

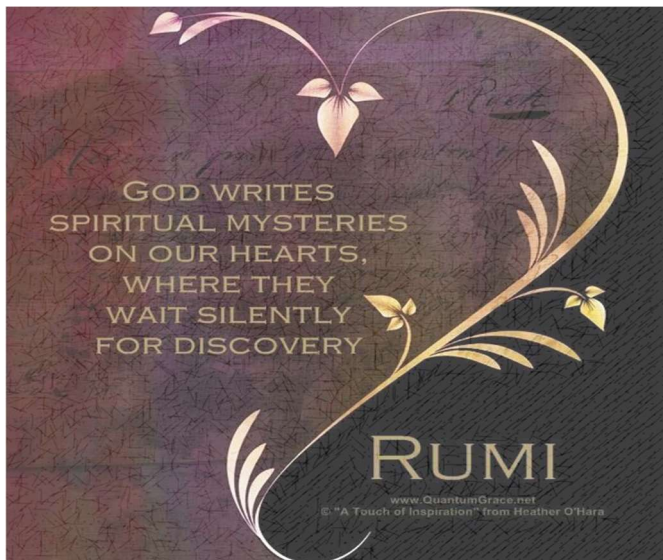
THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
COSTING NOT LESS THAN EVERYTHING
SUNDAY 26 JULY 2020



Solomon has it all! He even has God talking to him in his dreams! His dreaming self hears the question God is always asking, "What is it that you want?" When we wake up, of course, the question is harder than it looks. Why? Because it can only be answered with great care. The word we speak coming straight from our heart.

I know a lot of jokes about genies wriggling out of bottles or fairies swooshing their wands, who ask the lucky finder the same question. Usually the answer is a request for endless wealth. Solomon does not need to ask for what he already has, so he asks God for the gift of 'Wisdom'. A Wisdom that supports a community to grow. A Wisdom for relating! Notice how this stirs surprise and delight in Gods' own heart. And God is delighted to answer this prayer. The Psalmist must have had a similar experience. You can hear it as she sings, "The law from your mouth means more to me than silver or gold." Or in the words and experience of Saint Paul, God adorns us in Glory. What are they all telling us? What lesson can be learned here?

First of all, something happens. A baby looks at you and smiles and, no matter what you're feeling, you just have to smile back. Because, first of all, something happens. You're standing at a graveside, tears your only prayer, as the storm of grief rages from your heart to your eyes. Someone takes your hand and joins you in that lonely place which is now less lonely. First of all, something happens. A secret weakness is exposed, but the support of a good friend is stronger than the shame that threatens to engulf us. First of all, something happens. We are unexpectedly kissed, we see an old person refusing to be old. First of all, something happens.



These are the 'moments' that throw us into the Mystery we share with each other. We are suddenly face to face with the Presence within which we live our lives. God does not wait for a suitable moment or for a polite introduction. His presence breaks through our routines, demanding our attention, insisting that we talk. When God speaks, we may laugh or cry, we might sing or fall silent. But whatever we do we are praying at our best. The 'moment' the 'encounter' has changed everything.

We pray for the coming of God's Kingdom. But when it arrives it is always a surprise! In farming a field, a treasure is stumbled upon. A door opens and the perfect pearl is for sale. Out of nowhere there is a gold embossed invitation to the Kings' Banquet! Every genuine encounter with Jesus is always a surprise. Lawyers who expected justification are challenged. A rich young man asks for advice and is offered a vocation. Zacchaeus, hoping for a glimpse of a prophet, dines with his Saviour. A woman at a well leaves with a bucket full of self-revelation. All of them got more than they asked for. Their emptiness suddenly brimming over, their ravaged lives called to greatness.

These experiences bring us to prayer. Our own story now made more by our encounter with Jesus. We begin to make links with the Prophets and disciples who have gone before us. In their company, old worlds are subverted, new worlds rise from the ruins. We are blessed by a Love stronger than death. We are suddenly filled with a new confidence. We have become the prayer.

SUPPORTING LIFE



Pope Francis has said that every child conceived in a mother's womb 'is a gift that will change the story of a family, a mother and father, grandparents and siblings and this baby needs to be welcomed, loved and cared for.' (*May 2019, Vatican City, Catholic News Service.*) He has reiterated on many occasions that, 'Abortion is never the answer,' however, he has also said that women must be offered assistance to overcome the trauma of abortion, including a spiritual reconciliation with the child who was terminated (*January 2019.*) His remarks underline how he has shaped a more compassionate pastoral strategy for responding to abortion, embracing an explicitly gentler, more forgiving approach to women who have had terminations. 'The message of mercy is for everyone, also for the human being that is the developing child. It is for everyone,' adding that abortions are 'terrible traumas' and that, 'Mercy also means helping the woman live through this trauma.'

In a particularly compassionate set of remarks, on one of the Church's most emotive topics, Pope Francis has also explained how he advises women who are 'desperate' following abortions to sing a lullaby to their child in heaven. 'They need to re-join their child. I always advise (women), when they call and are desperate, I tell them their child is in heaven, talk to him, I tell them to sing them a lullaby, the lullaby that they had never been able to sing. Here they find a path for reconciliation, between mother and child, with the forgiveness of God. God is all forgiving.' Pope Francis said the issue of abortion was both about 'forgiving' but also 'helping, accompanying the woman who understands and is aware of what she has done by aborting.' (*January 2019.*)

If you, or someone you know, is pregnant or has had an abortion and would like some sympathetic listening, advice and practical help, the following organisations may be useful. Descriptions of these services have been taken directly from their websites and they may differ in their style and approach. So, it is important that each person finds the one that they feel most comfortable with.

Pregnancy Crisis helpline: 'Finding out you're pregnant can be incredibly stressful. Worries about your situation and pressure from other people can make it difficult to know what to do. Whether you just need an honest chat or if you are thinking of having an abortion, or suffering after an abortion, we are here to help. The Pregnancy Crisis Helpline offers you a safe, confidential place for you to chat things through.' <https://pregnancycrisishelpline.org.uk/> Tel. – 08003689296

LIFE: Pregnancy matters, Life matters: 'Our Mission To create a just society which has the utmost respect for all human life from fertilisation. We believe that opposition to abortion has to go together with the provision of alternatives.' Freephone 0808 802 5433; or text message to LIFECARE 88020; Pregnancy Matters™ online (Helpline, Text-to-Talk, Chat) Tel. 01926 312272 lizlloyd@lifecharity.org.uk

Good Counsel Network: Mediating the Mission of Motherhood: 'A life-affirming women's organisation which offers a pregnancy test, moral support, medical information, legal advice and practical help to women seeking abortion. We reach out to these women to inform them about the risks to their physical and psychological health and present them with realistic alternatives to abortion. We deal with the hardest cases of crisis pregnancy every day.' <https://goodcounselnet.co.uk/about-the-good-counsel/>; Tel. 02077231740

Rachel's Vineyard: 'Around 200,000 abortions take place each year in the UK resulting in thousands of women in need of support and healing. Thankfully, there are a few organisations who are offering help to women – and men – who have been affected by an abortion. Among them is Rachel's Vineyard founded by Dr Theresa Burke in the USA in 1984. She opened a centre for post abortion healing that offered counselling to women grieving the loss of an aborted child. She adapted this to a weekend retreat format. Now the movement has spread to 25 countries worldwide including the UK. A Rachel's Vineyard retreat is a spiritual and emotional healing process. Each retreat is run by a team of trained volunteers that includes a professional counsellor and a priest. In the safety of a loving, non-judgemental group those suffering can find restoration, healing and peace.' rachelsvineyard.org or tel. National - 07734 059 080 (Rachel); Midlands - 07734 059 080 (Rachel); South East - 07851 331 816 (Pam); South West - 07900 734 207 (Sona); Scotland - 07816 942 824 (Andrea)

ARCH (Abortion Recovery Care & Helpline): 'Dedicated to promoting the emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being of clients, by the provision of real understanding, counselling and supportive help to women, men and families after an abortion. Margaret Cuthill was the National Co-ordinator of ARCH working for over 20 years helping others before retiring. She herself has had abortion and struggled before receiving counselling. She still volunteers on the Helpline. ARCH (Abortion Recovery Care Helpline) Tel. 0845 603 8501. <https://www.archtrust.org.uk/>

Premier Lifeline: This national Christian helpline is a confidential telephone helpline offering a listening ear, emotional and spiritual support from a Christian perspective, prayer, and signposting. Premier Lifeline is open 9am to midnight every day of the year.' Tel. 0300 111 0101 www.premierlifeline.org.uk



CHILDREN'S LITURGY - For all our families with small children, don't forget you can sign up to join CAFOD's virtual Children's Liturgy every Sunday morning. If you'd like to attend live (10:00am), you will need to pre-register for the event. If you can't join live, a recording will be available to watch afterwards. The link to pre-register can be found on our Parish website.



PRIVATE PRAYER, EXPOSITION 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.

The Church is now open for 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 or need to have Holy Communion brought to you if attending Mass. **Only the wooden pews are available to enable cleaning when you leave. The pink soft seats and all red & white taped areas are out of bounds, you will be asked to move if sit in those areas.**

It is now mandatory to wear face covering in all "indoor public places", this includes Churches, you will be refused entry if no face covering is worn, exemptions are children under 11 years of age and persons with "official exemption" for conditions such as autism, etc. Mass attendance is by booking on a weekly basis. If the bookings are under 35 persons, then we can allow some unbooked persons to attend but if Mass is completely booked then unbooked persons will be refused entry. Mass bookings to be made via the parish website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org access available from Mondays each week. 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 check your temperature with a non-contact infrared thermometer, administer hand sanitiser or you can use your own sanitiser in front of the Steward, you will be refused entry if you refuse to have your temperature taken or use hand sanitiser. You will be asked three compulsory questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms, please answer honestly. The Stewards will advise directions to seats and exits and distribution of Holy Communion, 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, we still need more Stewards!

We now have facilities to receive your weekly offering with the Porch and Exit Stewards, please let the Steward know you have an offering to make.

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, 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, Sarah Bryan, Fr John Chadwick.

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:

Doreen Gladwin, RIP who has recently died. 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
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

Sunday 26th 10.30am **LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY** *Parish Intentions*
Monday 27th **No Private Prayer or Mass – CHURCH CLOSED**
Tuesday 28th 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Theresa Packham, RIP*
11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

ST MARTHA

Wednesday 29th 10.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer and Exposition
7.30pm – 8.00pm Mass *Michael & Gail Hellanor, RIP*
Thursday 30th 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Thanksgiving Sacred Heart of
Jesus & Immaculate Heart of Mary – Mr & Mrs Block*
11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, Founder

Friday 31st 10.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer and Exposition
7.30pm – 8.00pm Mass *Fr John Chadwick*

ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, Founder, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Saturday 1st 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Edgar & Babs White, RIP*
11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Sunday 2nd 10.30am **LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY** *Parish Intentions*

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**THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR 30 MINUTES ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND  
SATURDAY MORNINGS AFTER MASS TO SANITISE THE CHURCH BEFORE  
RE-OPENING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER AND EXPOSITION AT 11.00am.  
THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH MASS,  
THE DOORS WILL BE CLOSED 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)**