

DISAPPEARING INTO THE FULLNESS OF JOY: THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 12 March 2023

Mass Book Page 158

Good teachers and good spiritual teachers highly value the experience of their disciples. They will often return to these experiences as they journey together, as a way of making things clearer. Good spiritual teachers often invite their disciples to begin to recognise patterns in their experience. Or, to put it another way, to map the sequence of their growth in understanding.

For example, St Paul, in his letter to the infant church in Rome (Romans 5,3-5) proposes a sequence that begins with suffering. Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us because the Love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. Mother Theresa of Albania often handed out a business card with this information: The fruit of SILENCE is prayer. The fruit of PRAYER is faith. The fruit of FAITH is love. The fruit of LOVE is Service. The fruit of SERVICE is Peace.

Sometimes the patterns of our experience and what these have taught us can be easily grasped. When this happens, their wisdom is clear. At other times, the patterns of our experience and what these have taught us is less clear. It is harder to 'get it' or to put Wisdom into action.

This week's Parable of the Woman at The Well is one of these patterns. It might go like this:

- the one who hears the voice of the bridegroom greatly rejoices
- bringing the bridegroom children
- that one disappears into the fullness of joy.

Notice this great woman's journey as she develops her understanding of Jesus which takes her past his Jewishness, past his prophetic status, past his role as messiah, finally arriving at the realisation that He is the 'I Am' or God made visible. When she grasps this, she is filled with the love she has always been looking for. Her joy is complete. She has found the Bridegroom.

The first joy is found in hearing the voice of the bridegroom, the wedding and the wedding night. Now it matures into a fuller joy when the marriage becomes fruitful with children. The first joy becomes the impetus for mission. She moves out, attracting people to the voice she has heard. She presents these 'children' to her true husband, so that they too might experience the gift of God.

Now she moves into deep waters. If the experience is true, she must not claim permanent status as a messenger. Her 'children' tell her that she is no longer needed. Now that they have seen for themselves, no other intermediary is required. If she is mature enough, she will be happy that, like the Baptist, He must increase while they decrease. But they aren't having to be dragged from centre stage. Their leaving is gracious and, as they decrease, their joy increases!

So, what is going on here? When we see clearly the gift of God, there is a 'knowing' that enables us to grasp more fully the work of the Holy Spirit. Strangely the gift arrives as 'living water' which can never be grasped. Nor can we ever use it to promote ourselves or our ego. Whoever tries to seize the Spirit watches it move elsewhere. By disappearing, we have permanent access to the fountain. I think this is what the woman at the well realised. I hope that one day we will too.





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 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, beginning on **Saturday 11th March** 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 11th March: God uniting us; **Saturday 18th March:** God crying out to us;
Saturday 25th March: God listening to us; **Saturday 1st April:** This is Our God



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>

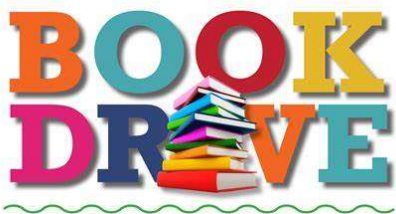


Society for the Protection
of Unborn Children

SPUC NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

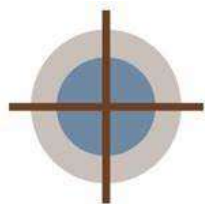
27 October 2022 - 27 April 2023

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



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*



Liturgy

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 lifelong, 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.

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

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>
Monday 13 th	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 14 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Edward Sheppard RIP</i>
Wednesday 15 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Patria McCaffery RIP</i>
Thursday 16 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Liam Vessey RIP</i>
St. Patrick, Bishop, feast			
Friday 17 th	12 noon	Mass	<i>Allan James RIP</i>
Saturday 18 th	11am	Confessions	
	12 noon	Mass	<i>Miraslaw Zakoscielny RIP</i>
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>

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