

**THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**

LOVES EXPENSE

PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord - YEAR A

Sunday 5 April 2020

All lovers come at last to Gethsemane,
And wait there for the outcome of their loving.
Loving itself is a beginning,
An Invitation,
An offering.

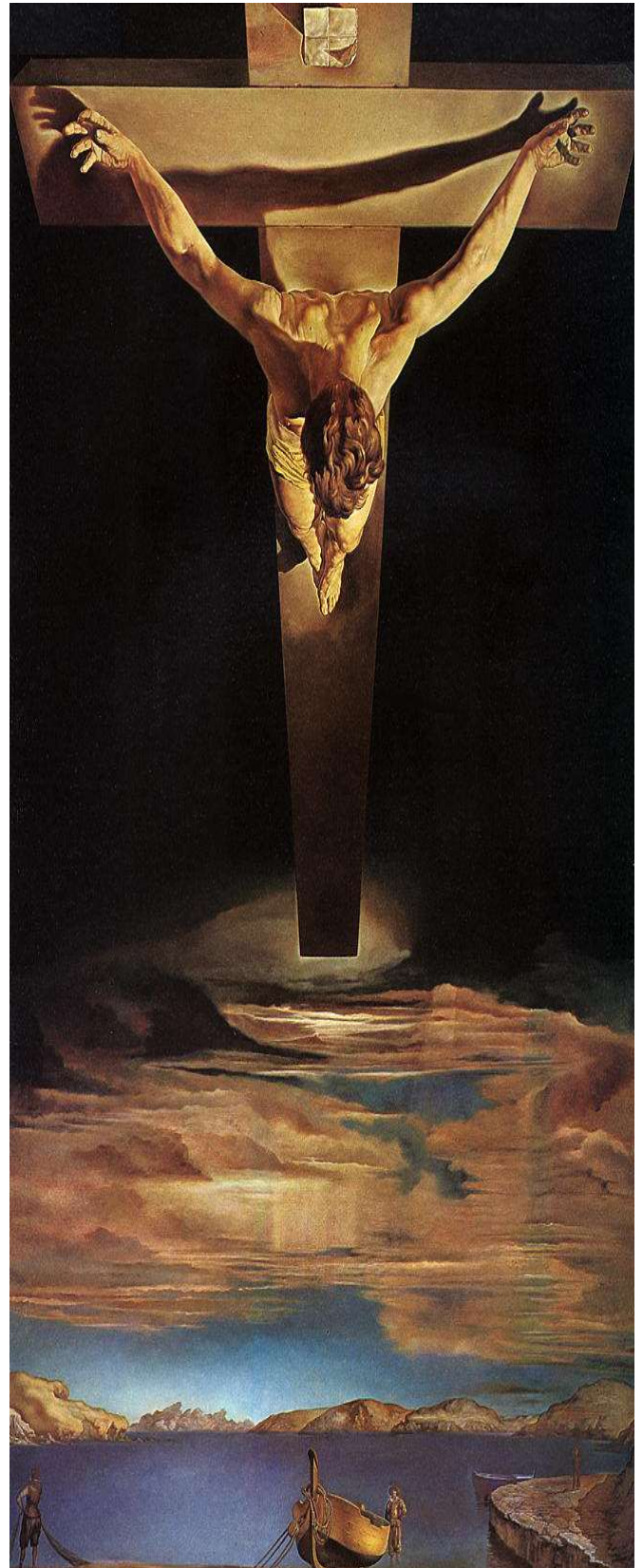
Love does not compel but can only wait,
And the intensity of the waiting
is the measure of the loving.
And to wait no longer is to cease to love.

The robe of royal purple in which he is dressed
by the soldiers does not fit.
It is too large: it is not his own.
But it is not the mocking soldiery alone
who dress Him in ill-fitting robes of earthly
power:
So also in art and imagination do some of those
who believe in Him.
Because they believe in the primacy
of power,
They attribute to Him the trappings of power
And adorn Him with its symbols:
Then, while showing respect to Him,
they can continue to worship power
And take pride and satisfaction in their own
power.

But the robe which belongs to him
His own robe
Is that 'dying crimson' which
Like a robe spreads o'er His Body on the Tree.
It is the robe of a life poured out,
Of power expended,
Of self-given in love.

It is the wearer of this robe
That we must learn to worship.

W H Vanstone, 'Icons of the Passion'



TAKING GOOD CARE OF EACH OTHER

Hi Everyone,

I do hope that this finds you all in good spirits as we face into the second week of lockdown. It is heart-breaking to witness the plight of our sisters and brothers abroad who, already carrying the burden of warfare and poverty, now have to deal with the virus in a world where social isolation is a luxury. Surely, they should be at the top of our list of people to pray for at this time. **You can make donations directly to CAFOD who are working hard in this situation.**

In this regard, I was very moved by a scene in the Movie 'Shadowlands', where Anthony Hopkins, in the role of CS Lewis, is in the chapel interceding for his very sick wife. His friend, a card-carrying atheist, comes to comfort him in his tears and asks him why he is wasting his time praying to a God who will not intervene to change the situation. In reply, CS Lewis says, "I am not praying that God will change the situation but that I will be changed and be given the courage to deal with it". I consider this to be the right approach. In the weeks ahead we will all have to pray for that same courage and love in the situation in which we will find ourselves.

We give thanks for those who inspire us! Over these last weeks, since the lockdown began, we have witnessed time and again, the greatness of the human spirit as we watch our health care workers risking their own lives to save others. At the same time, we are aware of those who are working tirelessly to support us in other ways. In our own community, we have an amazing and growing team of volunteers, who are daily reaching out to those who have little or no support to ease a little of their suffering. The experience of contact by telephone and practical help with necessities has made a huge difference to many.

However, the lockdown of the church has meant a significant loss of the income necessary to support these works. The economic fallout has been very difficult for some people and we are daily receiving requests for help from people who are really struggling.

To continue responding to these requests, I am setting up a hardship fund which will be administered by the SVP. We know that they can be trusted to do this work effectively and to safeguard against any abuses which may arise. If you are able, please make an offering to this fund by clearly stating "hardship fund". At the same time, please continue to drop off donations to the food bank who are reporting increased demand each week.

Next, I want to invite those who can to set up a standing order with their bank to the parish, this can be done online, our bank details on page three, or download the forms from the website – if you are a taxpayer please complete and sign the Gift Aid form, scan and email to the parish office or post through the letterbox - so that as many of us as possible can continue to contribute their weekly offering. If you are unable to set up a standing order, please try to find another way to contribute to the costs we are incurring, either by popping your offering through the presbytery door letterbox or posting it to us. Just today the diocese has taken the decision to furlough all employees as funds are running out. Our staff have very kindly agreed to keep working nonetheless to support our mission and ministry at this time. Their kindness is a clear signpost that this is an opportunity for those who have a little bit extra to help those who don't. Please be generous as you consider those in need, and please let us know if there is anything we can do to help if you are in difficulty.

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Theresa Packham, RIP: Beloved mother of Jackie Keeling.

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

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.

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MAUNDY THURSDAY

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

Telephone: 01344 425729 **Email:** stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Pastoral Care: 07394 440938 email: pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Website: bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Follow us on **Facebook**

STANDING ORDER BANK DETAILS: Account Name: PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph;

Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520;

Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc, Palmerstone Road, Southsea

LIVE STREAMING OF MASSES: Parish Facebook Page:

<https://facebook.com/stjandstmcbrecknell/>

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

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

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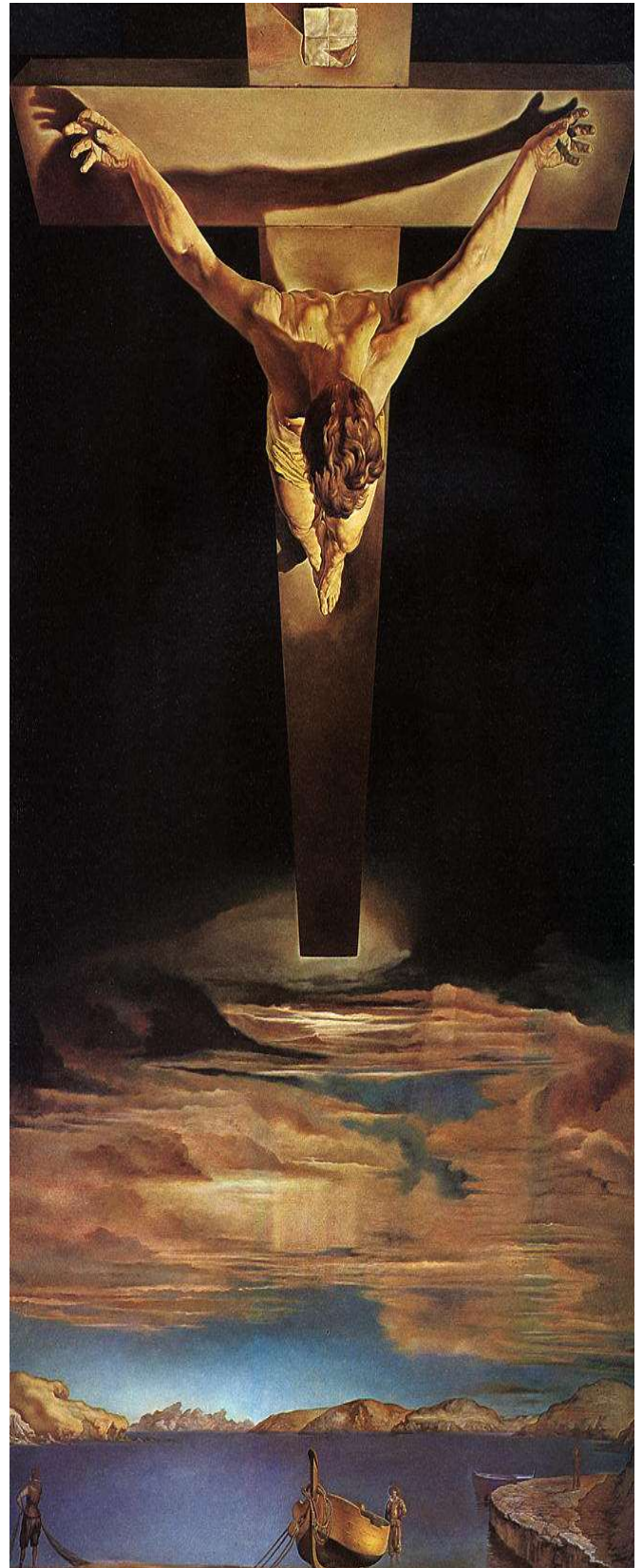
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