

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, YEAR A
BUILDING THE COMMUNION OF LOVE
SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2020

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. Our celebration will never get off the ground if we only try to work out in our heads what it means. Some things can only be understood when we experience them for ourselves. Perhaps our hearts will take us there more quickly than our heads.

In the Creation story in Genesis, God speaks the amazing words, 'Let us make humanity in our own image!' This is strange language for a One God culture. But it doesn't take long for that image to be tarnished and shattered, bringing punishment on the guilty.

In St. John's Gospel, even though he agrees that the world and the human face have somehow become alienated from the one who created them. Even though he can see that something is happening which is separating creation and the human family from the Love which brought them to be. Even though he acknowledges that darkness and hostility cloud the faces of those born for better, he sees more



God continues to love His creation even when it is broken. This love flows into the world through the Beloved Son who came to renew the communion that was lost, and bring life where death reigns. St. John cannot stress enough that God is never motivated by the need for revenge or condemnation. There is no desire to punish the unjust. Yet, each of us has to choose whether to open or close ourselves to the offer of love that is on the table. And this isn't any old table. It is the table at which the Beloved Son of God celebrated the last Supper. Where new words of life and love were to be found hidden in the bread that

was broken and in the chalice of forgiveness. Every word, every gesture at this table is an invitation to see into this Love. If we get it, it becomes more fun trying to figure out ways to remain steadfast in love, even with those who have separated themselves from us.

So for me it unfolds like this. The whole creation bears the imprint of the Creator and the human face is the Icon of the Creator. Since we are made in the image of the Trinity, who we are is much more than we ever imagined we could be. Just as the Trinity are so in Love that they are One, it means that we are not alone inside our own skin.

Perhaps our biggest mistake is to think of ourselves as self-sufficient, self-enclosed people who have an individual destiny. When we do this we will always be in competition with others. Our personal dignity will always be undermined by comparing ourselves to others, and by negative experiences which may invade our lives.

Jesus speaks often about the infinite preciousness of every person. Perhaps we only grow in our understanding of what this means when we engage in the struggle to build communities of belonging. But we do not belong to each other in our solitude. Our belonging is created by the loving activity that defines our lives as people. Can you begin to feel the exhilaration which comes from escaping the prison of individualism and stepping into the far horizons of community?

Millions in developing countries face devastation because of the coronavirus



The following passages include summary points from CAFOD's website (May, 29th, 2020)

Coronavirus is a crisis that affects us all and it will take all of us working together to survive, rebuild and heal. In the current circumstances, we are of course, first and foremost, responding to the needs of our families, friends and neighbours. But our brothers and sisters in some of the poorest countries of the world also need our help.

The virus is exposing the shocking inequality that has long existed in our world. It will have a lasting and disastrous impact on the economies and livelihoods of those who already live on the edge, where there is no safety net. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with HIV or other underlying health conditions, are particularly vulnerable to Covid. The virus has now hit the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, which could be catastrophic for the thousands of families there already struggling to access healthcare and sanitation.

What is CAFOD doing to help people survive the coronavirus crisis?

CAFOD is responding quickly. Guided by trusted local experts, they are helping to limit the spread of the virus through prevention messages, health advice, and by providing water, soap and toilets. Every step taken to get food and safe, clean water to families, will help prevent deaths and reduce suffering. Local CAFOD experts, on the ground, understand the challenges and needs in their respective communities and are able to respond quickly with activities that include:

- *Delivering food to where it is needed most.*
- *Improving hygiene, handwashing, sanitation for communities and households*
- *Producing radio messages on risks and prevention, also posters and leaflets in local languages*
- *Training community volunteers to carry out awareness raising campaigns.*

How can I help?

Give to CAFOD's special CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal. For example, £6 can buy a hygiene package for a vulnerable family containing soap, washing powder and reusable face masks. If you would like to donate, please go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/>

Pray for the end of the virus

Please remember our brothers and sisters overseas in your prayers:

SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus:

Almighty and merciful Father, who show your love to all your creation.

We come before you asking for control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world.

Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus, in all parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to bereaved families.

We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray that the relevant governments and health authorities take appropriate steps, for the good of the people.

Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.

'A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.' John 1:5

Loving, ever-living and compassionate God,
You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,
May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died.
You are a light that shines in the darkest times,
Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow.
You comfort us in times of fear,
May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart.
You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion,
May we follow the light of your love and spread hope.
You move our hearts to acts of generosity,
May we be led to share what we have with those in need.
God of life, we thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,
May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world.
Amen.

We pray, Holy Spirit, that you will breathe new life into us, giving us the inner strength to be your peacemakers. Amen.



CAR PARK SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL – The 2020-2021 car park subscription forms are available to download from the website, a copy is attached with this email. The subscriptions are for parishioners **only** for renewals and new subscriptions. The new subscription period will be from **Wednesday 1 July 2020** until **Wednesday 30 June 2021**.

Although the church car park is not in isolation, only the buildings are, you can park here if you have paid a subscription. As an act of goodwill, we are reducing the car park fee to **£40.00** for 2020/2021, as many subscription parishioners have not been able to use the car park due to personal isolation.

Please complete the form attached to the newsletter email distribution list, on the website or emailed on request, and return it to the parish office, via Royal Mail or through the Presbytery letterbox, along with your payment, cash or cheque. The new windscreen sticker is yellow this year and can be collected from the Presbytery, please be aware that you will be challenged if you park in the car park without displaying a valid sticker. In accordance with new GDPR guidelines all 2019 subscription forms will be shredded.



GOING INTO HOSPITAL? If you are going into hospital or know someone who is, please let the Parish Office know the name of the patient and which hospital, also ask the hospital staff to inform the Catholic Chaplain on arrival.



THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (the SVP) - Do you need help, particularly at this difficult time, 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. If you would like to know more, 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, 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, Doreen Gladwin, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Hughes, 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

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 SOULS OF THOSE WHOSE FUNERALS ARE IN JUNE:

Phyllis D'Souza, RIP who died on Saturday 23 May 2020, Funeral on 12 June 2020 at 2.30pm
Margarita Garcia, RIP who died on Wednesday 20 May 2020, Funeral on 10 June 2020 at 10.30am
Esther Peacock, RIP who died on Sunday 31 May 2020, Funeral on 17 June 2020 at 2.00pm

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

May their souls 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

We are temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus

**Mass is livestreamed every Sunday at 10.30am
please join us via the following links:**

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

Website: <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

If you need to contact us, the details are in the box below

You are all in our hearts and prayers

**Look after each other
be kind, be safe be well**

“Mother Earth is the source of life not a resource”

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

Telephone: 01344 425729

Email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook

**DIRECT DEBIT, STANDING ORDER AND GIFT AID FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM
THE PARISH WEBSITE (drop down “Planned Giving” menu”**

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