

**THE YEAR OF MATTHEW**  
**ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**  
**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A**  
**HUMPTY DUMPTY SAT ON A WALL**  
**SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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When we are in an empty room, it is easy to convince ourselves that we are a loving person. But when that room begins to fill with other people, we may have to humbly admit that we are not as loving as we thought we were! Worst still, when we listen to the teaching of Jesus, it begins to dawn on us that He is not talking about 'A Hollywood Romance'. The Love which Jesus delivers with such Passion is the Love which supports us to 'lay down our life' for friends and our enemies.

In the meantime, Jesus teaches and gives a wonderful example of the need for us to be committed to the work of reconciliation. Relationships in families, in the workplace, in schools, in neighbourhoods, in parishes and in our nation are fragile. They can and they do break easily. The moral imperative to keep working for Peace comes with a menu. Follow the suggested steps and it just might be possible to put Humpty Dumpty together again.

Step One: seek a meeting with the person who has wounded you. If the relationship is restored, no need to go the step two. If not, Step Two: invite witnesses, who have a history of being able to mend broken things, to help sort out the truth of what really happened. If this doesn't work go to Step 3: bring in more people to support the search for truth and reconciliation. If this does not work, move to Step Four: where the offender is seen as someone who needs missionary work in order to become a full member of the community once more.



The Teacher reminds the disciples that they are the mediators between earth and heaven. They are not to model their behaviour on those who exclude and alienate others. What we let go of and what we bind to ourselves is dictated by our allegiance to heaven. It is our spiritual identity which informs our actions. Heavens' agenda insists that the new humanity not only has the freedom and the strength to find new ways to make peace, but the power to make heaven come to earth. This happens when those who gather, in twos', or threes', tens or hundreds, gather around more than what has hurt them. When we gather in the name of Jesus, He is with and for all who are gathered. He is in the heart of all, breaking down the walls that separate and restoring the flow of the Love which loves all that exists.

We all need to learn how to work through conflict. We all need the courage to do it. When we are struggling to find our lion heart, the temptation is to hand the problem over to the 'higher ups'. When we are in the wrong, we need to have the ability to listen to what other people are telling us about ourselves. To listen without becoming overly defensive or overly protective of our need to be right all the time. Honest self-examination is worth much more than we know. Listening attentively protects us from rigid self-defence and from flippant apologies that are meaningless.

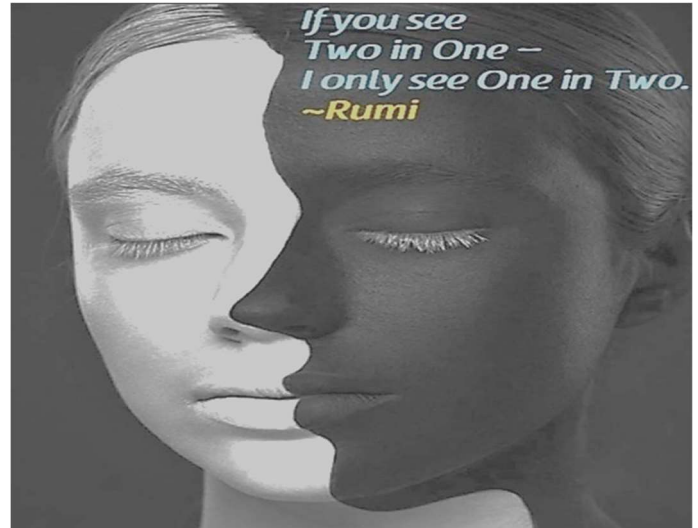
For Saint Matthew, reconciliation is a spiritual activity. Left to ourselves, hurt spirals beyond our control. But when we ask Jesus, in the power of the Spirit for help, we are creating a new art form. Human skill is woven by the spirit into a new tapestry.

## RACISM - PART ONE

We all need to ask the question do I have racial tendencies? We all have hidden bias and prejudices these may not all be negative but we need to understand them. We need to ask the question do we harbour prejudices deep within our subconscious? Could we be bigoted without even knowing it?

In order to understand whether we are racist we need to know what racism means.

The word racism was first used to describe the persecution of the Jews by the Germans and the Italians (Razzimo)). Today, Racism is a **systematized form of oppression by one race against another**. Prejudicial attitudes existed between races for thousands of years, but systematized racial oppression first arose in the 1600s.



**Racism**, also called **racialism**, the belief that humans may be divided into separate and exclusive biological entities called “races”; that there is a causal link between inherited physical traits and traits of personality, intellect, morality, and other cultural and behavioural features; and that some races are innately superior to others. The term is also applied to political, economic, or legal institutions and systems that engage in or perpetuate discrimination on the basis of race or otherwise reinforce racial inequalities in wealth and income, education, health care, civil rights, and other areas.

“We often think that unconscious bias only covers race and gender, but it is far more pervasive than that. Disability, sexuality, body size, profession and so on all influence the assessment we make on people and form the basis of our relationship with others and the world at large.: (Agarval Prayya –“SWAY “)

In the coming weeks we are going to concentrate on race and hopefully pick up on these other issues at a later date.

Professor Kahinde Andrews says “Racism is built into British Society and is the product of centuries of history”.



# SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The season runs from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

During this time we are encouraged to pray and engage in events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

This year's Season of Creation takes place in the context of the special 'Laudato Si' Anniversary Year,' which Pope Francis opened on Sunday 24 May to coincide with the 5th anniversary of his encyclical. Pope Francis addresses Laudato Si to every person on the planet, for we all share a common home – the earth. He calls us to examine our hearts, transform our social values and take action for global solidarity.

Over the next 4 Thursday evenings (10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October) you are invited to join our online discussion group (via Zoom) to reflect on some of the themes of Laudato Si and explore ways of taking action. Each session will start at 7:30pm and last one hour.

Everyone is welcome! If you'd like to be part of the discussion, please email Mary McNab at [bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS** – Thank you to our parish volunteers who kindly deliver newsletters each week. We need additional volunteers, particularly in the Wildridings, Priestwood, Great Hollands, Warfield areas of the town. If you can help, please contact [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or ring/text Pastoral Care: 07394 440 938. If you know someone who is unable to receive a newsletter by email and who would like to receive one, please let us know and we will arrange for a newsletter to be delivered. If you wish to receive a newsletter by email, contact the parish office.

## **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.***

**PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY** *Parish Intentions*

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> **No Private Prayer or Mass – CHURCH CLOSED**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Florencio Natividad, RIP*

11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Marie Hughes, RIP*

11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Doreen Gladwin, RIP*

11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer and Exposition

7.30pm – 8.00pm Mass *Kenneth Knight, RIP  
(Foundation)*

**THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY**

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 10.00am - 10.30am Mass *Paul Baker, RIP*

11.00am – 12.00 noon Private Prayer & Exposition

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A**

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am **LIVE STREAMED MASS ONLY** *Parish Intentions*

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**THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED FOR 30 MINUTES ON TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, 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 phone and email: 07712 048695      [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**