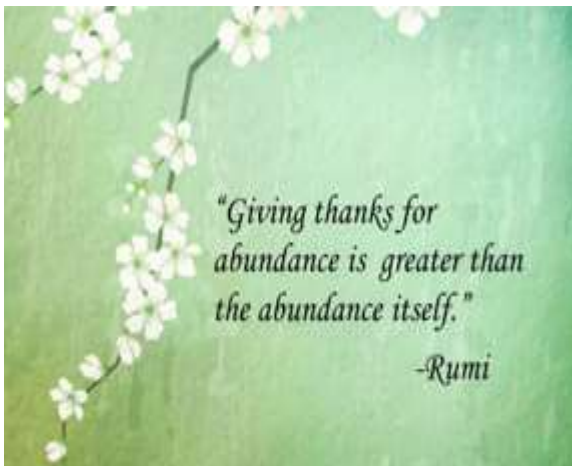


THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
CELEBRATING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN
SUNDAY 2 AUGUST 2020

Herod misuses his power and kills John. And, like all people who use their power to hurt, destroy or control others, the ghost returns to haunt him. Herod, now panicked by superstition, thinks that Jesus is a ghost. The world has become a dangerous place for the Beloved Son of God.

So Jesus goes to the place which, though useless to those who seek power, is a wellspring for those who seek God. Jesus is in the desert. And while it is true that He is rejected by some, He is pursued by others. The 'crowd' gather. He does not push them away. His heart goes out to them. As they move toward Him, He moves toward them. Mercy kisses misery and compassion is born. He heals their bodies and their anxious minds, restoring Peace to their community. They see in His Presence, Gods' presence and care, and they come to be bound in a covenant of love to each other and to God.



But the setting sun brings a new hunger, and the desert has little to offer. His closest disciples think that the solution is for them to leave now and go to the markets to buy food. Why, because they think they do not have enough. Jesus asks them to bring what they already have and draws them to understand that they already have enough. Five loaves and two fish. Five plus two equals seven. A Sacred number symbolising that whatever we have is a gift from God. Now they have two choices. To look at what they have and say it is not enough or to recognise that what they have is a gift from God which hides abundance.

When the disciples are no longer overwhelmed by the needs of these people, the desert becomes a garden. People sit on green grass. Jesus looks to heaven and gratitude fills His heart to overflowing. What is freely given is freely given away. Everyone is satisfied!

It does seem to me that there is a powerful teaching for us here. If we always start by thinking that the need before us is too great, and we will never have enough to meet that need, nothing will ever happen. We talk ourselves into doing nothing beautiful for God. Whereas, the Beloved Son of God, moves our attention to what we already have. He asks us not to look outside ourselves for the answer but to turn our gaze within. Going and buying may work for some, but for Jesus knowing what you have is the first step in spiritual transformation. He asks us to bring what we have, He gives thanks for what we have and asks us to join Him in gratitude, then He gives the gift to those who need it, and who, in their turn give it away to others.

This new way of living - self-awareness, gratefulness, generosity and communal love does not only satisfy the need before us, it produces an abundance - twelve baskets. So when we find ourselves in the desert, we know what to do. We either celebrate our assets and live or tell ourselves we will never have enough and die. Powerful teaching! Giving us the strength to say Yes!

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



In a recent report*, the Children's Society stated: 'The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the life of every child in the country. It is not only an unprecedented public health emergency, but also a challenge our society and our economy have not seen in peacetime.' So, while young people may have been at less of a risk from COVID 19, they appear to be suffering other adverse consequences from it. Emerging research suggests that, in the aftermath of lockdown, children and young people are at a heightened risk of mental health problems. For example, a study by You-COPE, the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute for Child Health* found that one in three teenagers, without previous mental health symptoms, now reports being depressed. The mental health charity, YoungMinds* also found that four out of five young people felt that the pandemic had worsened their mental health.

The financial implications of COVID-19 can also affect children, as those growing up in households with problem debt are five times more likely to have low wellbeing and, experiencing poverty or financial strain during childhood, is linked to lower wellbeing and poorer mental health in later life. Time spent with friends, particularly without adult supervision, is important to children's wellbeing but will also have been extremely limited. Practising social distancing, or even being self-isolated, is likely to have reduced the choice and autonomy children and young people feel they have over their lives. Children with special educational needs or learning disabilities may still need additional support to adapt to changes in their routines and to understand what is going on. And those with long-term physical health conditions may now feel less confident about managing their symptoms effectively.

Some things we can do to support children and young people

Some of the things we can do include, giving children and young people the opportunity to talk about how they are feeling; encouraging free play - letting children choose what they want to do, how they want to play and for how long. Free play allows children to be creative and expressive, using their imagination to problem solve. It can help to focus on the positives, asking what made their day that little better and, at bedtime, think about all that they are grateful for. And, if someone the child knows well, has died, not to protect them too much from the effects of grief, as they may need to deal with this in their own way. Not being able to attend a funeral can also slow the grieving process and having a personal ceremony, to honour the memory of the person who has died, sometimes helps.

***The Children's Society** is, 'a leading national charity committed to improving the lives of thousands of children and young people every year. We work across the country with some of the most disadvantaged children and young people through our specialist services. We place their voices at the centre of the work that we do.'

***You-COPE is the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute for Child Health.** The research referred to is from the Youth COVID Response Personal Experience: Tracking health and wellbeing amongst 16-24-year olds in the UK during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. 'You-COPE seeks to understand more about how young people aged 16-24 in the UK are being impacted by the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.' It is an online study that comprises an initial web-based 20-minute survey, followed by subsequent on-line surveys every two weeks and then monthly, asking questions about life, health and wellbeing, and daily activities.

***YoungMinds** was established in 1993 and is 'the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.' They champion children and young people's mental health and wellbeing across the UK, so that they can cope with life's adversities, find help when needed and succeed in life. Their specific focus is to foster innovation to meet the needs of vulnerable and excluded children and young people; promote good mental health to more children and young people than ever before and champion the voices of young people and parents so that this influences mental health policy and practice. <https://youngminds.org.uk> **Call the Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday 9.30am – 4pm, free for mobiles and landlines)**

Additional resources to support children and young people

The Mix online community is a UK based charity that provides free, confidential support for young people under 25 and a number of online support services. This includes forum/discussion boards and a group chat which runs 5 nights a week. They also offer a helpline via the telephone or web chat and online or telephone counselling. **0808 808 4994** <https://www.themix.org.uk/>

ChildLine provides access to a counsellor for young people through an online chat or helpline. Information and advice can also be accessed on the website. **0800 1111 to talk to a counsellor online**

Tiny Happy People is an initiative from BBC Education that aims to help support younger children's language development through fun activities and games. In England, 1 in 4 children starting primary school are behind with their level of literacy development (language, communication and literacy skills) by the time they start primary school, rising to more than 1 in 3 (42%) in some areas (Department for Education, 2019). Language and communication skills unlock literacy, and that's why Tiny Happy People is concentrating on the building blocks of language development. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

The Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity is hosting 6 x 20 minute, self-confidence workshops in August aimed at primary school aged children. Boosting resilience and self-esteem before return to school can help to minimise stress and anxiety around the transition from home back to school. <https://www.helenarkell.org.uk/>

Kooth is the flagship service of XenZone, offering online counselling and well-being support service for children and young people. Young people can sign up themselves – no referral is needed – and then access free, safe, and anonymous support. There are discussion boards, live chats with staff, using a daily journal and a magazine, with lots of helpful advice and tips. It provides a gateway to other services and Kooth supports over 20,000 young people each year. There is text based – live or asynchronous messaging, a full range of therapeutic tools and activities. The service is open 365 days a year and an out of Hours Service runs from 12-10pm weekdays, 6-10pm weekends. www.kooth.com



CHILDREN'S LITURGY - For our families with small children, you can sign up to join CAFOD's virtual Children's Liturgy every Sunday morning. If you'd like to attend live (10:00am), you will need to pre-register for the event. If you can't join live, a recording will be available to watch afterwards. The link to pre-register can be found on our Parish website.



PRIVATE PRAYER, EXPOSITION AND LIMITED ATTENDANCE MASSES

Thank you to all the parishioners who have volunteered to Steward at the private prayer, exposition and limited attendance Masses in our Church, we are most grateful.

The Church is now open for limited attendance Masses Tuesday to Saturday (**NOT SUNDAY**), please see Page 4 of the newsletter for times and dates. The seating capacity is 35 maximum made up of 7 sets of one person designated seats and 12 sets of two persons from the same household designated seats, 2 sets of one parent and one small child designated seats. Two areas for persons with limited mobility with 9 available seats, please let the Steward know on arrival if you have limited mobility or need to have Holy Communion brought to you if attending Mass. **Only the wooden pews are available to enable cleaning when you leave. The pink soft seats and all red & white taped areas are out of bounds, you will be asked to move if sit in those areas.**

It is now mandatory to wear face covering in all "indoor public places", this includes Churches, you will be refused entry if no face covering is worn, exemptions are children under 11 years of age and persons with "official exemption" for conditions such as autism, etc. Mass attendance is by booking on a weekly basis. If the bookings are under 35 persons, then we can allow some unbooked persons to attend but if Mass is completely booked then unbooked persons will be refused entry. Mass bookings to be made via the parish website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org access available from Mondays each week. Social distancing of 2 metres must be maintained throughout your visit.

Mass starts at 10.00am and 7.30pm prompt, please ensure you arrive early to go through the entry procedures with the Steward and are seated in the church at least 10 minutes before the start of Mass to reduce the disturbance as Mass begins.

Please enter the church via the main front doors. You will be warmly greeted in the porch by a Steward wearing PPE who will check your temperature with a non-contact infrared thermometer, administer hand sanitiser or you can use your own sanitiser in front of the Steward, you will be refused entry if you refuse to have your temperature taken or use hand sanitiser. You will be asked three compulsory questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms, please answer honestly. **The Stewards will advise directions to seats and exits and distribution of Holy Communion**, please comply to their instructions. **Able-bodied parishioners will exit the church via the hall front doors (please do not try to enter the church via the hall), limited mobility parishioners will exit via the doors near St Anthony, into the porch and out of the main doors.** If you are "shielding", "self-isolating" or feeling the symptoms of COVID-19 (temperature, persistent cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell) we ask that you do not come to the church for private prayer or book a seat for Mass to avoid possible spread of the virus.

Thank you in advance for complying to the instructions from the Stewards, **we still need more Stewards!**

We now have facilities to receive your weekly offering with the Porch and Exit Stewards, please let the Steward know you have an offering to make.

The toilets will be closed, please do not ask to use them as the request will be refused.

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, Peter Dossett, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Derek Alexander, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Jenny Bashford, Donal Hanley, Jim and Frances McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Terry and Mary Brennan, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Doreen Pryor, Sharon Bryan, Sarah Bryan, Fr John Chadwick.

If you would like to add a name to this list with consent, or if you want a name removed, please contact the Parish Office.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

Doreen Gladwin, RIP who has recently died. Please also pray for her family and friends.

May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

Sunday 2nd 10.30am **LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY** *Parish Intentions*

Monday 3rd **No Private Prayer or Mass – CHURCH CLOSED**

ST JOHN VIANNEY, Priest

Tuesday 4th 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Margaret Egan, RIP*

11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

Wednesday 5th 10.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer and Exposition

7.30pm – 8.00pm Mass *Jerzy Gruszka, RIP*

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, Feast

Thursday 6th 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Joseph Gunning, RIP*

11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

Friday 7th 10.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer and Exposition

7.30pm – 8.00pm Mass *Connor Cusack, RIP*

ST DOMINIC, Founder

Saturday 8th 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Maureen Baxter*

11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Sunday 9th 10.30am **LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY** *Parish Intentions*

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**THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR 30 MINUTES ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY MORNINGS AFTER MASS TO SANITISE THE CHURCH BEFORE RE-OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND EXPOSITION AT 11.00am. THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS, THE DOORS WILL BE CLOSED AT THE START OF MASS.**

**Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA**

**Telephone: 01344 425729 Email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

**Pastoral Care: 07394 440938 email: [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

**Website: [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org) Follow us on Facebook**

**DIRECT DEBIT, STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE (drop down menu "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**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy**

**Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch**

**Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher**

**Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab**

**Safeguarding Representatives: Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read**

**Safeguarding email: [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**