

**SS PETER & PAUL – YEAR B**

**TOUCHING THE LONELY**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Mass Book Page 100



*On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm we are celebrating the coming together of two of our lovely parishioners in Holy Matrimony- Carmel Ford & Francis Robinson. Please keep them in your thoughts and pray they have a long, fulfilling, and happy life together!*

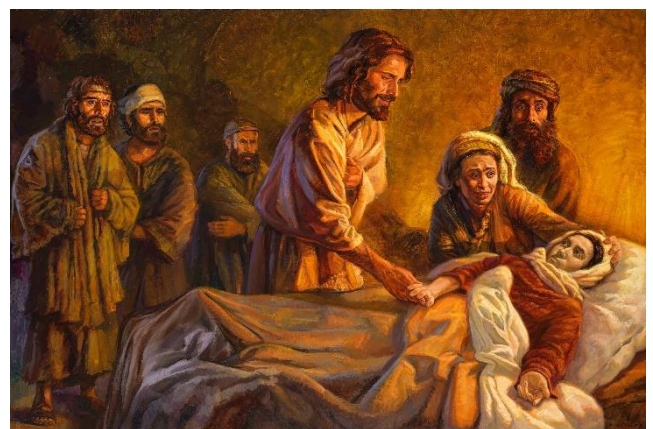


Jesus stays close to the sea. He teaches there. The crowds gather and He casts His net. He teaches with authority. His words and His deeds are movements of the same dance. So, the sudden appearance of Jairus, the leader of the Synagogue, allows Jesus to let a new story unfold.

Jairus is unusual. He does not watch and disapprove of Jesus like many of his colleagues. They have Him as a lawbreaker because He works on the Sabbath and is unclean because he embraces those who have crossed the impurity line. Now, his daughter has carried him to the feet of Jesus. He is desperate, afraid, and impotent in the face of her sickness. Still, he can see that God is working through Jesus and he wants some of that. Will one touch be enough?

Enter the sick woman who has been let down by every GP and Consultant she has met. Worse still, they have emptied her bank account. The crowd is moving and pressing against Jesus. But when she touches Him, something is different. Jesus' desire to manifest compassion and love is matched by her readiness to receive it. Saving power has gone out of Him and into her. But to complete her healing He calls her to tell her story. Since God has touched her, she can now be touched by others. Her loneliness is gone. She has been restored in herself and restored to the community.

Now back to Jairus. The news breaks that it is too late. His daughter is dead and there is now no need for the Teacher and His miracles. But Jesus instructs Jairus not to let the fear of death dominate his heart. He has just witnessed one restoration and will soon witness another. God's love turns death into sleep, and those who are sleeping can be awakened. The crowd are dismissed because they believe that death rules life. Jairus and his wife must hold onto the love of God that makes all things possible. They must remain steadfast against the wailers and the mockers.



Jesus does not pray to His Abba to bring the little girl back. He takes her tenderly by the hand and speaks to her. His voice, and the intimacy of his touch awakens her. The One who is stronger than death has arrived. However, the full unfolding of this love will be revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The little girl is given a share in the story of the Eucharist. If she eats and drinks at loves table, she will know eternally what she knows in time. This is the whole truth. This is the story that must be told.

Perhaps we do not reflect enough on what it means to be touched by God and how touch is a powerful way of experiencing the Spirit. Rachel Naomi Remen, a doctor who works on humanising the world of medicine,

speaks often about healing and touch. In her workshops with doctors, she invites them to touch one another with healing intent. One doctor described his experience,

*'At first, I thought I would just play it safe, but after Jane (his touching partner) told me about the pain she usually has in her back I decided to take a chance and tell her about my divorce. How hard it had become for me to trust women. She asked me where I felt this pain, and I couldn't actually say it, so I touched my heart. She nodded then put the palm of her hand on my chest. I was really astonished by how warm her hand was, and gently, and tenderly she touched me. A little at a time the warmth of her hand seemed to penetrate my chest and surround my heart. I had a strange sort of experience. For a while there, it seems as if she were holding my heart in her hand rather than just touching my chest. That's when I felt the strength in her hand, how rocksteady she was. In a funny way I could feel she was really there for my pain, committed to being there, and suddenly I was not alone. I was safe. That's when I started to cry.'* (Kitchen Table Wisdom, [New York Riverhead Books, 1996] 240)

I love this story because most of us keep our pain to ourselves and in so doing we isolate ourselves from the human companionship that is so necessary to get through it. Pain and loneliness are often to be seen walking hand in hand down the street. It seems that only touch can build a bridge, so that neither invading nor abandoning the person who is suffering we offer them a real experience of our Presence. The touching person can become a conduit for the flow of divine love whether it heals the sickness or not, the offering of inclusion always heals. The isolated person is no longer alone.

### Flora Ognissanto Departing

One of our cherished parishioners, Flora Ognissanto, is leaving for Spain next week. We thank Flora for all her hard work in helping our church to prosper and wish her the best of luck for the future!

### 'Life in the Spirit'

The fifth Life in the Spirit talk will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, from 7.30 - 9.00pm** in the Parish Hall. The fifth talk is *'Baptism in Holy Spirit'*. Everyone is welcome - just turn up! If you wish to join in the comfort of your own home, please register at [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#) to participate.



### Summer ClothesBank Giveaway

There will be a summer giveaway on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024 from 10.15am to 1pm** at St Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH. A free minibus shuttle (courtesy of Newbold College) will be operating between Bracknell train station and St. Mark's Church and the minibus will leave from the train station at 10am, 10.30am, 11am, 11.30am and 12pm. To receive an e-voucher for the giveaway, please contact the Parish office.

# ClothesBank



Bishop Philip invites you to join him at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth on **Saturday 6th July** for a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11am to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the link between the Archdiocese of Bamenda and the Diocese of Portsmouth. Please see attached poster for more information.



### Public Speaking

On **13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July**, CAFOD is offering an hour training session at 11am for anyone who would like to build their confidence in public speaking. Please register here: [Public speaking in Church training - Formstack](#) if you're interested!

## Parishioner Days Out

We are very excited to get this up and running and we hope to plan a little trip in the next few weeks. If you know of a parishioner who is housebound and would benefit from this, please let the office know. Otherwise, there are meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm in the Church Library to discuss outings!



## General Election Voting

A General Election has been called for 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The threat of abortion being decriminalised was averted when this election was called, but these extreme proposals are sure to return. The next Parliament will also likely see a big push to legalise assisted suicide.

It is therefore vital that we elect MPs who will oppose these threats to life.





To contact your candidates, and to check on their voting intentions on pro-life issues, please go to: [www.spuc.org.uk/General-Election-2024](http://www.spuc.org.uk/General-Election-2024).

## Caritas Holiday Club

Holiday clubs can make a huge difference to some families during the summer holidays, giving some much needed fun, escapism and social activity. If you would like to find out how you and our parish can get started, please contact the office.



## Parish Events:

Care Home Singing	Cuppa & Chat, 60+	Children's Liturgy	Soup & Roll	Life in the Spirit- Church Hall
New dates coming soon	Every Tuesday, 2-3pm	14/07	12/07 after 12 noon mass Every second Friday of the month	04/07, 7:30pm-9pm 'Baptism in Holy Spirit'
				

## 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
	Inge Walker	Janet Read	Jerry & Susan Tobin	John Moir
Leonie Macintosh	Louis Burgisser	Lucia Saligo	Margaret Finnieston	
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 & 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

<b>SS PETER &amp; PAUL, Apostles, solemnity</b>				
Saturday	29th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	30th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Rose, Kit, Michael and Nula RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Terrance Smith RIP</i>
Monday	1st	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	2nd	10am	Mass	<i>Margaret Pierce RIP</i>
<b>ST THOMAS, Apostle, feast</b>				
Wednesday	3rd	10am	Mass	<i>Aslin Family- living, deceased and thanksgiving</i>
Thursday	4th	10am	Mass	
Friday	5th	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	
Saturday	6th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
<b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- Fr Marcus Saying Mass</b>				
Saturday	6th	2pm	Mass	Carmel & Francis WEDDING!
		6pm	Mass	<i>Roger Bernard Fegredo RIP</i>
Sunday	7th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Marie Danielle &amp; Marie Claire 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](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**

[bereavement@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:bereavement@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.

#### **SVP** 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