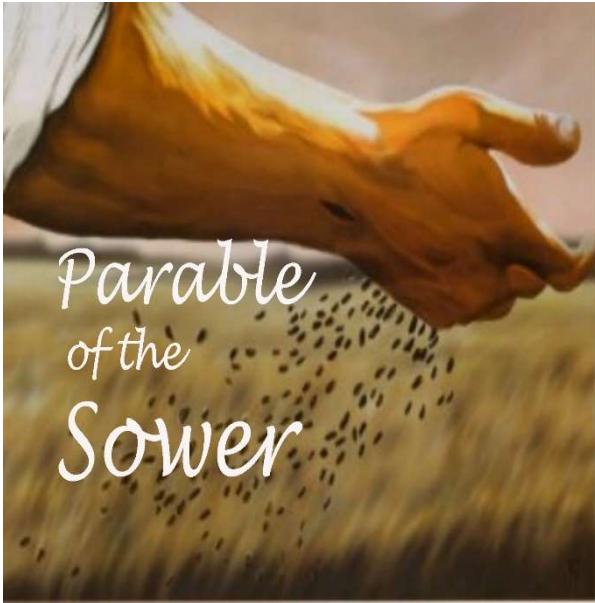


**THE YEAR OF MATTHEW**  
**ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**  
**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**  
***LISTENING TO THE SOUND OF LOVE***  
**SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020**

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Jesus leaves the house (church) where the converted are gathered, and goes to sea. He is looking for fish, and they arrive in large numbers. So, Jesus, who likes to fish for people, begins to teach from a boat.



Jesus teaches many things using Parables, which are a soup mix of conventional knowledge and spiritual wisdom. He draws on what is already familiar, what people know best. But Parables are not just stories. They make demands on those who listen to them. They might draw on farming, legal situations, family conflicts and weather etc, but there is always something about them which is a little strange. Today's Gospel Reading is a great example of this strangeness. It's a farming Parable, but it's not about a careful farmer. This one is wild and reckless and yet, the yield abundant. This is a clue that the listener is being invited to go deeper. The invitation, 'Let anyone with ears listen!' means the Parable is over and the struggle to understand it has begun.

For many reasons, some people get the Parables and some don't. The spiritual teacher helps the disciple to move towards a deeper understanding and a new awareness. But not everyone wants to be helped. Some harden their hearts against the deeper meanings in the Parable for fear that a new and higher consciousness might demand a change in lifestyle. Against such as these, even the Divine Teacher is powerless.

It has been said that there are basically two kinds of teachers; those who love teaching and those who love their students. Those who love teaching are never short of words, details and explanations. They make objections with one breath and answer them in the next. They can often be funny and charming individuals who really like the sound of their own voice. They will take questions but only because it gives them a chance to talk more!

Those who love the students talk less and listen more. They are too busy feeling for the student's level of understanding, for blocks to their advancement, for paths that may be taken and paths that may be avoided. They are experts in knowing the person who sits beside them. They see what is needed but they do not say it out loud. What they say is said only to support the student to discover the next step. The teacher who loves the student provides the right conditions for an inner revelation. If they can follow the clues, they will come to know for themselves and not be overly dependent on the insights of others. Good Parents are especially good at this.

When Jesus tells Parables, He is clearly a spiritual teacher who loves His disciples. The Parables do not give up their secrets too easily. They invite a wrestling match. They are not just information. They require engagement. But for Saint Matthew there is a third Person in the ring. The Holy Spirit is working from the inside out to 'reveal these things to us?' And the reason we know that Jesus is the kind of Teacher who loves his disciples is that He powerfully introduces them to the presence of God in the depth of their own being.

## GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT: SUPPORTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS



As a way of reducing the spread of COVID-19, new guidance has severely restricted our normal ways of grieving and supporting each other. If someone dies from coronavirus or, complications resulting from it, several things may be particularly hard for family and friends to deal with. Infection controls can mean that family members do not have an opportunity to spend time with their loved one or to say goodbye to them in person. Not being able to be present for a loved one's death can make it even more difficult to accept this as a reality. Severe restrictions on the numbers allowed to attend funerals inevitably means that many family and friends will be unable to be together, to grieve the loss of a loved one and to support each other. Anyone who is feeling bereaved at this time may therefore be dealing with the increased trauma from not being able to say a proper goodbye or to surround themselves with their family and friends.

When someone close to us dies, it can have a profound effect on our physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. At first, we might feel numb and unable to accept what has happened. It is also common and, completely normal to feel, anger, guilt, stress, sorrow, loneliness, exhaustion, anxiety and longing for the person who has died. These emotions tend to come in waves and, although they may become get less frequent as we move through the grieving process, they may never fully disappear. Special times in the year, such as birthdays or anniversaries, can bring these same emotions back again.

Each person also copes with bereavement in their own way. There is no 'correct' way to grieve. In fact, members of the same family can sometimes respond to the same bereavement, in quite different way. This may cause additional anguish, as relations can become tense and strained. People also differ in the length of time they grieve and most find that adjusting to the reality of bereavement can take time, with feelings ebbing and flowing. During this time too, some people notice changes in their physical health, especially in their sleep patterns, appetite and levels of tiredness. This too can be due to the intense emotions and stress being experienced.

When anyone feels very distressed, it is important to try to share these feelings with someone who is trusted. Talking things through can be very comforting and being present with someone in their grief is one of the most precious gifts we can give. All we have to do is listen, comfort and walk beside them.

Pope Francis asks us to remember that: 'Death is an experience that affects all families, without any exception. It is a part of life and yet, when it touches family affections, death is never able to be seen as something natural.' But, despite the pain caused, he says: 'Through faith in the Resurrection, one can be consoled by the fact that our loved ones are not lost in the darkness of nothingness. By allowing oneself to be sustained in this faith, the experience of mourning can strengthen the bonds within the family. The Gospel says that Jesus gave him back to his mother. And this is our hope! That all of our dear ones who have gone away – all of them – the Lord will give them back to us and we will meet with them together.' (General Audience address in St. Peter's Square, 2015).

*And, when the work of grief is done,  
The wound of loss will heal  
And you will have learned  
To wean your eyes  
From that gap in the air  
And be able to enter the hearth  
In your soul where your loved one  
Has awaited your return  
All the time.*

(For Grief" by John O'Donohue, from To Bless the Space Between Us)

**The Bereavement Support Group at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow** is a group of volunteers who are not professional counsellors but always ready to listen and help in any way they can. It does not matter what – if any - faith you have or whether your loss is recent or some time ago; we are always here to help. We try to have a representative at every funeral held in the Church and, if you wish, a photo of the person who has died, is placed in the porch, next to a candle. Cards of condolence are sent at this time and on the first anniversary. Each year, a special Mass is said for anyone who has experienced loss, no matter how long ago. **Our number is 07376 790256 and all calls are strictly confidential.**

**Cruse Bereavement Care** [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk) provides free support, advice and information for adults, children and young people. Opening hours Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.00pm (excluding bank holidays), with extended hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, until 8pm. **National Freephone Helpline: 0808 808 1677**. Bereavement Advice Centre: <https://www.bereavementadvice.org> Provides practical help and advice on what to do when someone dies, including guides to death certificates, organising the funeral and coping with grief. **Contact number: 0800 634 9494**.

**GriefChat:** [www.griefchat.co.uk](http://www.griefchat.co.uk) is a safe online space where people can share their story, explore their feelings and be supported by a qualified bereavement counsellor. The service is free of charge and is open Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm (UK time) for people who are grieving or bereaved.

Details of other local support organisations can be found at: [www.mindingyourhead.info](http://www.mindingyourhead.info) in the "Services" section.



**CAR PARK SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL** – The 2020-2021 car park subscription forms are available to download from the website or emailed to you on request. The subscriptions are for parishioners **only** renewals and new subscriptions. The new subscription period is from **Wednesday 1 July 2020** until **Wednesday 30 June 2021**.

As an act of goodwill, we are reducing the car park fee to **£40.00** for 2020/2021, as many subscription parishioners have not been able to use the car park due to personal isolation. Disability Blue Badge holders are free of charge, valid Blue Badge details will be required. **Expired subscriptions, not renewed, are no longer on the system.**

In accordance with new GDPR guidelines all 2019 subscription forms will be shredded.



### OPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER 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. We still need more Stewards to help, training and PPE will be provided.

We will be opening the Church to 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. Only the wooden pews are available to enable cleaning when you leave. The pink soft seats and the seats with red & white tape are **out of bounds**, you will be asked to move if sit in those areas. .

**For Mass attendance you must wear a face mask. Mass attendance is by booking only, you will be turned away if your name is not on the Mass attendance list with the Stewards. Mass bookings to be made via the parish website [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org) access available on Monday 13 July. Social distancing of 2 metres must be maintained throughout your visit.**

Please enter the church via the main front doors. You will be warmly greeted in the porch by a Steward wearing PPE who will administer hand sanitiser or you can use your own sanitiser in front of the Steward, you will be refused entry if you refuse to use hand sanitiser. You will be asked four compulsory questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms, please answer honestly. The Stewards will advise directions to seats and exits, 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.+

**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, Doreen Gladwin, 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.

*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:

**Marie Hughes, RIP who died on Sunday 21 June 2020. Marie's funeral is on Tuesday 14 July at Easthampstead Park. 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  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY</b>	
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>		<b>No Private Prayer or Mass</b>	
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am - 10.30am	Mass	<i>Angela Dossett</i>
		11.00am – 12.00 noon	Private Prayer & Exposition	
Wednesday	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12.00 noon	Private Prayer and Exposition	
		7.30pm – 8.00pm	Mass	<i>Rose, Kit &amp; Nula, RIP</i>
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am - 10.30am	Mass	<i>Catherine &amp; Bernard Considine, RIP</i>
		11.00am – 12.00 noon	Private Prayer & Exposition	
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12.00 noon	Private Prayer and Exposition	
		7.30pm – 8.00pm	Mass	<i>Donna Ireland, RIP</i>

**ST BONAVENTURE, Religious, Bishop**

Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am - 10.30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
		11.00am – 12.00 noon	Private Prayer & Exposition	

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY**



**THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY MORNINGS AFTER MASS TO SANITISE THE CHURCH BEFORE OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND EXPOSITION THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS, THE DOORS WILL BE LOCKED 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)**