

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: CAUSING AND CONSOLING GRIEF

Grief is a wild ride. When we are not in the middle of it we can map its contours, predict its stages and know the knot will finally unravel. But when the loss of a loved one inhabits our soul, we become occupied territory and it can feel like the occupation will never end.

Reflecting on the moment that Jesus washed his disciples feet, John Shea wrote,

'The water rushed like a river in spate, straight to their hearts. They were embarrassed that He should be so poured out. And then they remembered that it was with his own tears that he raised Lazarus to life.'

I remember a very distressed young man who had lost his wife saying, "Someone should have told me that all marriages end in divorce or death!" Someone did, but he never heard it, even though he said it himself on his wedding day! The truth of eternal people grounded in time: the deeper the love, the deeper the grief. And this is something we avoid thinking about when we give our hearts away. In the world we inhabit, the advent of love is the seed of grief. Even if we do not say it out loud, even if we only whisper it in the cellar of our hearts, love readies us for grief and for tears.

And it is the same love that consoles us. But we must trust this love and follow it to its birth place. Here, love hints at something more. It is this love that empowers us to stay with the sick and the dying and to visit the graves and make memory markers for our loved ones.

In the beautiful film, *Shadowlands*, the story of a deep friendship which turns into love when Joy Gresham is diagnosed with bone cancer. Joy tells CS Lewis as they begin loves journey, 'our happiness now is part of our pain then' and as she nears the end of her life she picks up the same golden thread and says, 'our pain now is part of our happiness then'.

It is here that I find the Lazarus incident so beautiful. God's own Beloved Son, who sees from the inside out by His own interior radiance, holds us through all the losses and deaths we endure and brings us back to life in the far reaches of God. His intimate presence is at the centre of our true self. The more we contemplate and integrate Him, the more he becomes a gentle and enduring strength for us. Sustained by Him we can grieve the loss of our friends and entrust them to Him. Love generates both grief and consolation, which is why St Paul said, 'Do not grieve like those who have no hope' (1 Thess 4:13) We grieve with hope when we stand side by side, shoulder to shoulder with a sobbing Jesus and hear Him cry, 'Lazarus, come out!!'



PARISH NEWS

BISHOP PHILIP'S LENT CATECHESIS - The Fifth Sunday of Lent – Bishop Philip reflects on the raising of Lazarus. Online catechesis is offered each week to help you take a spiritual pilgrimage with Christ this Lent. The video is available on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk each Monday which includes the Gospel for the coming Sunday, followed by Bishop Philip's catechesis.

EWTN LENT REFLECTIONS - Bishop Philip & Priests of the Diocese

If you missed these Lenten reflections, you can now view them at www.ewtn.co.uk/lent-2014.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Stations of the Cross will take place at 9.30am on Saturday 5th April and Saturday 12th April.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS - We are hoping to do The Way of the Cross for the children during the Palm Sunday 10.30 mass on 13th April. We will be taking the children around the garden, weather permitting and so we ask that all children 5 and under be accompanied by a parent. The children, with their palms, will line the aisle during the Gospel at the beginning of mass and will then process out to the garden.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - As the number of children attending children's liturgy is growing at both 8.30 and 10.30 masses, we are in urgent need of more helpers and anyone who would like to help lead a session. You must be willing to be DBS checked and undergo a safeguarding course, but as parents we are the first teachers of our children to pass on the faith and many hands make light work. Please contact the parish office or Ann Burke on 01344 485790.

CONFIRMATION 2014 REMAINING SESSIONS - Candidates: 11 April, 2 May and 30 May (7pm) and **Parents:** 5 June (7.30pm) Rehearsal at St. Joseph's: 13 June (7pm)
Confirmation Mass: 22 June at 3pm St. John's Cathedral in Portsmouth

THIS YEAR'S LENTEN PROJECT IS FOR TWO PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE CHARITY AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED – They are for youth camps in Zambia and the Philippines. Please look at the display about these projects on the noticeboard in the Porch. These projects are for developing the spiritual life of young people who are the future of these countries. For more information please call Renata Clayton (01344 484495). **Donations after all weekend Masses during Lent.**

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES MASS - The Diocese's sixth Significant Anniversaries Mass and Reception will be celebrated at 11 am on Saturday 28th June 2014 at St Bede's, Basingstoke for those celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2014. Bishop Philip will preside at the Mass. Attendance is by invitation; if you are celebrating one of these anniversaries, please fill out the online form available on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by clicking 'Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass 2014' or alternatively, email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Please pray for the aged, sick, housebound and hospitalised of our community and for those who care for them.

"Take care of God's creation. But above all, take care of people in need" Pope Francis

If you know of anyone who is sick, in hospital or housebound and unable to get to Mass, or just needing a priest, please tell Fr. Danny or contact the Parish Office

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - The next Child Protection training for anyone unable to attend last weekend is 10am-12.30pm on Sat 26 April at Christ the King, 408 Northumberland Avenue, Whitley, Reading RG2 8NR. **To book please contact Soraya Ciccarone on 023 9282 5430 or email soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Our next meeting will be at 7.15pm on Wednesday 9th April in the Church Hall. We are hoping to form a Social/Parish Events Committee. If you would like to be involved, please contact via the website.

ENVELOPES – Please collect your Envelopes from the Porch – they were in alphabetical order!!

GIFT AID – We are just about to move into a new tax year. If you are a UK Tax Payer and part of the Gift Aid scheme we would gain an extra 25% of your donations. For example, if you look below at the loose offering; imagine if we got an extra 25% per week that would amount to an extra £9,000 per year. There is no catch and just 1 form to complete. Please contact Peter Hancock on 01344 412506.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS BRACKNELL - Seven Tuesdays starting 6th May 2014. Featuring renowned speakers. Time; 8:00–9:30 pm. Venue; St Joseph's Church, for more information contact Ann D'Souza on 01344 420465 or the Parish Office.

FAIRTRADE - We are pleased to announce that our Parish is now officially a FAIRTRADE Parish. As such, all tea, coffee and sugar served by Parish-based groups should be FAIRTRADE. Thank you.

TEAS AND COFFEES AFTER MASS - There will be FAIRTRADE teas and coffees after all Masses this weekend. Young people/Family groups, please let us know if you would like to sign up to serve teas and coffees, particularly after 6pm Mass.

CHURCH CLEANING - On Saturday 12 April after the 10am Mass. We are hoping to make it a big clean for the Easter period so we are looking for more volunteers to help

THE LONDON MARATHON - Is on 13th April 2014 Guy Shore (son-in-law to June and John Ellerton from the parish) is running the marathon in memory of his father who lost his fight against cancer 15 months ago. His chosen charity is Macmillan as they were a huge support to his family. His 'just giving page' can be found at www.justgiving.com/Guy-Shore where donations can be made.

SPONSORED WALK - I am walking 20k on the South Downs with 2 friends on the 10th May, for the Alzheimer's Society. Please go to the following link if you wish to sponsor me www.justgiving.com/team-endavour (without the a). Thank you so much for your support. Theresa McDougall

SOUP AND ROLL – Please note:Friday April 11th is the last Soup and Roll before Easter

***JUST TO SAY
THANK YOU TO***

***Lianne and Gillian
for helping out in
the office.***

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS
Envelopes £323.31 Loose Plate £645.61
Cheques - £18.00

Total £986.92 - Thank You

CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND

Envelopes £72.73 Loose Plate £190.58
Total £263.31 – Thank You

LENTEN PROJECT £11.50– Thank You

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(Psalter Week 1)

Sat 5 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Ernie Johnson†
Sun 6 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
	10.30am	Mass	Mary & Jeremy Grant
Mon 7 th	NO MASS		
Tue 8 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Thanks Giving Mass
Wed 9 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Maria Jose Perini
Thu 10 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Sean Finney†
Fri 11 th	11.00-12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	12.10pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sat 12 th	9.30am	Stations of the Cross	
	10.00am	Mass	Rita
	10.30am	Confessions	

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

(Psalter Week 2)

Sat 12 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Queenie Breadmore†
Sun 13 th	8.30am	Mass	Private Intention
	10.30am	Mass	Eileen & Reg Keep

Parish of Saint Joseph and Saint Margaret Clitherow
 St. Joseph's Church, Stanley Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA
www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk
 Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No. 246871
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 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9.00am till 3.00pm
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Safeguarding Representative: Lisa and Alan Greenhow
Coordinator for the Sick & Housebound: Mrs Liz Carpenter