

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – KING OF THE UNIVERSE – YEAR A

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING - Caring without hesitation, calculation or ostentation

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020

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Saint Matthew paints a great picture of the Judgement at the end of time. His imagination runs riot in a heavenly courtroom, complete with angels. A room filled with suspense. The fact of judgement is a given but the criteria are not yet clear. The Son of Man King begins, as Matthew always likes Him to begin, by dividing the nations in two. Sheep to the right, goats to the left. The goats are nervous now, but it is not yet clear what the Son of Man King is looking for in terms of success or failure.

This text is often called, 'The Gospel of the Final Surprise!' But in reality the criteria have been there since the foundation of the world. Now, the Father of the Son of Man King is blessing those who were good to His Beloved Son. The 'sheep' ministered to Him when he was in need or in trouble. This is the "Open Sesame" into the Kingdom of the Father. The sheep are surprised. What about keeping the rules? Or making great Art? Or visiting the Temple/Church/Synagogue/Mosque? Is all that counts how you treated the Son of Man King? The sheep are confused. They cannot seem to remember seeing the Son of Man King in distress. But He reassures them that he is so connected to all creation that even when they did it for the 'least' they did it to Him.

And it seems there is also a fire which has been prepared since the foundation of the world. The goats warrant this final home because they did not help the Lord in distress. They did nothing. The goats are confused, asking the same question as the sheep. But the Son of Man King is clear that they did not care for the least.

Although the sheep and goats share the same confusion, the sheep clearly just attended to the suffering of people around them without considering their 'status' or their ability to pay them back in money or influence. The goats did not see the Son of Man King, but if they had known it was He, you can be sure they would have helped. This would have been a good deed with a guaranteed payback. 'If we had known it was you, O King, and not some miserable nobody, of course we would have helped. Sheep care without calculation. Goats care only with calculation.



Saint Matthews' Judgement scene is exciting. It suggests that the genuine qualities of those who have been filled with the Spirit of God are first, that they act without hesitation to help someone in need. Secondly, they do so without calculating if there is anything in this for themselves. Lastly, their actions remain hidden. This reminds me of the story of a woman who went with some friends to an Ashram. She described this experience as touching the 'real thing'. Asked what she meant, she said that they stayed about six weeks, at the end of which she had a chance to talk to the famous spiritual teacher who lived there. She told him that everything they had experienced during their stay was remarkable. Without missing a heartbeat, he replied, "Everything you see here is because of the grace of my grandmother". You see, she said, he had no need to promote himself or call any attention to his abilities. He knew they were a gift from elsewhere. When caring just happens, and no one is claiming the credit, we know the Spirit of God is present.

So if I was a reporter interviewing the sheep lounging around in their newly inherited Kingdom, and asked them how they managed to find themselves such amazing digs, I imagine them saying, "We just cared for every person we met, immediately and without calculation. And it wasn't a big deal". Or so it seemed!



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

5. Issues of human fraternity and social friendship have always been a concern of mine. In recent years, I have spoken of them repeatedly and in different settings. In this Encyclical, I have sought to bring together many of those statements and to situate them in a broader context of reflection. In the preparation of *Laudato Si'*, I had a source of inspiration in my brother Bartholomew, the Orthodox Patriarch, who has spoken forcefully of our need to care for creation. In this case, I have felt particularly encouraged by the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, with whom I met in Abu Dhabi, where we declared that “God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters”.<sup>[5]</sup> This was no mere diplomatic gesture, but a reflection born of dialogue and common commitment. The present Encyclical takes up and develops some of the great themes raised in the Document that we both signed. I have also incorporated, along with my own thoughts, a number of letters, documents and considerations that I have received from many individuals and groups throughout the world.

6. The following pages do not claim to offer a complete teaching on fraternal love, but rather to consider its universal scope, its openness to every man and woman. I offer this social Encyclical as a modest contribution to continued reflection, in the hope that in the face of present-day attempts to eliminate or ignore others, we may prove capable of responding with a new vision of fraternity and social friendship that will not remain at the level of words. Although I have written it from the Christian convictions that inspire and sustain me, I have sought to make this reflection an invitation to dialogue among all people of good will.

7. As I was writing this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities. Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all. Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality.

8. It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women. “Here we have a splendid secret that shows us how to dream and to turn our life into a wonderful adventure. No one can face life in isolation... We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together... By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there. Dreams, on the other hand, are built together”.<sup>[6]</sup> Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.

<sup>[5]</sup> *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together*, Abu Dhabi (4 February 2019): *L'Osservatore Romano*, 4-5 February 2019, p. 6.

<sup>[6]</sup> *Address at the Ecumenical and Interreligious Meeting with Young People*, Skopje, North Macedonia (7 May 2019): *L'Osservatore Romano*, 9 May 2019, p. 9.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:**  
**ANGELINA EDIALE, RIP** who died on Wednesday 4 November, 2020. Details of Angelina's funeral to be announced.

**OLGA RUGULSKA, RIP** who died on Thursday 5 November, 2020. Details of Olga's funeral to be announced.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

### WE ARE NOW OFFICIALLY LIVE!

All Masses, weekday and weekend, are now streamed live; please see page 4 of the newsletter for Mass times.

**MASS TIME CHANGE – FRIDAY MORNING MASS WILL NOW BE AT 9.00am EVERY WEEK.**

To Watch Live, head over to our website: [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live)



**JOIN US** for the new **FAITH FORMATION GROUP** meeting, online and weekly on **Thursday evenings from 7:30pm-9pm**. Reflection and discussion each week on the Sunday readings, to better understand how scripture calls us to a continuing, deepening, development of our faith, and what it means to be Catholic in our contemporary world in these times. For the zoom link please email Mary McNab [bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). Hope to see you there!

*Please pray for Fr Pat Faughnan who is recovering in hospital from surgery and is recuperating well.*



### POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL LETTER – 'FRATELLI TUTTI'

Pope Francis' third encyclical inspired by the life and example of St. Francis of Assisi, completed in the middle of this pandemic and speaks to the possibility that, through it, we may rediscover a sense of common humanity, the whole letter will be serialised in the coming weeks and months. This week, we continue **'Without Borders'**. An invitation to read and reflect upon the Holy Father's thinking and teaching around issues such as global governance, charity, compassion, justice, inter religious dialogue, friendship and peace.



### GIVE A VERY SPECIAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

As we approach the holy season of Advent, we ask our wonderful, parish community to please consider donating a Christmas gift to those around us who are most in need. We have previously distributed to Berkshire Women's Aid Refuges, Bracknell LIFE House, local Care Homes and many disadvantaged families in the local community. This year, we would love, once again, to distribute your gifts in a safe and COVID compliant manner.

**Gift options are:** **A** Wrapped gift for mother or child; **B** Unwrapped gift of sweet treats; **C** Unwrapped gift of toiletry treats; **D** Unwrapped loose toiletry items. All items to be new, unused and, if edible, unopened and in sell by date.

Collection of donated gifts will be **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December** between **12noon and 2pm**, at the Parish Garden, back of the church building.

All the details are in the poster **"Give A Very Special Gift This Christmas"** emailed with this newsletter. A copy will be inserted in the delivered newsletters this weekend.

*Thank you so much for your generosity.*



**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)

*"Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation." 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

### 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, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Josephine Timms, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, 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, Fr John Chadwick, John Cliffe, Fr Padraig Faughnan

*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**

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – YEAR A**

|                                                             |                  |               |                                |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sunday                                                      | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.30am       | <b>LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY</b> | <i>Parish Intentions</i>                     |
| Monday                                                      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 10.00am       | <b>Live Streamed Mass only</b> | <i>Fatima Abubakar, RIP</i>                  |
| <b>ST ANDREW DUNG-LAC, Priest &amp; COMPANIONS, Martyrs</b> |                  |               |                                |                                              |
| Tuesday                                                     | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am       | <b>Live Streamed Mass only</b> | <i>Deceased Catenian Members</i>             |
| Wednesday                                                   | 25 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am       | <b>Live Streamed Mass only</b> | <i>Rudi Meyenburgh, RIP</i>                  |
| Thursday                                                    | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am       | <b>Live Streamed Mass only</b> | <i>Stephen &amp; Richard McCann, RIP</i>     |
| Friday                                                      | 27 <sup>th</sup> | <b>9.00am</b> | <b>Live Streamed Mass only</b> | <i>Mary Philomena Galloghly, RIP</i>         |
| Saturday                                                    | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am       | <b>Live Streamed Mass only</b> | <i>Jackie Braithwaite, RIP (nee Grattan)</i> |

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B**

|        |                  |         |                                |                          |
|--------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am | <b>LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY</b> | <i>Parish Intentions</i> |
|--------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|



**IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS COMMENCING ON THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2020, ALL MASSES WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ONLY, NO ATTENDANCE, MASS BOOKING WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE. FR DANNY HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE ALL PRIVATE PRAYER TO PROTECT OUR STEWARDS.**

**EXPOSITION WILL BE LIVE STREAMED AFTER MASS EVERY DAY AND THROUGH THE NIGHT.**

**TO WATCH THE LIVE STREAMED MASSES, etc, SEE OUR WEBSITE [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

**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 phone and email: 07712 048695 [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**