

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW
On Earth as it is in Heaven
LOOKING WITH THE EYES OF LOVE
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Sunday 19 March 2023
Mass Book Page 164

David Steindl-Rast has a very helpful insight into how we come to rest in a growing and deeper awareness of how God is present to us in every moment. In every breath. This 'awareness' might be born suddenly and then stay with us for the rest of our lives, or it may come more slowly, opening and unfolding over time. David asks us to notice how some years spring arrives suddenly. We may look out of our window or be driving along the road when we are ambushed by a depth of greenness and colour which wasn't there last time we looked. Other years, we catch spring in the act of arriving. We notice the early hint of blossom, the grass or the sound of birds returning. The point being that it does not matter whether it is sudden or gradual. All that matters is that we become aware, and deeply aware of the reality in which we live.

Life teaches us that God is always present in every breath we take. God is present in every atom of creation and is the source of its evolution. Sacred Scripture, Poetry and the Mystical Traditions of every faith see this and teach it to those seeking Wisdom.

But the story of the man born blind calls to those who cannot yet see to come to the one who can grant the gift of sight and of insight.

At the beginning of his great work, 'Auguries of Innocence' William Blake invites us to,

See a world in a grain of sand,
and a Heaven in a Wildflower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
and eternity in an hour.

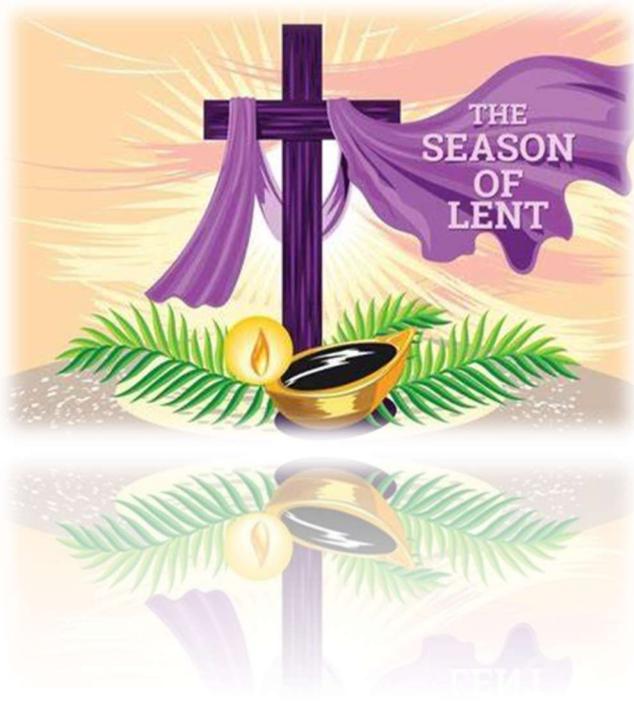
He emphasises '*seeing*' the spiritual in and through the material, '*perceiving*' the infinite ground of the finite world and '*sensing*' the eternal in the here and now. We complete creation when we look at it with the eye of Love. For some people, this can happen when they have their first baby, or experience the death of a loved one, or when they are at prayer or enjoying nature. But it doesn't always have to be the Big Bang. And when these peak experiences are yet to visit us, it does not follow that spiritual insight is denied us.

All we have to do is ponder what is before us in and what is in our hearts. Our faithfulness will allow The Sacred to find its own way to open our eyes and reveal itself to us.

Today's Gospel ends with Jesus going after the blind man who has been driven away by the so-called religious elite. When He finds the man with new eyes, Jesus asks him a question, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man does not know who this is so he asks Jesus to tell him. The words Jesus gives to him are powerful. 'You are looking at Him, He is speaking to you'. The seeing man gives the only possible response, 'Lord, I believe'. And he worshipped Him.



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



Fr Chris Heaps, the parish of St James and St William of York and the Reading Carmelite Friars invite you to their series of Lent 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. Each session runs from 11am - 12 Noon (with tea and coffee from 10:45am) at [St James Catholic Church](#), Forbury Road, Reading RG1 3FD (six minutes' walk from Reading railway station)

Saturday 18th March: God crying out to us; **Saturday 25th March:** God listening to us;
Saturday 1st April: This is Our God



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.*



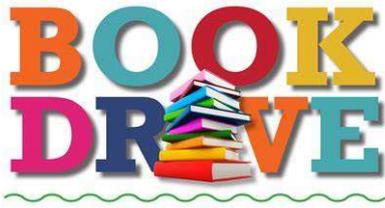
**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**

Catholics for Our Common Home

The Laudato Si Movement run online Laudato Si Animators courses, set up to educate and enable people to inspire others to engage in dialogue and action on the current environmental crisis. The course will enable you to bring Laudato Si to life!

Wednesday 19th April – 17th May weekly at 2pm (or watch the recordings afterwards) For more information and to register: <https://laudatosianimators.org>

THANK YOU FROM THE ELLERTONS – Last Saturday just before Mass, John became very sick and fainted. We were overwhelmed at the outpouring of love we experienced from so many members of our parish, especially Marion and Teresa who stayed with us until we went. We would like to thank them for this love of Our Lord in action and for all the prayers offered.



Do you have any children's books (baby to 16) that you are looking to donate? If so, I will gladly take them off your hands! 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 porch and I shall pick up. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity. *Ellie Clark, Deputy Headteacher*

THE CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND supports the invaluable work of the Bishop's Office for the Support of Clergy, which is led by the Vicar for Clergy (Canon David Hopgood) supported by a small team. The Bishop's day-to-day responsibility for his priests is exercised through this team. They are responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation, and personal support of our clergy, from the early days of ordination all the way into retirement. The Clergy Assistance Fund supports priests who may need special care at challenging times in their lives and enables opportunities for occasional sabbaticals, annual retreats and gatherings essential to the well-being life of a priest. All our priests serve our parishes, chaplaincies, schools, outreach and mission - *bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church*. Thank you for your generosity, your prayers and your support for our priests. **Baskets will be available as you leave Mass this weekend for your donations.**



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 Saligoj, 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saturday 18 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Alvaro Dos Santos & Joana Fereira Dos Santos RIP</i>
Sunday 19 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Bridget Robinson RIP</i>
Monday 20 th	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 21 st	10am	Mass	<i>Mervin Salozar RIP</i>
Wednesday 22 nd	10am	Mass	<i>Healing for a Dear Friend</i>
Thursday 23 rd	10am	Mass	<i>Derek Alexander RIP</i>
Friday 24 th	9:15am	Mass at St. Margaret Clitherow School	
	11am	Stations of the Cross	
	12 noon	Mass	<i>P J Boland RIP</i>
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, <i>solemnity</i>			
Saturday 25 th	10am	Mass	<i>Kenneth Knight RIP</i>
	11am	Confessions	
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>

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