

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW
On Earth as it is in Heaven
TRUSTING IN LOVE
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Sunday 26 March 2023
Mass Book Page 170

Grief is a wild ride. We might map its face, predict its stages and guess how long it might last. But this is the luxury of those who, for now anyway, have not been pulled into the land of loss. They have the luxury of observation. But when the loss of a loved one takes up residence in our heart and soul, we become occupied territory.

Perhaps that is why I like the weeping Jesus being swept on a tidal wave of grief towards the tomb of his friend Lazarus. We are all eager for love but in our eagerness, we forget that every affectional bond we make will be broken by death.

Of course, we don't think about this when we are giving our hearts away. Within our short lives, the advent of Love carries the seed of grief. Gabriel Marcel said, 'To love someone is to say, 'Thou shalt never die.' Even if we do not say it out loud, even if we only whisper it in the cellar of our heart, love readies us for tears. The first kiss and the first tears are linked.

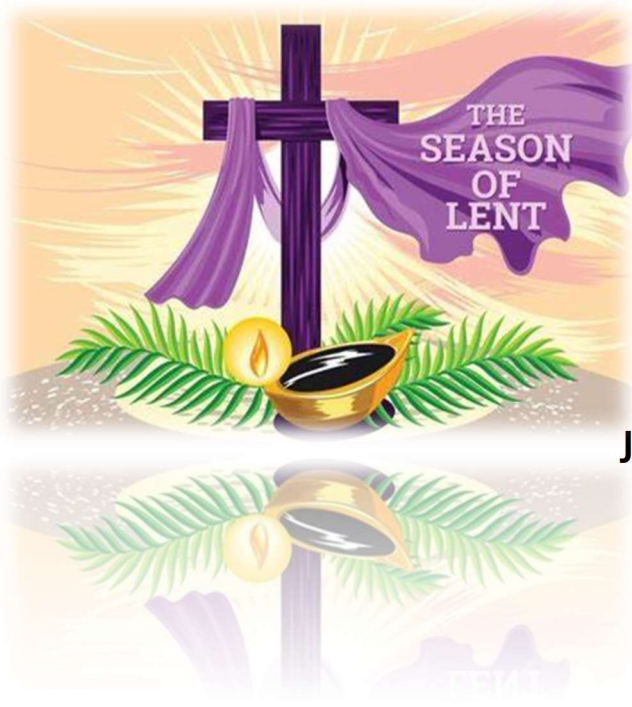
It is here we must not forget that this same love will console us. But we must trust this love to take us all the way. It must reveal to us that there is more than meets the eye here. This love which holds us at the bedside of the dying and takes us to their graves after they die, is telling us something very important about God's love. Our reluctance to let loved ones go makes sense as we watch Jesus raising Lazarus from death. The Love that distresses Jesus, that makes Him weep uncontrollably and makes Him go after Lazarus and free him is worth pondering. Love will not let him go so death has to set him free.

The Song of Songs 8,6 sings of the Love that is stronger than death. In the face of the stench of death, this insight may not come easily to us. We might find ourselves being drawn to other solutions to our pain. But it does seem to me that the more we grow our contemplative heart (Mary) and integrate what we find there into our busy lives (Martha) we will find an enduring strength that will bring us through to the other side of grief.

Love brings grief and consolation. St. Paul put it best of all when he wrote, "Do not grieve as others do who have no hope." It is the weeping Jesus who cries out, 'Lazarus, come out!'



LENT 2023



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursdays at 7pm & Fridays at 11am
(also livestreamed)

FRIDAYS DURING LENT

Join us in the hall after Mass for a Soup lunch

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday mornings 11am-11:45am



Rest...in
peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Patrick Hanley** who has died. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Thursday 30th March at 10am.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.



Lenten reflections, journeying through the themes of the Gospel to discover a God that calls us, listens to us and desires us to be awakened this Lent, continuing on Saturday 25th March (God listening to us) and concluding on Saturday 1st April (This is our

God), from 11am - 12 Noon (with tea and coffee from 10:45am) at [St James Catholic Church](#), Forbury Road, Reading RG1 3FD.



*"Every migrant has a name,
a face, and a story"*
Pope Francis

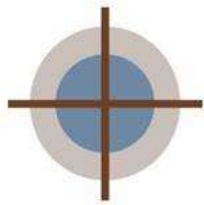
Love the Stranger is a new publication from the Bishops' Conference Department for International Affairs that presents a Catholic response to migrants and refugees. It places the human being at the heart of our pastoral outreach, looking beyond statistics and policies to the person – each

with a name, a face and a story. You can access the document via the Bishops Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/>



Easter
Flowers

Baskets will be available after Masses this weekend and next for your donation towards the Easter flowers.



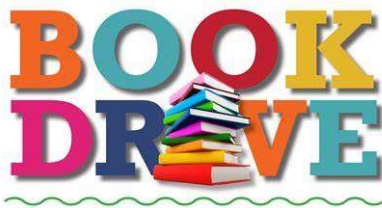
Liturgy

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE NEW DIOCESAN LITURGY WEBSITE YET?

The Diocese is proud to have a website exclusively dedicated to the Liturgy and this week the focus is on the Q&A section.

The liturgy is rich in history and theology, so it is natural to have questions about why it is, how it is, and how we are called to participate in it. Some questions have recently been submitted in preparation for Holy Week, such as why are there so many readings during the Easter Vigil? Why do we kiss the cross on Good Friday? Why is there no Mass on Good Friday? Have a look for the answers here:

<https://www.theliturgyproject.com/answers> And if you have you any questions regarding the liturgy, please send them in.



LAST CHANCE TO DONATE CHILDREN'S BOOKS (BABY TO 16)

I am a teacher at a school where a large number of students say they do not have a book in their house and it is my ambition to provide every child in the

school with a free book and foster a love of reading! Please leave any donations in the box in the porch. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity.

Ellie Clark, Deputy Headteacher



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>

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, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Blanche Shap, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Tony Andrews, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, 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, 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, Eddie & Flo Moore, Jerry & Susan Tobin.

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 THIS WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saturday 25 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Eileen Perkins & Family</i>
Sunday 26 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Riyon Pais</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Monday 27 th	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 28 th	10am	Mass	<i>Jackie Braithwaite RIP</i>
Wednesday 29 th	10am	Mass	<i>Judy Ollis RIP</i>
Thursday 30 th	10am	Requiem Mass Patrick Hanley RIP	
Friday 31 st	11am	Stations of the Cross	
	12 noon	Mass	<i>Maureen & David Garney</i>
Saturday 1 st	10am	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	11am	Confessions	
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD			
Saturday 1 st	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 2 nd	8:30am	Mass	<i>Riyon Pais</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Pat Hanley RIP</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://www.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