

Fourth Sunday of Easter

THE BEAUTIFUL SHEPHERD

Sunday 21st April 2024

Mass Book Page 261

The Beloved Son of God, loves without regret, loves without end, loves to breaking point. His life is 'given' into the life of His friends. He loves unconditionally and has the safety of His friends always in His Sacred Heart. His love does not recede or vanish when trouble arrives. The Shepherd dies. The sheep live. This is what makes Him the Good Shepherd.

His disciples know well what it is like to be carried by hired hands; who really have no care for their sheep and abandon them when trouble arrives. They are only interested and concerned with themselves and are motivated by rewards. The appearance of the wolf is like a bright light which shows them in their true colours. The sheep die. The shepherd escapes.

The Good Shepherd has seen that when He is "lifted up" He "will draw" other sheep to Himself. What is so attractive about Him? Is it not that He reveals the kind of loving that transforms death into life. The power of this truth will be a magnet that will create one community from the vast diversity of people on the earth. This is how His Fathers' life works in and through His Beloved Son. Jesus freely enters the realm of death. On the surface, it might look as if His life is in the hands of His enemies. But at a deeper



level, the act of, "laying it down" and "taking it up again" has always been His choice, His work.

Two lovers gaze into each other's eyes on their wedding day and say without any reserve in their hearts that their love will be true, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health. A mother and father hold their new-born baby in their arms for the first time, and from some vastness of Love within themselves say, "I would lay down my life for you." A friend sits at the bedside of a friend who is dying and says, "I'm not going away". Life presents us with many moments, large and small, where we commit ourselves without reserve to another person's life. But these are not moments that we choose. They are simply something we are. We do not boast of this love since it does not appear to be something of our own making. We can only humbly accept it for what it is. We can only accept to be unconditional love. We might say, this love chooses us.

It seems that Jesus had many ways to try and give us an insight into who He is. Perhaps this week you could look at some of these themes which always begin with the words "I Am"..... the Bread of Life, the Light of the World and so on. But perhaps there is no image as clear as the one offered in this week's Sunday Gospel. He is most Himself when He is laying down His life for His sheep. His "I Am." is carried on the same breath as a "May you be."

And so, it is with us. Perhaps the glimpses we catch of our true self are rare. But we do see them, and they are real. The joy this brings makes us attractive. It is the magnet Jesus said it would be. If you are drawn to this revelation, you might be interested to know that the Greek word for good, 'kalos', can also be translated as Beautiful.

Canon Peter Wilkie R.I.P.

Please pray for the repose of Canon Peter Wilkie who died on Easter Monday, 1st April, aged 94- may he rest in peace. Living in retirement in Milford-on-Sea, Winchester and finally Fordingbridge, Canon Wilkie, who was ordained in 1953, served the parish from 1967 to 1979. Many in our community have cherished memories of his time with us. We offer Masses for the repose of his soul, on Tuesday 23rd April and at the 8:30am Mass next Sunday.

Peter Wilkie was born on 24th February 1930 in Clapham, South London, and following formation at St Edmund's Ware, he was ordained on 4th June 1953 for the Diocese of Portsmouth at St Agatha's in Kingston-on-Thames by Archbishop John Henry King, who went over specially to his home parish to celebrate the ordination. Many will remember him from his ministry at St Swithun's, Southsea, the Cathedral, St Joseph's, Bracknell, Sacred Heart, Bournemouth, St Bernard's, Holbury, St James', Reading, St Edward's,



Chandlers Ford, Our Lady of Sorrows, and St Philip Benizi, Fordingbridge, and St Francis of Assisi, Milford-on-Sea. In addition, he had a passion for prison ministry and was Chaplain to Winchester Prison for over 20 years where he received a long service award and the new Visitor Centre was named in his honour as "The Wilkie Centre". He became a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter in 1989 and he was a member of the Old Brotherhood of the English Secular Clergy. When he was at Beaumont College, he played cricket against the Oratory at Lords. – the only Portsmouth priest to do so!

Let us thank God for Canon Peter's loving service to the people whom he was called to serve. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.



GIVE Campaign Update #19

A kind parishioner is giving away a double bed and headboard in excellent condition. Collection in Martins Heron, please contact the office if you would like it. Our focus is temporarily turning to the plan that Portsmouth Diocese has for the parishes in our area. Thank you for your support.



An Invitation for Eucharistic Ministers

The Diocese is organising a Training Day for Eucharistic Ministers on Saturday 4th May, from 9.30am to 2.30pm at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. The day starts with Mass at 9.30am and includes talks and reflections to help people to encounter Christ through the liturgy. Refreshments are included. Please enrol by emailing liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Baptism Preparation Evening

If you are planning to have your child baptised, our next Baptism Preparation evening is Thursday, May 2nd 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.




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 25th April at 4pm to hear first confessions, and on 10th May at 4:30pm to hear confessions from those about to be confirmed.

Mass for The Sick

The SVP are having a Mass for the Sick at Corpus Christi Parish, RG40 2HE, on Saturday 27th April at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Keenan Rooms afterwards. If anyone would like a lift to the Mass, could they please call 01182 114130 or email suzettesymons@gmail.com.

Parish Events:

<p>Care Home Singing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24/04, 2-3pm, Farningham House, RG12 0XR 🎵</p> <p>28/05, 2-3pm, Clement House, RG12 2 GH 🎵</p>	<p>Cuppa & Chat, 60+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stopped until school resumes</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Children's Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">After both Masses on 21/04</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Soup & Roll</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10/05, 07/06 after 12 noon Mass</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
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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	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Dymphna 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	Maura & Eamon McNeill
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

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

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 **Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

MASS TIMES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER				
Saturday	20th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	21st	8:30am	Mass	<i>Martin Conneely RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Pat Hanley RIP</i>
Monday	22nd	NO MASS		
ST GEORGE, Patron of England, solemnity				
Tuesday	23rd	10am	Mass	<i>Canon Peter Wilkie RIP</i>
Wednesday	24th	10am	Mass	
ST MARK, Evangelist, feast				
Thursday	25th	10am	Mass	<i>Marie Danielle & Marie Claire RIP</i>
Friday	26th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Allan James RIP</i>
Saturday	27th	10am	Service	
		11am	Confessions	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER				
Saturday	27th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	28th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Canon Peter Wilkie RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>David Gannon 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

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

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**

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

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