



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

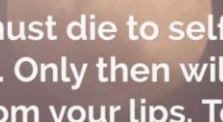
### **DYING TO OUR SELF**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Mass Book Page 169



Some people from Greece have arrived for the festival and have asked to 'see' Jesus. But this is more than a casual meeting. To 'see' Jesus is to enter into a profound revelation. In Saint John's Gospel, Jesus must be 'lifted up', (Jn, 3.14) crucified in order to be seen. For Jesus, the arrival of these Greeks is a sign that the time of universal revelation is at hand. The Beloved Son of God has come for all people. Yet, the way that He shows himself is paradoxical. The image of the single grain of wheat that falls on the ground and dies in order to grow into 'much fruit' (v.24) provides the key to understanding this paradox. For Jesus, death is never seen as a loss. It is only the beginning of a time of change that will yield greater results than an individual life. Jesus will become more through death, not less. In death he will become universally available. Closer to us than we are to ourselves. This revelation contains crucial instructions for His disciples. It illuminates a universal spiritual process. They are asked to see it and embrace it. If we identify ourselves as individuals with separate lives, we will lose that life. Death will eventually take it from us. But if we do not identify as individuals with separate lives, the death of that life becomes a gateway into transformation. There is no real loss here, only a crossing over to eternity. The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus will make this truth clear. But still He has to navigate the anxiety which precedes loss. He does this by turning to His Abba in prayer. His prayer is answered immediately because it is aligned with the Father's will. It is to the glory of the Father to bring greater life out of lesser death. This is what God has always done. This is what God has been doing through His Beloved Son. This is what God will continue to do through His disciples. Death has held sway until now but now its reign of terror is ended. Jesus' death will not entail the universal fate of going down into the earth. In His death He will be 'lifted up from the earth'. (v.32). It is this kind of dying, as a transforming process, that will attract people to Jesus. Death as extinction will bow to death as exaltation. This will be the kind of death Jesus will die and thus will draw all people to Himself. Wheat falls, acorns crack, and cocoons split, bringing bread, oak trees and butterflies. Seeing death as a transition is essential for any disciple of Jesus. In his poem, 'Holy Longing', Goethe has written,



To become spiritual, you must die to self,  
and come alive in the Lord. Only then will  
the mysteries of God fall from your lips. To  
die to self through self-discipline causes  
suffering but brings you everlasting life.

Rumi

As long as you haven't experienced this: to die and so to grow,  
You are only a troubled guest  
On the dark earth.

If this is true, perhaps we should be practicing how to die to ourselves on a regular basis! Here is a little story in this theme.

Once upon a time, a rich and generous man would freely give gold coins to various groups of people. One day it would be widows, another day the less able, another day poor students. The only request he made was that they should wait in silence for the gift to be given.

When it was the day for lawyers, one pleaded his cause with gusto. The rich man simply passed by. The next day was the turn of the lame, so the lawyer put splints on his legs and posed as such. The rich man recognised him and passed by. The next day, the lawyer disguised himself as a widow, but he didn't fool the rich man who just passed him by.

So the lawyer found an undertaker and concocted a plan that he would be wrapped in a shroud and placed in the path of the rich man. Surely he would throw some gold coins on the shroud for a proper burial. Afterwards, the lawyer and the undertaker would split the proceeds.

The rich man did throw gold coins on the shroud. The lawyer's hand shot out and grabbed the coins. Then he jumped up and triumphantly proclaimed that he had deceived and beaten the rich man. "Do you see how, at last, I have received from your kindness?" "Yes", said the rich man, "but first you had to die".

We must die to the schemer and become the receiver. It is the posture of contemplative silence which allows us to receive the gold that the rich and generous man is giving. As Rumi says,

"The mystery of die before you die is this:  
that the gifts come after your dying and not before. Except for dying, you artful schemer,  
no other skill impresses God".



The funeral service for Doreen Pryor will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 12 noon at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

We pray for Kevin Sutton who passed away this past week, he will be greatly missed.

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



### **GIVE Campaign Update #014**



***We are excited to announce that we have released some new pledges, indicating the beginning of wave 2 of our campaign. These are CAFOD-related and can be found in the JUSTICE & PEACE section of our campaign page: <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/give/justice-and-peace/>. You can also e-mail [justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) if you would like to volunteer.***

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! Thank you.

**The diocese safeguarding event that was due to be happening in Ascot tomorrow has been postponed until further notice.**

### **Easter Flowers Second Collection**

We will be having a second collection for the flower team across the weekends of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March to provide them with a budget for the Easter flowers.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**

If you would like to enrich your faith and share it with adults seeking to join us in our Catholic faith, you are invited to the next RCIA team meeting on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, at 7:30pm in the church hall.

### **Baptism Preparation Evening**

If you are planning to have your child baptised, our next Baptism Preparation evening is Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024, at 7:30pm. To book a place please click on the following link:

<https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/events/5ypn1xt3> or email [baptisms@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:baptisms@bracknellcatholicchurch.org).

### **Clergy Mission Sacrament of Reconciliation Dates**

As part of our ongoing mission to integrate with Corpus Christi Wokingham and the Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst, Father Danny will be at Corpus Christi Wokingham on 25<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm to hear first confessions, and on 10<sup>th</sup> May at 4:30pm to hear confessions from those about to be confirmed.

### **Annual Memorial Service- A.B. Walker**

A heartfelt gathering of reflection, support and shared memories will take place at Reading Minster Church of St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mary's Butts, Reading, RG1 2LG. It will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> April at 4pm, and all are welcome.

## Bickerton House Care Home Events (RG12 2JB):

### Canine Café

The first Wednesday of each month, 2pm – 4pm



### Friendship Café

The second Thursday of each month, 10:30am – 12noon



### Community Cinema

The third Thursday of each month, 2:30pm – 4:30pm



### Parish Events:

#### Care Home Singing

24/04, 1:45pm-3pm,  
Farningham House,  
Farningham, RG12 OXR



#### Cuppa & Chat, 60+

Stopped until school resumes



#### Children's Liturgy

24/03, both Sunday masses, please book beforehand



#### Soup & Roll

12/04, 10/05 after 12 noon mass



### Livestreaming Consent Form

In line with GDPR regulations we need consent from ***anyone involved in delivering a mass*** (e.g. readers, ministers, servers, announcers, choir) that you are okay with being livestreamed. Please complete this form: <https://stjosephandstmargaretclitherow.churchsuite.com/forms/wa5v9uyb> to give explicit consent, no later than the ***end of March***. If you are unable to access the form or you would not like to consent then please contact the parish office, thank you.

### 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	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Dymphna & John Slade	Eddie & Flo Moore	Edmund & Kate Carroll
Ethna Sweeney	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jerry & Susan Tobin	John Moir
Kevin Sutton	Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligo	Margaret Finnieston
Margaret Pearce	Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan
Maureen Baxter	Patricia Holmwood	Paula Sandford	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

#### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday	16th	6pm	Mass	Marie Danielle Tichbon & Marie Claire Ducasse
Sunday	17th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	Miroslaw Zakoscielny RIP (3rd anniversary)

Monday 18th **NO MASS**

#### ST JOSEPH, Solemnity

Tuesday	19th	<b>NO MASS</b>	10am Communion Service
Wednesday	20th	<b>NO MASS</b>	10am Communion Service
Thursday	21st	<b>NO MASS</b>	10am Communion Service
Friday	22nd	11am	Stations of the Cross
		11:30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		<b>NO MASS</b>	12 noon Communion Service
Saturday	23rd	<b>NO MASS</b>	

#### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Saturday	23rd	6pm	Mass	Dorothy Robinson (Rita) RIP
Sunday	24th	8:30am	Mass	Una Lees RIP
		10:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

**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**

**JOB AVAILABLE IN THE DIOCESE:** <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

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