

CHISELING OUR OWN STATUE
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 12 February 2023

Mass Book Page 136

Life and a Death. These are matters of great importance, and the readings this week invite us to consider these precious things which are in our hands. We are also encouraged not to give up on the quest for holiness of life. Our faithfulness unfolds in our commitment to the Charter for just living - the law- and to the teaching of the Prophets. But notice how Jesus elevates certain aspects of these and allows others to fall away. He affirms and deepens the heart of the Law and Prophets and sweeps away what does not really matter.

The higher calling of His Disciples is the struggle for community in an age of holocaust. The struggle begins when we aim to strengthen our inner life. The religious leaders seem to be fixated on externals and their need to be 'seen' by others. Their egos are so huge, they can no longer see, or give priority to, those who are hurting. They tinker with trifles, obsess about details of the law and bury their passion for justice, love and compassion in the graveyard of their own self-importance.

Jesus calls his disciples to attend to their inner life. Life and Death, Love and Hate, Adultery and Faithfulness are huge polarities that we have to navigate every day. The rabbis often speak of 'evil imaginings'. If our angry hearts overflow into abusive talk we have sown the seed for murder. If we escape the need for reconciliation by just talking to God, Jesus sends us back to the person we have wronged to ask for forgiveness. If lust and deceit leads us to break people's hearts, we must enlarge our hearts by honouring the values which underpin love.

One of the oldest, and wisest, spiritual injunctions is 'Know Yourself!' We are pushed down the path of searing honesty and self-discovery. We set up a watching and listening post in the centre of our being and begin the difficult task of seeing ourselves as we really are. We need to know how anger rises in us, comes to expression and then recedes. We need to watch lust and note how it can grip us and rush us along paths we may not choose. We need to understand how we want shortcuts to forgiveness, how we hesitate and sometimes stall when it comes to starting a conversation with someone that might bring us peace.

As St Matthew considers the size of the problem, he takes a no-nonsense approach. Whatever causes us to sin must be removed! Of course, he is right because sin is pretty ugly. So, we just have to keep chiselling at our own statues.



EMERGENCY

Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

<https://cafod.org.uk/give>

CAFOD SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance, and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.



This year's candidates are to be presented to the parish at 10:30am Mass this weekend.

CAKE SALE on the weekend of 18th/19th February - Please consider contributing a cake/treat. There will be someone in the porch to collect these at the start of each mass that weekend. All homemade bakes should be accompanied by a note listing the ingredients used.

CONFIRMATION MASS 18th June at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

Please continue to keep the Confirmation candidates in your prayers.

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Maria Dos Santos RIP - Requiem Mass here on Wednesday 15th February at 1:30pm.

Mary Hunt RIP - Funeral Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Thursday 16th February at 2pm.

*Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

You Will Be My Witnesses

TEN-YEAR MISSION PLAN FOR THE
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

DRAFT

Following the 5-month consultation period, the feedback from across the diocese has been reviewed and the categorised. You can access the document on the Diocesan website or [you can read it here](#).



Society for the Protection
of Unborn Children

SPUC NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

27 October 2022 - 27 April 2023

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/national-prayer-campaign>

DOUAI ABBEY RETREAT PROGRAMME



Saturday 25 February Reflection Day: Has no one condemned you? - A gentle Lenten day with music & quiet to explore how we can be transformed.

Tuesday 21 – Thursday 23 March Lent Retreat: Great Season of Grace - In this “great season of grace” we prepare to celebrate the Easter mystery of Christ’s passion, death & resurrection. How to walk with Christ on his Jerusalem journey?

Thursday 6 – Sunday 9 April Holy Week Retreat: Caroline Farey In the Liturgies of this Triduum, especially through Sacred art, we enter the mystery of Christ's passion, death & resurrection, inspired to make his passing from death to life our own. With times of prayer, listening & sharing, each one makes this a personal retreat.

To book: www.douaiabbey.org.uk/bookings.php / E: guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Blanche Shap, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Tony Andrews, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Doreen Pryor, Sharon Bryan, Chantal Addley, Terry and Peggy McCullough, John Moir, Beryl Pilgrim, Charles Hose, Douglas & Bernadette Hunt, Phyllis Whitehouse, Clarita Kokou-Tchri, Margaret Finnieston, Louis Burgisser, Prim & Ian Maynard, Vivienne Halfpenny, Ann O’Sullivan, Lucia Saligo, Leonie Macintosh, Maureen Baxter, Catherine White, Ann D’Ambrosio, Edmund & Kate Carroll, Claire Hose. Arthur Hardy, Bernard O’Neill, Phyllis Lewis.

To add or remove a name to this list with consent, please contact the Parish Office.

If you or your relative is housebound, or because of illness cannot come to Mass and wish to receive Holy Communion at home, call the parish office 01344 425729 or email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy

Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch

Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab

Safeguarding: Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read
07712 048695 safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Parish Office, St. Joseph's Church, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA

Usual Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm

Telephone: 01344 425729

Email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

MASS TIMES

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 11 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 12 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Espiciosa Serula Fernandes RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Sera Fernandes RIP</i>

Monday 13th **NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED**

ST. CYRIL, Religious & ST. METHIDIUS, Bishop, Patrons of Europe, feast

Tuesday 14th 10am Mass *Bridget Robinson RIP*

Wednesday 15th **1:30pm Requiem Mass – Maria Dos Santos RIP**

Thursday 16th 10am Mass *Mary Hunt RIP*

Friday 17th 12pm Mass *Tina Esposito's Grandchildren*

Saturday 18th 10am Mass *Freya Bieniek (FHC)*

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 18 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Filipino Nurses 20th Year Anniversary of Service in England</i>
Sunday 19 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Bridget Robinson RIP & Family</i>

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live>

New to our parish or not yet registered? <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-registration>



07394 440 938

pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Are you lonely? Are you shielding? Are you ill and in need of prayer and/or support? Perhaps you have not had contact with the Catholic Church for a while. Whatever the reason, please get in touch for a chat.



07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987

stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Are you in the land of loss & would appreciate a chat with someone in our group? If so, do not hesitate to get in touch.



Call **IN CONFIDENCE**
07731 862 349

If you need help, particularly, 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.

DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS Online, Bank Transfer, DD, Standing Order <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/planned-giving>

BANK DETAILS: Account Name: PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 1199568