Paper copies are also available in the porch (please return completed surveys to the parish office in a sealed envelope).



Limited spaces are available at Footsteps Nursery located within St Joseph's Catholic Primary school, Gipsy Lane, Bracknell, RG12 9AP. For further information please either: • call 01344 425246 • email [secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk](mailto:secretary@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk) or visit the website: <http://www.stjosephsbracknell.co.uk/about-footsteps/>

**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, Josephine Timms, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Blanche Shap, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Tony Andrews, Derek Alexander, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, 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, Vivienne Halfpenny, Ann O'Sullivan, Pat Melling, Tom Corridan.

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

|                  |                        |                  |                                   |                                                           |
|------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday           | 10 <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           | 11 <sup>th</sup>       | <b>NO MASS</b>   |                                   |                                                           |
|                  |                        | 10.00am          | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                                           |
| Tuesday          | 12 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am          | Mass                              | <i>John Westlake, RIP</i>                                 |
|                  |                        | 11.00am          | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                                           |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>12.00noon</b> | <b>REQUIEM MASS</b>               | <b><i>Bridie Maughan, RIP</i></b>                         |
|                  |                        | 2.00pm           | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                                           |
| Thursday         | 14 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am          | Mass                              | <i>Martha Block</i>                                       |
|                  |                        |                  |                                   | <i>(Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart of Jesus &amp; Mary)</i> |
|                  |                        | 11.00am          | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                                           |

## ST TERESA OF AVILA, Foundress, Doctor of the Church

|          |                  |         |                                   |                                   |
|----------|------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Friday   | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am | REQUIEM MASS                      | <b><i>Margaret Moore, RIP</i></b> |
|          |                  | 1.00pm  | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                   |
| Saturday | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass                              | <i>Olga McGuire, RIP</i>          |
|          |                  | 11.00am | Private Prayer, Porch access only |                                   |

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

|          |                  |           |                                   |                          |
|----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Saturday | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm    | Mass                              | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
| Sunday   | 17 <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