

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW
On Earth as it is in Heaven

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 5 March 2023
Mass Book Page 155

The Teacher calls an inner circle of His disciples into the depth of Himself. To do this, He takes them up a high mountain, a favourite place for a meeting with God. Here, He is transfigured into light. The 'three' are given an astonishing gift – to see Jesus, the Beloved Son, in communion with His Abba. The gift is given so that they might grow in their desire to follow Jesus. It hasn't been easy for them. What they are seeing is for their benefit.

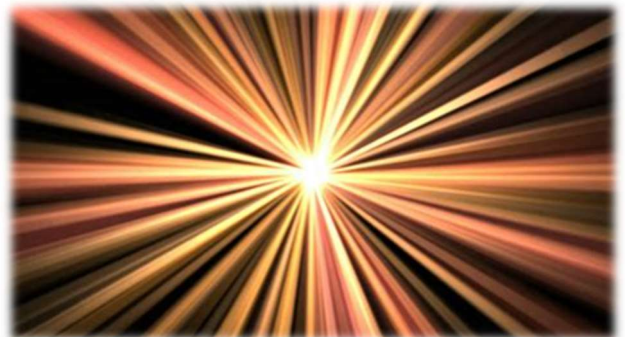
But then more is given. Elijah and Moses arrive. They too like high mountains. In their own day they went there to talk with God and to find the wisdom to make God's plan work with people who were highly resistant to them. Speaking on behalf of the 'three', Peter exclaims that it is great to be part of this event. But these are the words of someone who feels he is in over his head. The One they were shadowing is now even more attractive and, at the same time, a little bit scary!

Then even more is given. A cloud descends and now God is shadowing them. This is probably as close as you're going to get to God. And then God speaks. He reveals the true name of this Jesus. It is the same name that was given at His Baptism in the Jordan, 'My Son, the Beloved'. For disciples, this is a call to listen more attentively to what the Beloved Son is saying. This is the revelation.

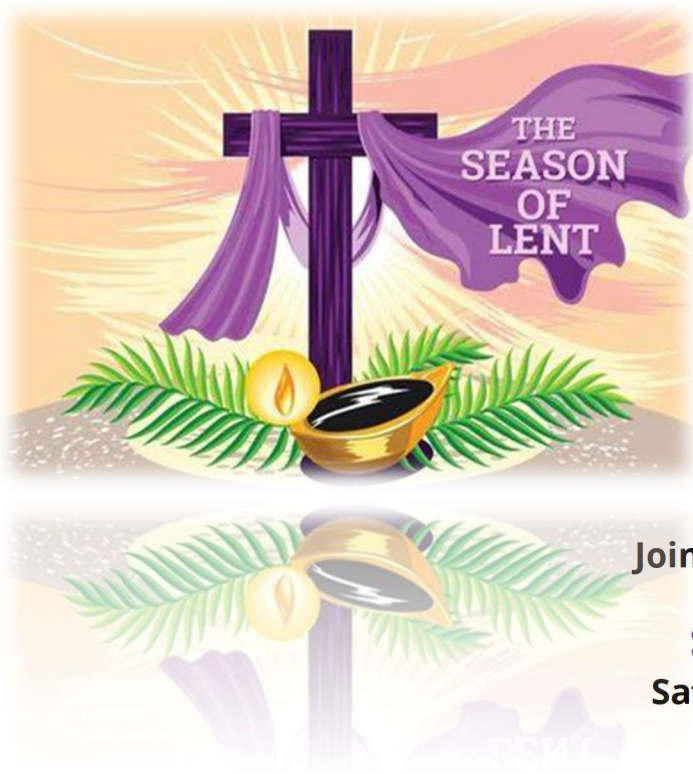
And then, the moment of Grace ends, as they must. Now all they have is Jesus and the truth about Him. The vision has strengthened their understanding of Jesus as God's Beloved Son and the inheritor of the law and the prophets. They know that Jesus has God's seal of approval, but they have yet to understand the divine plan. Somehow, this is tied to the rather mysterious question of the Son of Man "rising from the dead". And so, until they understand both the identity of Jesus and the divine plan, they are charged to be silent. They are, and yet they try to solve the puzzle amongst themselves. As do we!

I wonder if we might come closer to understanding in this way. Those who turn away from God are left in communities of loneliness. Loneliness brings panic, and, in their panic, people will try anything to fill the void they have made in their own lives. Grace reverses this process. People grounded in God do not know what it is like to be separated. Their communion fills them and propels them outwards. Instead of trying to grab and hold, they find joy in giving themselves. And here they discover one of life's strangest truths, that the source of life is always available to those who walk with generous hearts before God. These are the ones who bring strength and healing to a broken and troubled world.

In the Transfiguration narrative Jesus radiates outwards. This is the sign of His communion with God. Neither God nor Jesus abandon this troubled world or her troubled people. They move in sync to restore what was lost. This is what disciples are meant to understand. That feeling grounded and at home and flowing into the world with compassion and blessing, they find a deeper compassion and more abundant blessing. Thus, they are transfigured with Christ.



Cyprian Smith states the case beautifully: "It is possible for human beings, living, thinking and acting in God, to think, see and do as God does. Instead of standing within the created world, looking in it for signs of a God who is outside it, we stand within God and it is the world that now appears outside, we are greater than it. It appears as a pale and imperfect reflection of the dazzling and brilliant truth in which we are living and making our home". (The Way of Paradox: Spiritual Life as Taught by Meister Eckhart.)



LENT 2023

LENTEN TAIZE SERVICE

Wednesday 15th March 7pm

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 before Mass from 11am



LAUDATO SI' MOVEMENT

Catholics for Our Common Home

The Vatican backed 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>



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

FAMILY FAST DAY

PLEASE POP YOUR ENVELOPE/DONATION IN
THE BASKETS PROVIDED

SYRIA-TURKEY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Help CAFOD to provide urgent food,
water and shelter to survivors.

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

LENTEN RETREAT – SATURDAY 11TH MARCH

The Union of Catholic Mothers, Corpus Christi, Wokingham Foundation invites you to **A DAY OF RECOLLECTION**. Where we were, where we are and where we are going – Feminist Theology, led by Dr. Judith Thomas and Fr. Kevin Hughes MHM. **Saturday 11th March 2023 10am at Corpus Christi Church, 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2HE.** Price £10 per person includes lunch and refreshments. Please email Marie Tomlin, on mvc.tomlin@btinternet.com as it would help to have numbers in advance for the catering.



NEW LITURGY WEBSITE

A new Diocesan website dedicated to liturgical formation called *The Liturgy Project* is now live: www.theliturgyproject.com

Pope Francis in his recent Apostolic Letter *Desiderio Desideravi* reminds all the People of God of the importance of liturgical formation. We are formed into the image and likeness of Christ by the liturgy, and liturgy forms us into the image and likeness of Christ. In and through the Sacred Liturgy we encounter Christ. Formation is a lifelong project, and we always need to learn more about the liturgy, in order for it to bear more fruit in our lives.

The website includes a section for Sundays, including homily and liturgy notes, Guidance from the Vatican and liturgical books, a formation section on the Mass and a Q&A section. Your questions about the liturgy are welcome; you can send these to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. The website is a developing project, with more content to be added through the forthcoming months and years. So please keep checking the website for updates and all suggestions are welcome.



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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saturday 4 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Mary Hunt RIP</i>
Sunday 5 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Catherine Grattan RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Monday 6 th	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 7 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Marie-Danielle Tichbon RIP</i>
Wednesday 8 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Elizabeth Barrett & all the family</i>
Thursday 9 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Tommy Wallace RIP</i>
Friday 10 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Bridget Robinson RIP</i>
Saturday 11 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Bertha Da Cunha & Lessie Da Costa RIP</i>
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT			
Saturday 11 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 12 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Jurgen Family Living & Deceased</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Marie-Danielle Tichbon 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://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