

## Second Sunday of Lent

### LISTENING TO JESUS

16<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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Today St. Luke paints a portrait of Jesus at prayer. As we gaze upon Him, we are struck not just by His transparency, but by how He is totally at one with His Father in Heaven. He radiates the Spirit which has been given to Him without reserve and the world is better for it. His Light comes from within but it searches out the arena of engagement and action. It flows into the world. Then guests arrive. Moses and Elijah. Both were men of the high places. They went to the mountains to talk to God about what was happening in the valleys, and there they received Wisdom, Courage and Illumination for what they had to do below. They don't seem to be over absorbed in the Transfiguration of Jesus. There is a more pressing concern - the events which are about to unfold in Jerusalem. They are on the mountain to consider the affairs of earth. Prayer is only preparation for action! This is why all three appear in Glory. For they are not isolated individuals in touch with God. Glory is how they act on the earth, and Jesus, the Beloved Son of God, is moving to redeem the history of the world.

St. Luke portrays the disciples as being in a kind of twilight zone. They are sleepy yet managing to stay awake. They get it and don't get it all at the same time. They see but not as clearly as they could, and they sense that something more is to come. We can therefore forgive Peter for not being sensitive to the departure of Moses and Elijah. Peter wants to hold them where they are, build three tents, as if the three were equals. All of this gets blown away by a spectacular unfolding. The cloud covers them and Jesus is revealed for who He really is. But the voice is speaking to the disciples this time. Jesus is the Beloved Son, the Chosen One. All disciples have to do is Listen to Him! With these words the cloud shatters and Jesus is now alone. I love it that these disciples are half right, half wrong, half asleep and half awake, seeing and not seeing, hearing and not hearing. So, they are commanded to listen to the Divine Teacher. They are to ponder the meaning of the events they have just seen. It will take time - learning how to listen to Him.

In ancient China, on the top of Mount Ping stood a temple where the enlightened one lived. One of Hwan's disciples was Lao-Li and he had been a student and disciple of the Master for many years. Yet he had never reached enlightenment and he decided to return to the valleys below. When he went to tell Hwan, he was at prayer. But before he could speak Hwan said that he would make the journey down the mountain with him the next day. The next morning, as they stared out, the master looked out at the vastness surrounding the mountain peak and asked, 'Lao-li, what do you see?' 'Master, I see the sun beginning to awake on the horizon, hills, mountains that stretch for miles, a lake and an old town.' The master smiled and they walked the rest of the way in silence. When they arrived at the foot of the mountain, the master asked Lao-Li again, 'What do you see?' 'Master, I see cows asleep, roosters on the run, children at play, a flowing stream.'

The Master was silent till they reached the gates of the town. He invited Lao-Li to sit with him a while. 'What did you learn today, Lao-Li? Perhaps this will be the last Wisdom I can impart to you.' Lao-Li was silent. After a long while the Master said, 'The road to understanding is like the journey down the mountain. It comes only to those who realise that what one sees at the top of the mountain is not what one sees at the bottom. Without this Wisdom, we close our minds. But with this Wisdom there comes an awakening. We realise that alone one can see only so much, which, in truth, isn't much at all. This is the Wisdom that opens our lives to improvement, topples our prejudices and teaches us to respect that which we do not yet fully understand. Never forget this last lesson Lao-Li: what you cannot see can be seen from another part of the mountain.'

When the Master had finished speaking, Lao-Li looked out to the horizon and saw the sun setting before him. It seemed to rise in his heart. Lao-Li turned to speak to his master, but the great one was gone.

For you and me, Jesus is the other part of the mountain. There will be days when we get Him and days when we don't. But the reason we Listen to Him is that He has the words of eternal life. But to make room for these words, we have to let go of the words that bring death. So, we listen until His Word does its work in us, until life overcomes death. For this Transfiguration was the first step on the road to Jerusalem and to the Garden of the Resurrection.



### GIVE Campaign Update #064



**\*A PARISHIONER\*** is looking for help with his garden, no more than 3 or 4 times a year, and is willing to pay if a volunteer can't be found. It will involve things like cutting back the hedge and general maintenance; it shouldn't be anything too strenuous. If your fingers are green, please let the office know! Thank you all in advance.

**\*SPRING CLOTHESBANK GIVEAWAY\*** The Spring ClothesBank Giveaway will be held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 from 10:15am to 1pm at St. Mark's Church, Popeswood Road, Binfield, RG42 4AH. We are once again providing vouchers for the ClothesBank to those in need, so please contact the office should you need a voucher. If you also need transport to the ClothesBank, a free minibus shuttle courtesy of Newbold College will be operating between Bracknell train station and St. Mark's Church, and will leave from the train station at 10am, 10:30am, 11am, 11:30am, and 12 noon. Please let us know in advance if you intend to travel using the minibus so a seat can be reserved.

### CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and Family Fast Day Offering

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish offering and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



### Broken & Missing

Please could we encourage everyone that if you notice something broken around the church, or happen to break it yourselves, that you report it to the office immediately, so we aren't left to find it ourselves at a later date when we could have resolved it sooner; it just stops our general maintenance jobs from piling up. Similarly, please let the office know if you plan on helping out around the church with 'odd jobs' so that we're aware. For example, our white tablecloths are missing; we assume somebody has taken them home to wash, which is a nice gesture, but with events in the hall coming up we'd appreciate an ETA on getting them back. Thank you for understanding.

### CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)*

*Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Confirmation and RCIA)*

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

## Accessibility Project Work

As Fr Danny mentioned, accessibility projects will be commencing around church beginning end of March/start of April. More details to be announced next week.

## Marriage 'Preparing Together' Day

Corpus Christi Wokingham are hosting another 'preparing together' session on 5<sup>th</sup> May for couples readying themselves for marriage. Please visit [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) to find out more information and book a place.



## 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	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	26/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bickerton House, RG12 2JB
Gospel Outreach with Music	09/04, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	18/03, 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
Children's Liturgy ( <b>please pre-book</b> ) 👧 👦	16/03, 30/03	Church Hall
Soup & Roll ☺	11/04	Church Hall
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	25/03	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 Saligo	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](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)



We pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Barry & Leon Driscoll 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](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>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>				
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Leslee Diane Meadows RIP</i>
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Derek Alexander RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Especiosa Serula Fernandes RIP</i>
<b>ST PATRICK, Bishop, feast</b>				
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Marie Doyle RIP</i>
<b>ST JOSEPH, Solemnity</b>				
Wednesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Miroslaw Zakoscielny RIP</i>
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Piededa Rodrigues (90th Birthday)</i>
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Stations of the Cross	
		12 noon	Mass	<i>Whitehead Family</i>
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>				
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Yvette Bone RIP</i>
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	<i>Thanksgiving Mass for Rico &amp; Emma Morales &amp; Family</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: 119956