

**THE YEAR OF MATTHEW**  
**ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**  
**TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**

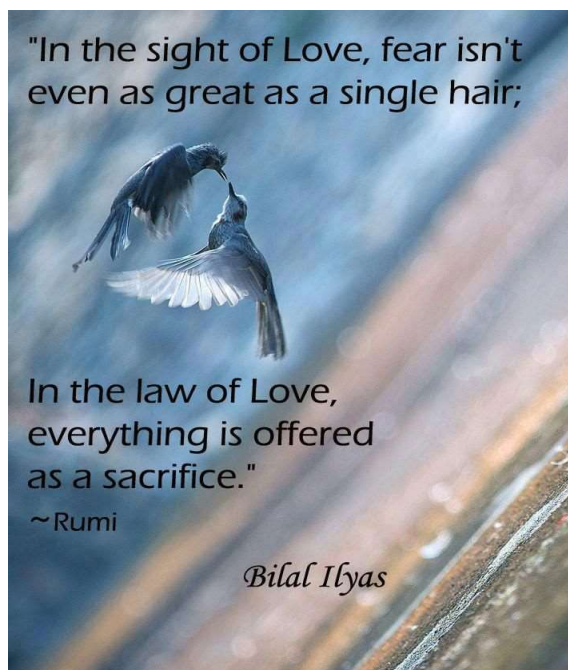
**DO NOT BE AFRAID**

**SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020**



After so many Feasts, we return to Ordinary Time. The first words of the Gospel for this Sunday are an Instruction from the Teacher to His disciples. 'Do not be afraid'. Funnily enough, this instruction is to be found in Sacred Scripture, exactly 365 times! One for every day of the year! (Except a leap year lol)

We must choose to be intentional disciples of Jesus or not. Do you know if you have done this yet? Check to make sure that you have really chosen to follow Him.



If our answer is yes, we must take into account that He does not offer a soft option. Persecution and suffering are as sure to follow the disciple as it did the Master. But, as St Paul reminded Timothy, the Word of the Lord cannot be sent to prison! (2 Tim 2,9). There will always be some who want to silence true disciples. 'They' want the words and deeds of Jesus to be stopped. But this will never happen. Sin may slow down Gods activity but it can never crush it.

Intentional disciples must carry this reassurance with them and deepen it in their hearts. We will have to face those who want to silence us. We might become objects of scorn, or gossip. We may lose our status, we might be laughed at or taken for fools. We might risk losing everything. All these things might make us afraid, but, as we overcome our fear, we will transform darkness into light, silence into sound, death into life.

But here's the thing. When Our Lord instructed his disciples to move without fear into the open with what they knew, he wasn't sending them out with information, facts and figures. He gave them a new identity as daughters and sons of their Father in Heaven. Children of God with hearts on Fire. What they have received, they must share with others. The future of humanity and of the earth depend on their passion and faithfulness.

Every intentional disciple of Jesus is blessed with and burdened with the truth He has revealed. If we choose Jesus, he unseats our souls, and makes us stand on housetops to share what we have received. The fire in our hearts will warm people in different ways. Intentional disciples love God more than the suffering they fear. We finally understand Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. He wants the cup to pass. He has no love affair with suffering. But his desire to unleash the power of love and reconciliation in the world means He has to go on. The Beloved Son of God cannot be silent in the face of persecution. What He has heard as Beloved Son of God must be told to every daughter and son. The more He prays, the more he realises what must be done, the more fear falls from Him, like drops of blood, watering the earth.

The Beloved Son of God makes His decision and asks us to do the same. What will we do?

Many are called, but most are frozen in corporate or collective cold.

These are the stalled who choose not to be chosen,

Except to be bought,

Except to be sold.

## Caring for our environment during and after COVID-19



Due to the coronavirus outbreak's impact on travel and industry, many regions and the planet as a whole, experienced a drop in air pollution. Reducing air pollution can reduce both climate change and COVID-19 risks but it is not yet clear which types of air pollution (if any) are common risks to both climate change and COVID-19. The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air reported that methods to contain the spread of coronavirus, such as quarantines and travel bans, resulted in a 25 per cent reduction of carbon emission in China. Independently and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers argued that reduced economic activity would also help decrease global warming as well as air and marine pollution, allowing the environment to slowly flourish.

However, the COVID outbreak has also provided cover for illegal activities such as deforestation of the Amazon rainforest and poaching in Africa. It has hindered environmental diplomacy efforts, and created economic fallout that some predict will slow investment in green energy technologies. The Center for Strategic & International Studies also argued that reductions in emissions, due to economic downturns, should not be seen as necessarily having long term benefits, as countries will attempt to return to their previous rates of growth and supply chain disruptions may well worsen its environmental impact.

Pope Francis has called climate change 'a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods.' It is, he states, 'one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day'. As such, climate change calls for 'an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature' – or "integral ecology" (Source: Laudato Si' or Care for our Common Home). \*

Climate change poses a huge threat to poverty eradication and, since 2016, CAFOD, in collaboration with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has analysed UK public support for energy in developing countries to see if it is aligned with the UK's climate change and development goals. Evidence from CAFOD's 42 partner countries shows that a changing climate is making it more difficult for poor communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

The most urgent change needed is to shift from polluting fossil fuels to more sustainable and efficient energy systems. This shift must also benefit the billions of people who currently do not have modern energy. As the new Sustainable Development Goal 7 on energy recognises, universal access to affordable, reliable and safe energy by 2030 is crucial to end poverty and for sustainable development.

CAFOD is collaborating with the International Institute for Environment and Development on approaches to planning energy services to meet the needs of poor communities, ensuring sustainability and maximizing development impact. It is also collaborating with the ODI to research the availability and impact of support for access to modern energy by poor and vulnerable groups. For more about CAFOD's policy work on climate change, integral ecology and sustainable energy for everyone, see Towards Resilient and Sustainable Communities: A CAFOD toolkit to Support Integrated Programme design.

In *Laudato si, mi' Signore – Praise be to you, my Lord*, Pope Francis extends a profound invitation to everyone on the planet to take greater care of our common home.

*'In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.'*

*This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters...'*

[\\*Laudato si' \(24 May 2015\) | Francis - Cerca in Vatican.va  
www.vatican.va › francesco › encyclicals › documents](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/encyclicals/encyclical_laudato-si.html)



**BISHOP'S DAY FOR LIFE – SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020:** *Day for Life* is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. *Day for Life* is celebrated annually by the Catholic Church in the UK and Ireland, For more details please go to their website <https://www.dayforlife.org/> you will find information on subjects which cover the journey of life. Also documents and publications released by the Catholic Church and her bishops on the key issues.



**CAR PARK SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL** – The 2020-2021 car park subscription forms are available to download from the website or emailed to you on request. The subscriptions are for parishioners **only** renewals and new subscriptions. The new subscription period is 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. Disability Blue Badge holders are free of charge, valid Blue Badge details will be required.

Please complete the form and return it to the parish office, via Royal Mail please include a stamped addressed envelope for sending your new window sticker, or through the Presbytery letterbox, along with your cash or cheque payment. 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 church car park without displaying a valid sticker. In accordance with new GDPR guidelines all 2019 subscription forms will be shredded.



**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM FR. DANNY ON THE REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH**

We are delighted to hear that we are now allowed to prepare to open our church **FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**, from Monday 15th June but **only when compliance is met and safe to do so**. This means that our **church is still closed** whilst we put all the necessary plans in place to reopen in hopefully the very near future.

This is a step in the right direction and one which has to be taken with great care. We must prepare well so that anyone who enters the church building knows that it is safe to do so. Please adhere carefully to all signposts and instructions as you enter and leave the building. We will be operating a one way system with access to hand sanitizers as you enter the building. We will also have a team of volunteers who will act as Stewards to ensure that visitors comply with the compliance and safety regulations. Please listen to and follow their guidance at all times while you are visiting our church. This is only a first step.

Next, it will be a while yet before we can return to the normal rhythms of parish life. Baptisms, Confessions, Public Masses, Marriages and Funerals are still some way in the distance. As yet, we do not have a date when we are allowed to celebrate these sacraments. Everything will depend on holding the R number steady as other areas of life begin to open up. Please be calm and patient as we wait for a return to normality.

We are working, with great attention to detail, to keep everyone safe as we slowly emerge from the lockdown. I am looking forward to the day when I can see you smiling back at me when we finally gather to celebrate and reclaim what we have lost of our community life, over the last few months.

**Many blessings  
Fr Danny**



**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, Doreen Pryor

***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: David Johnson, RIP who died on Tuesday 2 June 2020, Funeral on 24 June 2020 at 12.00 noon. Please also pray for his family and friends.**

***May his 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**

**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 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)