

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
LOOKING WITH THE EYES OF LOVE
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A
Sunday 22 March 2020

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David Steindl-Rast has a very helpful insight into how we come to rest in a growing and deeper awareness of how God is present to us in every moment. In every breath. This 'awareness' might be born suddenly and then stay with us for the rest of our lives, or it may come more slowly, opening and unfolding over time. David asks us to notice how some years spring arrives suddenly. We may look out of our window or be driving along the road when we are ambushed by a depth of greenness and colour which wasn't there last time we looked. Other years, we catch spring in the act of arriving. We notice the early hint of blossom, the grass or the sound of birds returning. The point being that it does not matter whether it is sudden or gradual. All that matters is that we become aware, and deeply aware of the reality in which we live.

Life teaches us that God is always present in every breath we take. God is present in every atom of creation and is the source of its evolution. Sacred Scripture, Poetry and the Mystical Traditions of every faith see this and teach it to those seeking Wisdom.

But the story of the man born blind calls to those who cannot yet see to come to the one who can grant the gift of sight and of insight.

At the beginning of his great work, 'Auguries of Innocence' William Blake invites us to,

See a world in a grain of sand,  
and a Heaven in a Wild Flower  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,  
and eternity in an hour.



He emphasises '*seeing*' the spiritual in and through the material, '*perceiving*' the infinite ground of the finite world and '*sensing*' the eternal in the here and now. We complete creation when we look at it with the eye of Love. For some people, this can happen when they have their first baby, or experience the death of a loved one, or when they are at prayer or enjoying nature. But it doesn't always have to be the Big Bang. And when these peak experiences are yet to visit us, it does not follow that spiritual insight is denied us.

All we have to do is ponder what is before us in and what is in our hearts. Our faithfulness will allow The Sacred will find its own way to open our eyes and reveal itself to us.

Today's Gospel ends with Jesus going after the blind man who has been driven away by the so called religious elite. When He finds the man with new eyes, Jesus asks him a question, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man does not know who this is so he asks Jesus to tell him. The words Jesus gives to him are powerful. 'You are looking at Him, He is speaking to you'. The seeing man gives the only possible response, 'Lord, I believe'. And he worshipped Him.

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### *Prayer for those Affected*

*Merciful God come to the help of your people. Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A**

|           |                  |                       |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Saturday  | 21 <sup>st</sup> | No Mass               |
| Sunday    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | No Mass               |
| Monday    | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | No Mass               |
| Tuesday   | 24 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass               |
| Wednesday | 25 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass               |
| Thursday  | 26 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass               |
| Friday    | 27 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass or Exposition |
| Saturday  | 28 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass               |

### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A**

|          |                  |         |
|----------|------------------|---------|
| Saturday | 28 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass |
| Sunday   | 29 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass |

**PLEASE READ THE NOTICE ON THE CHURCH DOOR:**

#### **CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference

***If you need to speak to the Parish Office or Parish Priest please telephone the Parish Office or email the Parish office, details in the box below.***

***Please don't come to the Presbytery door.***

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

***Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm***

***Telephone: 01344 425729***

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

***Website: [bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://bracknellcatholicchurch.org)***

***Follow us on Facebook***

***Please make cheques payable to (full name): PRC DTR 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)***

***PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL***