

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LIVING WELL AND ENDING WELL

Sunday 21 May 2023

Mass Book Page 275

The Gospel text for the Seventh Sunday in Eastertide reads like the last will and testament of Jesus. Notice how Jesus does not see his death as ending his life, or as a catastrophic loss for his disciples. He sees it both as a returning to the Father and as a new way of being with those that he loves. We watch him at prayer. There is no panic or desperation in his words. Instead, his words reveal the depth of his relationship with the Father and they strengthen the mission which they share together. His prayerful heart expands to include and embrace those who see him clearly. Caught up in the intimacy Jesus enjoys with the Father, they are given their first insight into the gift of eternal life which is being given to them. Of course, this gift has to be continually unwrapped. This can only happen when disciples share the gift with others. When we hear Jesus praying in words, we are given a moment of grace in which we see who he really is, enter into his heart and begin to wonder what our own vocation will be as we embrace the Divine Plan.

The Gospels sometimes say that Jesus looks up to heaven as he prays. At other times, his eyes are closed as he touches the Kingdom of God within. Either way is good because he teaches and reveals this profound truth. That prayer is not an attempt to make contact with God but a conscious celebration of the One who is always near us.

The death of Jesus is near at hand. He holds this ending within sacred space and time. For even though it looks like his death will happen at the hands of evil people, he sees so much more. The 'Hour' which has come, will in reality be a life giving and saving event for all who are able to receive it. "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself" (Jn:12:32). This ending becomes a moment of 'Glory'. And it is glorious because those who stand at the foot of the cross with loving hearts receive life without end. God glorifies the Beloved Son by attracting people to Him and the Beloved Son glorifies the Father by giving them the gift of eternal life. The flow of life between the Father and the Son, which was moving before creation was begun, is now gifted to his disciples whose only mission is to pass it on to others.

As we sit with this beautiful text it is becoming clearer that the best way to engage with the disruptive and painful reality of dying or ending is to be able to claim for ourselves these words which Jesus prays, "I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do". (Jn 17:4). This is a much better interpretation of our lives. It trumps any ending which may be tarnished by regret for missed opportunities, failures in love or fear in the face of the unknown. It is worth remembering here that, from a social point of view, the death of Jesus was a failure and a brutal interruption to a life lived in beauty and nobility. Betrayed, deserted, mocked, rejected and obliterated - He did not die at the right time. His life was taken from him.

And what about us? Even if we die after a ripe old age, our achievements behind us, our family and friends around us, we die incomplete from a purely social point of view. In this limited view there is no perfect death and there is no right time to die.

And yet we can talk about an accomplished life in spiritual language. If the mission of life is to be a vessel which pours Sacred love into the world, it can only be sustained by recognising that every person is a child of God, who dwells in their hearts, and reveals his face and his name to them. We cannot say that we believe in the Fatherhood of God and not believe that everyone is our sister and our brother. Whenever this identity emerges, whenever the Beloved Son and the Father are glorified by what love reveals is the 'hour' of our own lives where the work we are sent to do is accomplished.

This prayer of Jesus are the words our hearts are waiting eagerly to hear. Not only do they make his relationship with the Father crystal clear, they also evaluate life from a beautiful theological perspective. To nurture a steadfastly spiritual love of every person will help us to see what we might miss in the turbulence and noise of our social selves. What is it that he wants us to see? That you and I are a mission of Love, sent to stir love in others. When we do this, God is glorified and life is complete.

57th World Day of Social Communication 2023



WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY Sunday 21st May

In his message to mark the day, Pope Francis stresses the need to listen before speaking truth with a pure heart to "see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live." More information, resources, prayer at www.cbcew.org.uk/world-communications-day

Baskets will be available after Masses this weekend for your donation to support the work of Communications in the Catholic Church in England and Wales.



Join us at the Circus on Friday 2nd June 2023 at St Margaret Clitherow Primary School. There will be entertainment, stunning performances by original artists and comedy routines suitable for all the family. Food and beverages will also be available to purchase. Tickets will be on sale after the 10:30am Mass this and next Sunday or online via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/525956930337>
All proceeds towards a new SEN space for the school.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP ZOOM MEETINGS

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday 7:30pm-8:30pm. Email the parish office if you would like to be sent the link to join: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SPUC NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

27 October 2022 - 27 April 2023



Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

Thanks to all who took part in the SPUC prayer campaign to mark the 55th anniversary of the Abortion Act coming into force. Please continue to pray for mothers and babies.

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, 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, 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



What is Children's Liturgy?

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to go into the church hall with parish catechists and have a lesson aimed at helping them to understand the gospel message for that week.

When is Children's Liturgy?

Children's Liturgy takes place during the first part of the Mass during the Penitential Rite, Liturgy of the Word and the subsequent homily. The children return to their parents after Father Danny has finished his homily.

8.30am Mass - Children's Liturgy is now well established at 8.30am Mass with sessions being held twice a month. These sessions are well attended. We would like to run these sessions every week but we need more leaders and helpers; at the moment, we are a team of only 5.

We realise that it would be very helpful to parents to know the dates that Children's Liturgy will be held. We have organised the summer term rota for the 8:30am Mass on the following Sundays: **7th May, 21st May, 4th June, 18th June, 2nd July, 16th July with a break during the school summer holidays.**

10.30am Mass - It would be wonderful to see Children's Liturgy restarted at the 10.30am Mass. However, we urgently need volunteers from the parish to take on the catechetical roles of leaders and helpers in order to make this happen.

Who is eligible to attend? - Any child between 3 years old and 5 years old can attend as long as a parent accompanies them. Children who are 5 years old or older can attend until they start their sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion.

How do I enrol my child to attend Children's Liturgy? - Visit the parish website and login by clicking on the Children's Liturgy Logo (see above). This will allow you to reserve a place at the next available session. Children cannot attend without a reserved place being booked for them. For safeguarding purposes we must have a ratio of 1 DBS checked and trained adult to every six children with a minimum of two DBS checked volunteers running the session. We also operate the reservations on a first come first serve basis, to ensure our numbers are kept within health and safety guidelines. All our current leaders and helpers have a valid DBS check and our Parish Safeguarding Team are involved in this process.

What does a Catechist do? - The leader prepares and delivers the lesson based on the Gospel for that week. There are resource materials and pre-prepared lessons for any team who wishes to use them. The leader and helpers work together as a team to prepare and deliver the lesson for that week to the children. The team will set up the room in readiness for the children and tidy away at the end. They work together to welcome the families as they arrive at church, register the children and provide support for the children during the lesson. All volunteers must be willing to have a DBS check and be willing to undertake safeguarding training as per Diocesan guidelines.

How do I Volunteer?

Simply send an email to the Parish Office expressing your interest in volunteering. Without your help we will not be able to expand the Children's Liturgy programme.

PLEASE HELP, OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
Saturday 20 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Wilman Regeena Perera RIP</i>
Sunday 21 st	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
	10:30am	Mass	
Monday 22 nd	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 23 rd	10am	Mass	<i>Patrick Lowes RIP</i>
Wednesday 24 th	10am	Mass	<i>John Baptist Robertson RIP</i>
ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE , Religious, Doctor of the Church, <i>memorial</i>			
Thursday 25 th	10am	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
ST. PHILIP NERI , Priest, Founder, <i>memorial</i>			
Friday 26 th	11am	Adoration	
	12 noon	Mass	<i>Sonia Wall RIP</i>
ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY , Bishop, <i>feast</i>			
Saturday 27 th	10am	Mass	<i>Terry Redmond RIP</i>
	11am	Confessions	
PENTECOST SUNDAY			
Saturday 27 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 28 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Mrs Sailsbury RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Ethan Fernandes (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: CDP Bracknell St Joseph Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: CDP BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH

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