

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### **THE FLOW OF LOVE**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Mass Book Page 266

Can love be compared to water? In this sense it can. It is hard to slake our thirst when water arrives in an 'on and off' way at our tap. No one thrives when love is not constant. All the evidence suggests that we are the best we can be when there is a steady supply of love flowing into our lives. This is true on a simply human level. It is equally true when we encounter Sacred Love. There is a love which is uniquely revealed by Jesus. We do not have to search for it as if He hadn't already found us. To this steady stream of love, He adds some simple rules.

Once upon a time there was a king riding in a coach on a rainy day. He sees a poor person dragging themselves through the muddy road and stops and offers them a lift. But the traveller does not have much trust. "What will it cost me?" They ask. "Only that you accept it." The king replies. Simple rule number one then, is knowing how to receive the love that is on offer. And, yes, there is a catch. Once the offer of love has been accepted a chain reaction is started. The one who is loved can only bring that love to joyful completion by passing it on. We might say we can only fully understand what we have received when we give it away.

If we could just grasp this simple truth, that we are links in a love chain from the Father to Jesus, from Jesus to us, from us to each other and back again. There is no need to grab, hold or possess love as if it was scarce. His word on love moves us from anxiety to holy communion. If we understand this, we have understood what Jesus is all about. And if we know what Jesus is about, we know what His Father is about. The world of masters and servants collapses and gives way to communities of effortless friendship. In fact, disciples of Jesus have been chosen for this very purpose.

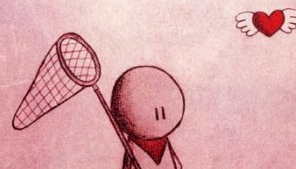
Can we tell ourselves the story that Jesus tells and that he wants us to tell to others? Can we see ourselves as powerful links in this love chain? Sometimes the greatest stumbling block for this is that the teaching of Jesus cannot get past the voices in our heads. You know the ones I mean. The negative self-talk. The tendency to focus on the times when we were hurt. The antidote to this is to think more positively and focus on those who left us treasured memories of love in our hearts.

James Mackey, in his 'Jesus the Man and the Myth ' suggests a way forward. "In the end, the only way to give people the experience .... of being themselves, Grace and treasure is to treat them as treasure and be gracious to them. The sun may indeed rise in the evil and the good, and the same rain refresh the just and the unjust. But the lesson will likely be lost on me unless the warmth of another person envelops me, unless some other human person refreshes the weariness of my defeated days. I will simply not feel my own life, my own self, as Grace or gift of God, unless someone values me." (p.107)

Mackey's insight is that every personal experience of authentic love opens a window on our understanding of God's infinite love, so we can become sacramental carriers of such love. It does not matter how we enter the love chain. It only matters that we enter in.

Your task is not to seek for love,  
but merely to seek and find all  
the barriers within yourself that  
you have built against it.

-Rumi





We pray for the repose of the soul of Mary (Maura) McNeill who passed away on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Mary's Requiem Mass will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon here at St. Joseph's, followed by the committal at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 2:00 pm.

*May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



### **GIVE Campaign Update #022**



If you would relish the responsibility of helping to set up for Mass, we need more Sacristans at all Masses and would really appreciate you reaching out. Please contact the office if you think you could help us. Thank you to Cristina for volunteering to do another day!

For those that volunteered for Fire Marshal training, booklets are now available in the office. If you could collect one and complete it ASAP, we can add you to the rota. Thank you to the volunteers! The campaign focus is turning towards the Diocese plan for the Parish and we will be able to provide more information soon.

### **Party at the Parish**

On 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm there will be a birthday party for a very special someone (Rita Robinson) in the church hall. Everyone is invited, we look forward to seeing you there!

### **Sudan Crisis: Millions Facing Famine and in Desperate Need of Aid One Year On**

As the world marks the one-year anniversary (15 April) of the devastating conflict in Sudan, the plight of its people has reached unprecedented levels of suffering. The war has forced millions of people to flee their homes - and these families now face a hunger crisis. Please pray with us for peace in Sudan, please donate if possible (<https://cafod.org.uk/?form=sudancrisisappeal>) and speak to your MP- Ask the government to act now.

### **Tea & Coffee Notice**

Please can everyone who attends tea and coffee after mass ensure they keep nuts off the premises. Children should be offered biscuits and cakes by their parents and not help themselves. Only people running the tea and coffee should be in the kitchen and no children under 16 are permitted in the kitchen.

### **Greeting the Visually Impaired**

Please be aware that for visually impaired people around the church, the preference for greeting them is by saying hello and introducing yourself, and not immediately resorting to touch, as this is both disconcerting and a violation of boundaries. Thank you for understanding.





### **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 10<sup>th</sup> May at 4:30pm to hear confessions from those due to be confirmed.

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

<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> 
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### Parish Events:

<p><b>Care Home Singing</b></p> <p>28/05, 2-3pm, Clement House, RG12 2GH 🎵</p> 	<p><b>Cuppa &amp; Chat, 60+</b></p> <p>Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm</p> 	<p><b>Children's Liturgy</b></p> <p>05/05, 19/05 after both Sunday masses</p> 	<p><b>Soup &amp; Roll</b></p> <p>10/05, 07/06 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	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 Saligoi	Margaret Finnieston	Margaret Pearce
Marie Swash	Mary King	Mary Murray	Mary Phelan	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](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

At the recent Bishops' Conference Plenary held in Buckfast, the Bishops of England and Wales approved a document that has been subject to careful preparation on gender, highlighting the teaching of the Church but stressing that accompanying those struggling with gender dysphoria is "a complex but essential pastoral task." The document, titled *Intricately woven by the Lord: A pastoral reflection on gender by the bishops of England and Wales*, emphasises that all are welcome in the Church, but says that the sexual identity of an individual is not a purely "cultural or social construction." The document makes for an interesting read on a controversial topic and can be found here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/04/REFLECTION-Intricately-Woven-By-The-Lord.pdf>

And the executive summary here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/04/SUMMARY-Intricately-Woven-By-The-Lord.pdf>

## 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 OF EASTER				
Saturday	4th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions <i>Rita Robinson Birthday,</i>
Sunday	5th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Tommy &amp; Doris (Dorothy)</i> <i>Robinson RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Tom Robinson RIP</i>
Monday	6th	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	7th		Mass	<i>Marie Danielle &amp;</i> <i>Marie Claire RIP</i>
Wednesday	8th	10am	Mass	<i>Marie Mair RIP</i>
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, <i>solemnity</i>				
Thursday	9th	10am	Mass	
Friday	10th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Maria, Felix, Gaudioso</i> <i>Villahermosa RIP</i>
Saturday	11th	10am	Service	
		11am	Confessions	
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER				
Saturday	11th	6pm	Mass	<i>Gilbert Loiseau RIP</i>
Sunday	12th	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://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