

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### CREATING AND CROSSING BOUNDARIES

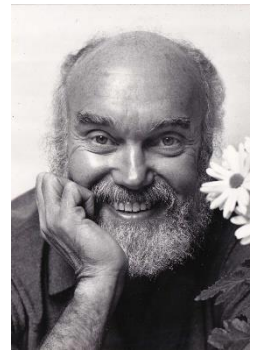
Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Mass Book Page 134

The word is out. Jesus is a healer who banishes illness and inner torment. So, the moment the sun has set and strange sabbath rules no longer apply, they come to Him, bringing their sick in droves. It must have been a great evening for everyone. They are witnesses to how healing unbreaks the broken circles of love and restores lives and communities. Yet, in the Gospel, these cures are recorded but they are not embellished in any way. Even the 'demons' are not allowed to speak. If they are heard, Jesus will be misunderstood. He silences the 'demons' because He knows their half-truth is more dangerous than a lie.

The real Mission is unfolding, and Jesus must stay close to the One who has sent him. He seeks out the desert and prayerful communion with His Abba. Here, he enjoys clarity and sees the right direction He needs to take. Jesus must choose, and prayer will centre Him for those decisions. He cannot afford to be distracted by 'popularity'. His cures and exorcisms are magnets that draw large crowds. To His 'not yet fully trained disciples', crowds spell success. Fame and reputation are still a big temptation for them. Jesus calls followers but He does not court fans. The message is more important than the miracles. This is why He came. His identity, claimed and reclaimed in prayer, draws Him away from the crowds who seek Him. He must move on. The message, the spiritual revolution must be preached and taught in word and deed.

Ram Dass, a spiritual teacher in the Hindu tradition, suffered a severe stroke in 1977. In his wonderful book, 'Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing and Dying', he wrote, "While cures aim at returning our bodies to what they were in the past, healing uses what is present to move us more deeply into soul awareness, and in some cases, physical improvement. Although I have not been cured of the effects of my stroke, I have certainly undergone profound healings of mind and heart". (p.67). For Ram, it is in the sickness that the healing begins.



And in his poem, 'Fever', John Updike speaks about the inner healing that came from his illness: *I have brought back a good message from the land of 102 degrees: God exists. I had seriously doubted this before; but the bedposts spoke of it with utmost confidence, the thread of my blanket took it for granted.* (Collected Poems 1953-1993) p.28.

Again, some patients have reported a greater sense of being alive and closer to others when they were sick. This was the case for Fred who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. After an initial period of distress something amazing happened to him. He just stopped doing everything that didn't really matter. His terminally ill life had become vital and peaceful. When the doctor called to tell him they had made a mistake he was shattered. "When I heard this over the phone, I cried like a baby – because I was afraid my life would go back to the way it used to be". (Presence: Human Purpose and the Field of the Future, pp25-26).

This is the challenge the Gospel presents. Cures are a sign of the Kingdom of God. Like illness, they should be received as a gift and both should carry us to the new humanity. This is why Simon's mother-in-law is both cured and healed. The touch of Jesus is a transfusion. His life flows into her life. In loving the person, hidden at the centre of an illness, He lifts her up. The fever leaves and service begins. God's service to her becomes her service of others. This healing reconnects her to the true meaning of her life. The flow of life and love through her intimate communion with God, herself and her community results in the Dignity of Service. And the Gospels are clear that service is not menial work. It is the hallmark of the new humanity that Jesus, the Beloved Son of God came to establish. After all, He Himself came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10.45)...What about us?



The funeral service for Brian Rushby will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1:30pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

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



### **GIVE Campaign Update #008**



#### ***First Aiders & Fire Marshals needed:***

Thank you to those that have stepped forward to help!

We have at least one fire marshal and first aider ready to be trained for every mass other than the **Saturday Vigil mass**, where we are still missing a fire marshal. If this could be you please contact the office.

We had close to 10 marvellous volunteers reach out in the past week to help in and around the parish in the way they best felt suited to. If you would like to be part of the growing number of parishioners devoting their time, talent, or treasure to help spread the word of God then please look at the GIVE section of the parish website or e-mail the office.

If you have previously volunteered for a pledge and not had a response please reach out again, we need all the help we can get! Thank you.

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day- Friday 23rd February**

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelopes at the front of church or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

### **Ministry Training Days**

The diocese is organising two training days in 2024 - one for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and one for readers. These will be held at St Bede's Church and Hall in Basingstoke as follows:

Day for EMHC – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Day for Readers – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October





Both days will run from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm and will include a sandwich lunch. Please enrol now if you would like to by emailing [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **Wooden Planks**

If anyone has any spare planks of wood lying around, a donation of them would be much appreciated so the parishes' back garden's fences can be repaired.

### **Current Jobs Available in the Diocese**

If you would like to be employed by the Diocese, the list of current vacancies can be found here: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>. It will be updated on a continuous basis.

<p><b>Care Home Singing</b></p> <p>07/02, 2-3pm, Bracknell Care Home, Crowthorne Road, RG12 7DN</p> <p>09/02, 2-3pm, Clement House, Johnstone Close, Hurley Drive, RG12 2 GH</p> <p>28/02, 2-3pm, Farningham House, Farningham, RG12 0XR</p> 	<p><b>Cuppa &amp; Chat, 60+</b></p> <p>Every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm</p> 	<p><b>Children's Liturgy</b></p> <p>04/02, 18/02, 03/03, both Sunday masses</p> 	<p><b>Soup &amp; Roll</b></p> <p>09/02, 08/03, 12/04 after 12 noon mass</p> 	
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## WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Amanda Killestein	Ann D'Ambrosio	Ann Lynch	Ann O'Sullivan	Anne Hardy
Arthur Hardy	Audrey Lam	Bernard O'Neill	Beryl Pilgrim	Blanche Shap
Brenda Lynch	Bridget Riordan	Charles Hose	Claire Hose	Clarita Kokou-Tchri
Dorcas Innes-Grant	Doreen Pryor	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Dymphna & John Slade	Eddie & Flo Moore
Edmund & Kate Carroll	Ethna Sweeney	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jerry & Susan Tobin
John Moir	Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligoi	Margaret Finnieston
Margaret Pearce	Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan
Maureen Baxter	Patricia Holmwood	Phyllis Lewis		Rico Morales
Sally Torode	Sharon Bryan	Terri Landmann	Terry and Peggy McCullough	
Tony Andrews	Ursula Docherty	Vilma Taborda	Vivienne Halfpenny	Zac Hoy

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 office on 01344 425729 or email [office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

## PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Daniel McAvoy **Deacon:** Rev. Aidan Lynch

**Parish Administrators:** Francis Barton and Donna Mody

**Safeguarding Team:** Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read

07712 048695 [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**Parish Office, St. Joseph's Church, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA**

**Office Hours:** Monday - Tuesday 9:00-3:00pm, Wednesday - Friday 9:00-5:00pm

**Telephone:** 01344 425729

**Email:** [office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

## MASS TIMES

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	3rd	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	4th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Marta Carvalho RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Casimir Francis Xavier RIP</i>

### ST. AGATHA, Virgin, Martyr, memorial

Monday	5th	NO MASS		
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### ST. PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS, Martyrs, memorial

Tuesday	6th	10am	Mass	<i>Alvaro Dos Santos &amp; Joana Ferreira Dos Santos RIP</i>
Wednesday	7th	10am	Mass	<i>Marie Danielle &amp; Marie Claire RIP</i>
Thursday	8th	10am	Mass	<i>Brian Rushby RIP</i>
Friday	9th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12pm	Mass	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Patrick Ann Grattan RIP</i>
Saturday	10th	10am	Mass	<i>Thelma Briggs RIP</i>
		11am	Confessions	

### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### ST. SCHOLASTICA, Religious, memorial

Saturday	10th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	11th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Edelina Patigayon RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Cesar &amp; Maxima Camba 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>



01344 425729

[office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

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.



07852 497 218 / 07851 200 987

[office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

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/give/>

**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