

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOING DEEPER

9th February 2025

Missal Page 854

St. Luke notices how eager the crowds are to hear the word of God. So eager, in fact, that they are pressing Jesus into the sea. Jesus reaches for higher ground and finds it on a boat. But will those who are so eager for the word allow themselves to be captivated by it? Will it illuminate their lives and change the way they think and act? Will they allow the Light of the World to move them from darkness to light?

The Word must be heard and then integrated. The fishermen wash their nets and put out a little from the shore. This is step one. In the second, deeper encounter, the nets will be let down into the depths of the sea. Simon will be invited to move away from the shore and put out into deep water. I guess, in the end, it's a choice we all have to make; to meet Jesus on our own terms or on His.

When Jesus has finished His teaching, He invites Simon and the others to experience it for themselves. How will they make it their own? Jesus gives, what looks on the surface, like a simple instruction. But, in reality, the journey which draws us to go deep inside ourselves (put out into deep water) and wait to receive (let down your net for a catch) isn't as easy as it sounds! These disciples have never had any success with these directions. They have tried them and only experienced the absence of light (darkness) and emptiness (caught nothing). Yet Simon calls Jesus 'Master' and he will have to trust that Jesus knows what He is doing. Simon is classically obedient and dubious - just like us.

And what does he come to understand? Only that trusting and following Jesus leads to abundance and fullness. If we risk opening our hearts to God, God will move in us. The disciples are replete with God's presence - their nets filled to breaking point. They are overcome, and Simon, so deeply aware of his own smallness and fragility and now the huge generosity of God, feels dwarfed by the experience. He cannot celebrate the gift and joins a very long line of quaking humans.

More teaching is required. Simon is wrong to be afraid. If his experience of God makes him tremble and crushes him down; if he wraps his arms around the knees of Jesus, he must have fallen on his own knees. Simon cannot kiss the fullness he has received so he wants it to go away. This is not what Jesus wants. So, helping Simon to stand on his feet, Jesus instructs him not to be afraid. Instead, he must use what he has experienced to bring others to God. As Jesus has caught him, he is to catch others. Fear must give way to adventure and creativity. So, they bring their fullness back to the shore. They leave behind everything they used to do (be afraid) and dedicate themselves to a spectacular catch of women and men. The Word has been heard, understood, integrated, and acted upon. Or...

Once upon a time, a boat arrived at the shore creaking with fish. The crowds were waiting. They gathered around Peter and slapped him on the back. "Peter, you sly dog! You knew where the fish were all the time and didn't let on. You are, without a doubt, the greatest fisherman in all of Galilee".

But Peter was strangely silent. He only said, "Share the catch with everyone". After that he said nothing. But later that evening in the local pub, with bread and wine between them, Peter looked across the table at the Lord Jesus and said, "Go away from me. I wanted the fish to be over them, not with them. I wanted the fish to rule them, not feed them. You go away from me. I am a sinful man". Jesus only smiled back at Peter. It was not the smile of the sly fox but the smile that moves the sun and the stars. He had no intention of going away. There were other fish to catch.





GIVE Campaign Update #058



Cake Sale We will be having a cake sale after the Masses the weekend of the 8th and 9th February, in support of the trip to the **Flame** concert at Wembley for our Confirmation candidates. All proceeds go directly towards helping subsidise the cost of the trip to make it feasible for all 44 young people to attend. To quote Bernard O'Neill **"BAKE BAKE BAKE, BUY BUY BUY!"**



After the several years of lockdown, Parish funds have become depleted. The parish really struggles with paying all its bills every quarter –these include the normal things like heating, lighting, cleaning, routine maintenance, but also extra projects like building disabled facilities, toilets, ramps, security cameras, cutting down dangerous trees etc. If you could pay even a small amount by standing order (for example £3 per month) that would be really helpful. Please scroll to the bottom of this webpage <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/give/financial/> and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Mass Cancellations and Car Park Closures due to Ramp Work

Ramp work is commencing, and this will result in the **cancellation of next week's weekday Masses** (up to Saturday) due to **serious levels of noise and dust**. Additionally, car parking and entering the church will be **greatly restricted**, arising from the setting up of a contractor's compound. **The only parking available for parishioners will be at the very front of the car park, with the area to the side of the hall and the back off-limits.** Please make a concerted effort to ensure you don't double or triple park, or block people in with the spaces that are available. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Notes on Finance Procedures

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that nobody should be purchasing anything on behalf of the parish without prior written permission from the Parish Priest (Father Danny), and the Chair of Finance (Deacon Aidan). All orders should go via the parish office. Thank you for understanding.



Water Aid Jar Collection

Jars or envelopes marked Water Aid can be returned with donations either at the end of Masses on Saturday evening 1st March or Sunday 2nd or earlier, if taken to the Parish Office during office hours Monday to Friday. Thanks to everyone who is participating in this exciting appeal to get clean water made available worldwide within a generation.

'HOPE FOR THE WORLD' - Portsmouth Diocese, Charismatic Renewal Event

On Tuesday 25th February on Zoom, from 7:30pm, Judith Aylmer (the CHARIS CDSC Lead for Portsmouth) is hosting an online praise and worship session, praying into 'Pilgrims of Hope 2025'.

Rossane Walker (Pastoral Worker St Peters Winchester) will be leading the group on the main theme. There will also be an update by Russ Fairman on CHARIS supported ecumenical Prophetic Networking in our diocese. Sign up for this exciting event here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ng91fx_tQBGmhhFL6uwt3A#/registration. It will also be getting livestreamed in the parish hall.

Couple Counselling

If you are experiencing any difficulties in your relationship with your spouse/partner, we have collaborated with a local relationship counsellor based in the Bracknell area who will be able to assist you. For more information please visit <http://www.marriagecare.org.uk> or call 0800 389 3801. Your call is confidential.

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse?

Retrouvaille has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the next programme which will be presented on Zoom, 27th February to 2nd March 2025, e-mail: info@retrouvaille.org.uk, call: 07887296983, www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

Bickerton House Care Home Events (RG12 2JB):

Canine Café

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



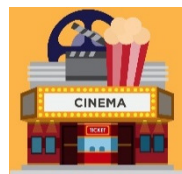
Friendship Café

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



Community Cinema

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



Parish Events

When?

Where?

Gospel Outreach with Music

12/02, 1:45pm-3pm

Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN

Gospel Outreach with Music

26/02, 1:45pm-3pm

Bickerton House, RG12 2JB

Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☕

11/02 (enter through fire door)

Church Hall

Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👧👦

16/02, 02/03

Church Hall

Soup & Roll 🍲

Postponed due to ramp works

Church Hall

Parish Prayer Group 🙏

11/02, 25/02

Church Hall

RCIA 📖

Every Wednesday, 7:30pm-9pm

Church Hall

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Amanda Killestein

Angela Dossett

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

Eamon McNeill

Eddie Moore

Edmund & Kate Carroll

Inge Walker

Janet Read

Susan Tobin

Leonie Macintosh

Louis Burgisser

Lucia Saligoi

Margaret Finnieston

Marie Swash

Mary King

Mary Murray

Mary Phelan

Mary Stocking

Maureen Baxter

Patricia Holmwood

Paula Sandford

Phyllis Lewis

Raf Roberts

Rico Morales

Sally Torode

Terri Landmann

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



We pray for the repose of the souls of Terry McCullough, Anna Tighe, Rosie Watson & Marcus Jampies who passed away recently.

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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	8th	6pm	Mass	
Sunday	9th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	Bridget Robinson RIP
St Scholastica, Virgin, memorial				
Monday	10th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	11th	NO MASS		
Wednesday	12th	NO MASS		
Thursday	13th	NO MASS		
ST CYRIL, Religious & ST METHODIUS, Bishop, Patrons of Europe, feast				
Friday	14th	NO EXPOSITION NO MASS		
Saturday	15th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Saturday	15th	6pm	Mass	Yvette Bone RIP
Sunday	16th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	Cyril Ford RIP

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

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://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**

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

South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registration Number: 119956