

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY)

THE GIFT OF MERCY

Sunday 17 September 2023

Mass Book Page 128

It might look as if Peter is asking a question about Forgiving. But he is really asking when it is okay to strike back. Rather generously, when most people would stop at two, Peter offers seven chances. Jesus evokes the horror story from Genesis 4,23-24 where Lamech boasts, 'I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Lamech seventy-seven-fold'. Without forgiveness there is an escalation of violence. Violence will only stop where forgiveness is present. Jesus wants us to be unremittingly committed to forgiveness.

Today's Parable is stunning. It is the story of a king (God) and a servant (sinner) who is mercifully forgiven. The servant has made a "huge" mistake which, when found out cannot be repaid. This mistake will cost him, and all those he loves, everything. When you're about to lose everything, you will promise anything. He is on his knees and his back is against the wall. He pleads for justice and for time, when suddenly Compassion appears. Mercy comes as a shock and, when it arrives from the future, it changes everything. The servant is suddenly in the first day of the rest of his life. The classic forgiven sinner.

Of course, Jesus wants all of us to see ourselves as this servant. We have sold ourselves into slavery and cannot get out. We say that all we need is more time when the truth is that no time will be enough. We think we can sort ourselves out but our cleverness betrays us. We need the new start and it can only happen by opening our heart to the Heart of God from where mercy flows. He can't believe his luck and he should be filled with joy

But then a terrible thing happens. Oh no! The servant still sees himself as a creditor. He pleads for himself but continues to be violent to others. He cannot see, hear or feel himself in his brother, even when he uses the same words! So, he throttles him, consigns him to bondage, destroys his family and puts him in a place where he can never make the situation better.

Then a startling thing happens! The Kings mercy vanishes. It recedes back into him, leaving the man with all the consequences of his huge mistake. Divine Mercy may be freely given but if it is not passed on it ceases to be effective in the lives of those who have received it. It seems that for Jesus, Divine Forgiveness and human forgiveness are movements in the same dance.

So, when Peter asks Jesus when it is okay to strike back, the answer is clear. We can only live if we have the mercy and forgiveness of God. Never, Never, Never, Ever forget that! The more we show mercy, the more we will receive it. The more we fail to show mercy the more it will recede. Dear Peter, if you understand this, you will never ask again, "How many times?" We are all bound by our past failures until a future is gifted to us. But all is lost the moment we put our hands around the throat of someone who is in debt to us. All is lost, and we are back in a world of revenge, reprisal and retaliation.

If you don't believe this, just watch the news!





EVANGELII
GAUDIUM

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday is celebrated each year on the Third Sunday in September. We proclaim the unique message of the Gospel that brings joy to all people who receive it with an open heart. Find out more here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>

THIS WEEKEND: SECOND OFFERING FOR HOME MISSION

Evangelisation is an essential work of the Church. At all levels, and through every avenue we can utilise, we are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbours and within our local communities. The Home Mission Office helps the local Church to share the joy of the Gospel. If you would like to, you can donate online at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-second-collection>



Please pray for **Noreen Murnane** who recently died. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Tuesday 19th September at 11am.

**MAY HER SOUL AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED,
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.**



We are recruiting for a **Parish Administrator** to work for 30 hours per week (Monday–Friday 9am-3pm) based in the parish office in Bracknell, to provide a full clerical and administrative support service to the Parish clergy, the parish, and support the administration of day-to-day parish work, providing a sympathetic focal point for enquiries. This post would be suitable for either one person to work all hours, or a

job share. Salary - £12 per hour. Please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for a full job description and details of how to apply. **Closing date for applications:** 22 September 2023.



DATES FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY THIS TERM

8:30am Mass

24 Sep, 1 Oct, 15 Oct, 29 Oct, 12 Nov, 26 Nov, 10 Dec.

10:30am Mass

24 Sep, 1 Oct (*we are hoping to get more volunteers for this Mass so that we can offer Children's Liturgy more frequently*).



COMMUNITY SINGING AT OUR LOCAL CARE HOMES

Wednesday 20th September - 2-3pm

Bracknell Care Home, Crowthorne Road, Bracknell RG12 7DN.

All are welcome to join.

FANCY A CUPPA AND A CHAT?

Every Tuesday in
the hall from 2pm.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

ZOOM MEETINGS Every 1st and 3rd

Tuesday 7:30pm-8:30pm. Email

stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for the link.



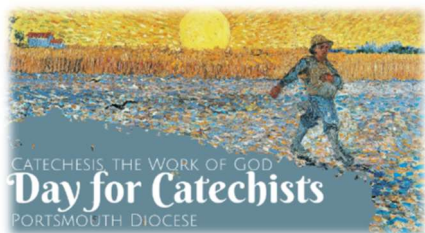
AUTUMN DAYS OF REFLECTION AT DOUAI ABBEY



Douai Abbey's first Autumn Reflection Day will be held on **Saturday 23 September from 10.30am to 4pm** (arrivals & coffee from 10am). Contribution £25 (which includes lunch, coffee & tea) or £15 (if you bring your own lunch) made on the day please. "The Wisdom to Let Go" will be led by *Barbara Priest an Anglican lay minister of Salisbury & an Oblate of Douai*

Abbey. To book at place, email: guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk

Details of the full autumn programme: <https://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/files/Pastoral-Programme-July-2023.pdf>



DIOCESAN DAY FOR CATECHISTS

Saturday 30 September 10am-4pm

join Fr Mark Hogan and the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph for a day of thanksgiving, prayer, fellowship and formation in Winchester Catholic Pastoral Centre. The day is free. Please bring a packed lunch. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diocesan-day-for-catechists-registration-598927286637>



DIOCESAN FINAL TEN-YEAR MISSION PLAN

You Will Be My Witnesses has resulted from two years of research and consultation across the Diocese and beyond. The Plan identifies three main objectives for the Diocese for the next decade which include: to be a Christ-centred Church; to be a missionary community; to be prudent stewards of

Christ's Church. Download your copy here: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/you-will-be-my-witnesses/>

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, 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, Janet Read, Ann Lynch, Bridget Riordan, Ursula Docherty.



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

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm **Telephone:** 01344 425729

Email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

MASS TIMES

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY			
Saturday 16 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Shirley Mathurin RIP</i>
Sunday 17 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Millie Flanagan & Moyo Njoku (FHC)</i>
Monday 18 th	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
Tuesday 19 th	11am	Requiem Mass – Noreen Murnane RIP	
ST. ANDREW KIM TAEGON , Priest, ST. PAUL CHONG HASANG & COMPANIONS , Martyrs, <i>memorial</i>			
Wednesday 20 th	10am	Mass	<i>Darren Wilcox</i>
ST. MATTHEW , Apostle, Evangelist, <i>feast</i>			
Thursday 21 st	10am	Mass	<i>Paul Baker RIP</i>
Friday 22 nd	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	12 noon	Mass	<i>Mahendra, Ivern and Anna Perera RIP</i>
ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA , Religious, <i>memorial</i>			
Saturday 23 rd	10am	Mass	
	11am	Confessions	
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			
Saturday 23 rd	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 24 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>John Collins RIP</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-life/parish-registration>



PASTORAL CARE

01344 425729
stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Are you lonely? 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 do get in touch for a chat.



Bereavement support

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 are struggling financially and need practical assistance, the local Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) may be able to help. Do call us in confidence for a chat.

DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS Online, Bank Transfer, DD, <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