

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### COMPASSION: LIGHTING THE PATHWAYS OF THE GOSPEL

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Mass Book Page 137

The fate of the leper is clear. Not only does he have a terrible affliction of the body, but he is now excluded from the life of the community. The Leper is a powerful symbol of those who are beyond help or hope. But this one has heard about Jesus and His power to heal the sick. More importantly, Jesus has a reputation for including those who have been excluded. This reputation empowers the leper to come forward, even if he is still unsure if Jesus wants to heal him. Jesus' Compassion for all who are isolated moves Him to reach out and touch the leper. Healing him and welcoming him back to his community, with one gentle touch, are movements of the same dance.

The leper gets what he asked for, but Jesus does not. Jesus asks him to show himself to the priest and make the ritual offering for his healing - all signs that he has been restored to community. Mark does not tell us if he does this but he certainly ignores the request to keep his mouth shut. He tells everyone everything and, as a result, Jesus is now the one who is isolated. This is the price he pays for being Compassionate. There is always a price!

Listen to this poem, 'A Prayer to the Pain of Jesus':

*When crutches were thrown away  
Did Jesus limp after the running crippled?  
Did His eyes dim when Bartimaeus saw?  
Did life ebb in Him when it flowed in Lazarus?  
When lepers leapt in new flesh  
Did scales appear on the back of His hand?  
The Gospels say Jesus felt power go out from Him  
but neglect to say whether, at that moment, pain came in.  
Did the Son of God take on ungrown legs and dead eyes  
in the terrifying knowledge  
that pain does not go away,  
only moves on?*

(The Hour of the Unexpected. John Shea 1992)

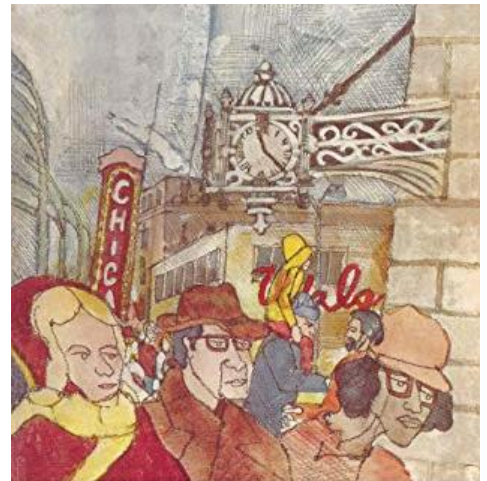
The art of Compassion is experiencing ourselves to be the same as the person who is before us and accepting the cost of making a relationship with them. When this awareness of sameness and connection replaces separation, Compassion arises. It is the certainty that we share the same world that drives us towards action. We do not recoil, we reach out. Compassion is the engine that drives us forward in the same way that it made Jesus touch the leper and make him clean. It is also the unwavering certainty that sits behind the words of Jesus when the leper asks if Jesus wants to heal him, "Of course, I want to..."

Poem number two, 'Why aren't We Screaming Drunks?' by Hafiz:

*The sun once glimpsed God's true nature and has never been the same.  
Thus that radiant sphere constantly pours its energy upon this earth,  
As He does from behind the veil.  
With a wonderful God like that, why isn't everyone a screaming drunk?  
Hafiz's guess is this.*

*Any thought that you are better or less  
Than another person  
Quickly  
Breaks the wine  
Glass.*

(The Gift: Poems by the great Sufi Mystic. 1999)





## GIVE Campaign Update #009



### **First Aider & Fire Marshal progress:**

Thanks to all those who stepped forward; we now have enough first aiders at the Sunday 10:30am mass! We would ideally have **one more** first aider at each of the other two masses and **two more** fire marshals at the Saturday Vigil mass (we currently have zero). The team is coming together- thank you everybody.

If you think of a way to assist in church life that isn't highlighted in the GIVE section of our website, please reach out to the office. The pledges highlighted online are where the parish needs help the most, but you may well have thought of things we haven't. If you have nominated yourself for a pledge previously and haven't heard back, please reach out again!

### **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 19<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)

### **Annual Lentern Retreat: A Day of Recollection**

The Union of Catholic Mothers, Wokingham, have organised a lentern retreat from 10am on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, led by Fr. Liam Cummins MHM at Corpus Christi Church. The programme will cover Transfiguration, Our Mission, and Prayer. The day will include a mass, a buffet lunch and refreshments, at the cost of £10. Contact [mvc.tomlin@btinternet.com](mailto:mvc.tomlin@btinternet.com) to enquire.

### **Foodbank Requests**



Please support the Bracknell foodbank by donating **non-perishable** items. These can be brought to the church or put in the collection boxes that can be found at most supermarkets. To see what is needed please use the app called **BankTheFood**.

### **Spare 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.





## Bickerton House Care Home Events

We are aiming to do more with care homes in the surrounding area so residents benefit from the company of parishioners and vice-versa. Bickerton House has arranged a series of free monthly events which will be great opportunities to socialise and have fun!

<p><b>Canine Café</b></p> <p>The first Wednesday of each month, 2pm – 4pm</p> 	<p><b>Friendship Café</b></p> <p>The second Thursday of each month, 10:30am – 12noon</p> 	<p><b>Community Cinema</b></p> <p>The third Thursday of each month, 2:30pm – 4:30pm</p> 	<p><b>'Let's Talk About Dementia' Event</b></p> <p>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 10:30am – 12 noon</p> 
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## 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 continuously.

<p><b>Care Home Singing</b></p> <p>16/02, 2-3pm, Bracknell Care Home, Crowthorne Road, RG12 7DN</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>08/03, 12/04, 10/05 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 Saligo	Margaret Finnieston
Margaret Pearce	Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan
Maureen Baxter	Patricia Holmwood	Phyllis Lewis		Rico Morales
Sally Torode		Terri Landmann	Terry and Peggy McCullough	
Tony Andrews	Ursula Docherty	Vilma Taborda	Vivienne Halfpenny	

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

### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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>
Monday	12th	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	13th	10am	Mass	<i>Margaret Pierce (sick)</i>

### BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT

#### ASH WEDNESDAY, *Day of Fasting & Abstinence*

Wednesday	14th	12 noon	Ash Wednesday Service	
		7pm	Ash Wednesday Service	
Thursday	15th	10am	Mass	<i>Jane Adams (sick)</i>
Friday	16th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12pm	Mass	<i>Allan James RIP</i>
Saturday	17th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday	17th	6pm	Mass	<i>Amara Silveira RIP</i>
Sunday	18th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	

**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

[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.



**Bereavement support**

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://www.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