

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECLAIMING OUR LIFE

16th February 2025

Missal Page 859

The Beloved Son of God has spent the night in prayer. As the sun rises, He chooses 'Apostles' from the community of His disciples. He chooses them in the midst of a people who are suffering and it is crystal clear that He is choosing them to change the situation of the people who have come to Him. They are the reason He has chosen the Twelve. He has a powerful teaching to share with His Apostles and disciples before they speak or act in His name.

He details a series of Blessings and Woes in a style very close to the prophetic tradition. Jesus is much more than a prophet, but he has an unyielding prophetic sensitivity to the chasm that exists between the life that God wants for the poor and the actual life they are living. It is this chasm which evokes the Blessings and Woes.

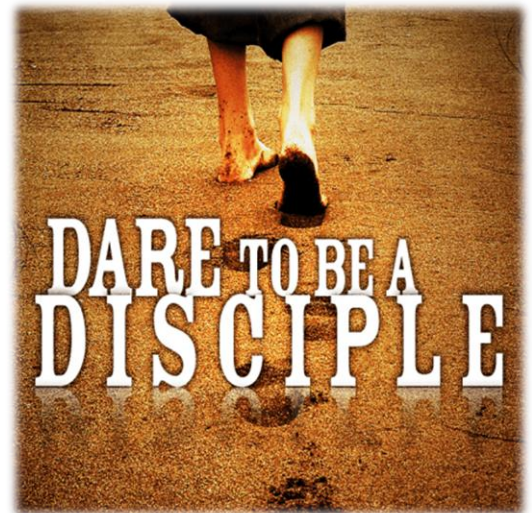
As St. Paul wrote in his first letter to Timothy (6:17-19), 'As for those who in this present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life'.

As disciples we may be poor, broken and hated but on the plus side we are living in the Kingdom of God. In other words, we have taken 'hold of the life that really is life'. Since this real life is amazing, it can coexist with hunger, brokenness, mourning and persecution. Why? Because this 'real life' will outlast the suffering and negativity which injustice brings. The unjust will self-destruct sometime very soon. Notice, too, the special emphasis on the disciples' blessedness when they endure rejection because they are followers of Jesus and are trying to embody the new humanity and the new community of the Son of Man. The rich and powerful not only resist the invitation to join them, they go on the offensive to persecute and discredit them. But instead of despair, Jesus wants His disciples to rejoice when this happens! The same joy the prophets discovered when they held out for Gods' world while they were attacked by people who only wanted to defend their own status and power.

The Woes are driven by the same energy. The rich have chosen a life that is not real life! Their consolation is now but it won't last very long. And then, a special warning to disciples who compromise on the cutting edge of Jesus' message. If they rationalise present injustices, if they tell the world it does not need to repent, they will have adapted God's Word to justify unjust situations. As always with Jesus, a choice must be made, a path chosen. Will it be Blessing or Woe?

I heard once of a woman disciple who said Yes to this paradoxical life of Blessings and Woes. She knew the life that was real life and unmasked every counterfeit she met along the way. She was wide awake while all around her others slept. She suffered because she was a true prophet. She lived without anaesthetic. She took in the suffering of her sisters and brothers because it was there when it should not have been. "We have to help them", she would say. When she died, there was uncertainty about what age she was until someone who knew her well announced that she was ageless.

And this is what she, the ageless one, said: "Whenever there is unjust suffering, you stop it. Sure, you might not know what is next. So what. You know what should not be and what won't last in the long run. If it is oppressive, it is wrong. There is a better life. Reach for it. And don't count the cost".





GIVE Campaign Update #059



A BIG THANK YOU! On behalf of our young people, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came together last weekend to make our Cake Sale such a

wonderful success! To our amazing bakers who lovingly created delicious homemade treats, to those who donated beautiful shop-bought delights, to our fantastic stall volunteers, and to each and every one of you who supported us with your generosity—thank you!

We are truly blessed to be part of such a kind and giving community. Your generosity has helped us raise over £800 (final total to be confirmed soon!), and we couldn't have done it without you. With gratitude, Youth Ministry Team.

Experience FLAME 2025! Join us on Saturday, 15th March 2025, at the OVO Arena Wembley for the largest gathering of Catholic youth in England and Wales. This inspiring day will feature renowned speakers, including adventurer Bear Grylls OBE, uplifting live music, and moments of prayer and reflection. We are offering a limited number of tickets to young parishioners aged 16+ for just £15, covering both entry and round-trip coach travel. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't miss out! Stay tuned to the Parish website for details on securing your ticket and reserving your spot on the coach. This is an amazing opportunity to connect with fellow young Catholics and ignite your faith. For more information about the event, visit the official FLAME 2025 website. ***Don't delay—be part of this unforgettable experience!***

THANK YOU to all those who have donated to causes we support over the last quarter. Amounts raised include £506.64 for Pax Christi, £815.55 for CAFOD, £2,579.33 for Bamenda, £80.37 for Home Mission, and £14.76 for the Christmas Crib. Your generosity is so very much appreciated.

Mass Cancellations and Car Park Closures due to Ramp Work

Ramp work is progressing rapidly, and as a result, next week's weekday Masses will go ahead. However, there will still be restrictions on car parking and entering the church. ***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, and the only entrance will be through the emergency exit near the hall, (and possibly through the garden).*** Please make a concerted effort to ensure you don't double or triple park, or block cars in. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



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, everything being well.

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):

<p>Canine Café</p> <p>The first Wednesday of each month, 2pm – 4pm</p> 	<p>Friendship Café</p> <p>The second Thursday of each month, 10:30am – 12noon</p> 	<p>Community Cinema</p> <p>The third Thursday of each month, 2:30pm – 4:30pm</p> 
---	--	---

Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	26/02, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	Cancelled 18/02 (half-term)	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 🙏	25/02, 11/03	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. The Requiem Mass for Anna Tighe will be here at 11am on the 25th February, followed by the internment at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, at 1pm.

Terry McCullough’s service will be on the 26th February at 11am, at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

The Requiem Mass for Marcus Jampies will be held here on 11th March at 12 noon, followed by the internment at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, at 2pm.

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	15 th	6pm	Mass	<i>Yvette Bone RIP</i>
Sunday	16 th	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Bridget Robinson RIP</i>
Monday	17 th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	18 th	10am	Mass	<i>Leandrinha Barretto RIP</i>
Wednesday	19 th	10am	Mass	
Thursday	20 th	10am	Mass	<i>Living and deceased members of the Holt and the McVeigh families</i>
Friday	21 st	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	Mass	
THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, <i>feast</i>				
Saturday	22 nd	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	22 nd	6pm	Mass	<i>Carmel Anne Rinzivillo RIP</i>
Sunday	23 rd	8:30am	Mass	<i>Chris Hill RIP</i>
		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>

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://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