

Fourth Sunday of Lent

LOOKING WITH THE EYES OF LOVE

Sunday 15th March 2026

Missal Page 127

David Steindl-Rast has a very helpful insight into how we come to rest in a growing and deeper awareness of how God is present to us in every moment. In every breath. This 'awareness' might be born suddenly and then stay with us for the rest of our lives, or it may come more slowly, opening and unfolding over time. David asks us to notice how some years spring arrives suddenly. We may look out of our window or be driving along the road when we are ambushed by a depth of greenness and colour which wasn't there last time we looked. Other years, we catch spring in the act of arriving. We notice the early hint of blossom, the grass or the sound of birds returning. The point being that it does not matter whether it is sudden or gradual. All that matters is that we become aware, and deeply aware of the reality in which we live.

Life teaches us that God is always present in every breath we take. God is present in every atom of creation and is the source of its evolution. Sacred Scripture, Poetry and the Mystical Traditions of every faith see this and teach it to those seeking Wisdom.

But the story of the man born blind calls to those who cannot yet see to come to the one who can grant the gift of sight and of insight.

At the beginning of his great work, 'Auguries of Innocence' William Blake invites us to,

See a world in a grain of sand,
and a Heaven in a Wildflower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
and eternity in an hour.

He emphasises '*seeing*' the spiritual in and through the material, '*perceiving*' the infinite ground of the finite world and '*sensing*' the eternal in the here and now. We complete creation when we look at it with the eye of Love. For some people, this can happen when they have their first baby, or experience the death of a loved one, or when they are at prayer or enjoying nature. But it doesn't always have to be the Big Bang. And when these peak experiences are yet to visit us, it does not follow that spiritual insight is denied us.

All we have to do is ponder what is before us in and what is in our hearts. Our faithfulness will allow The Sacred to find its own way to open our eyes and reveal itself to us.

Today's Gospel ends with Jesus going after the blind man who has been driven away by the so-called religious elite. When He finds the man with new eyes, Jesus asks him a question, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man does not know who this is so he asks Jesus to tell him. The words Jesus gives to him are powerful. 'You are looking at Him, He is speaking to you'. The seeing man gives the only possible response, 'Lord, I believe'. And he worshipped Him.



Insights from our Parish Contemplative Movement

"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today."

St Francis of Assisi



GIVE Campaign Update #115



There is a second offering this weekend for the Clergy Assistance Fund. The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team. The Clergy Support Team is responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, such as the provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals. Thank you for your support.



Any WaterAid offerings or jars still outstanding please return them to either Rob March or the office at your earliest convenience- thank you!



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School are looking for parishioners to come in as reading volunteers - any days, any times etc! The person would need to make a DBS application, but they will support you with that.

New and exciting Parish outings are as follows:

- Fri 20th March 2:30pm @ South Hill Park Cinema: Elvis in Concert, £11
- Sat 11th April 2:30pm @ Windsor Theatre: Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat (performed by a youth group)
- Wed 17th June 7:45pm @ South Hill Park: One Night in Dublin, £29
- TBA July: Boat Trip in Windsor (40 mins/£13, 2 hours /£20)
- Thursday 15th October 2:30pm @ Windsor Theatre: The Mousetrap, £36

Please call or text 07395 077913 (Rita) to register your interest, or to discuss future events.

**Save
the
Date**



Prayer Request – Alpha Holy Spirit Retreat

This Saturday we will be holding our Alpha Holy Spirit Retreat Day. Please keep all the guests and team in your prayers. If you are able, perhaps offer a small prayer during the day; lighting a candle, saying an Our Father, or a decade of the Rosary, asking that they may experience the love and power of the Holy Spirit and grow closer to God in their everyday lives.

Life in the Spirit Seminars - starting in April

Life in the Spirit Seminars are a guided, community-based journey into a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit, rooted in Catholic teaching and Charismatic Renewal. You'll attend a series of talks, discussions, and prayer sessions, mainly online, designed to help you experience a renewed relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. The sessions are run by our Diocesan Charismatic Renewal team, and are widely encouraged within the Catholic Church, from Pope Francis onwards.

The seminars are designed to help you understand God's love, rediscover salvation and the core Gospel message, experience new life in Christ, become open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, receive prayer for a "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" (a deeper release of the Spirit) and learn how to grow and live a Spirit-filled Christian life.



This year world-renowned speakers have been secured to inspire us around these topics, including Fr Chris Thomas, Daniella Stephens, Gerry Penfold, Ros Powell and Allegra Mutanda, amongst others. This year, they start at 7.15pm on Thursday 23rd April, and continue most Thursdays until 18th June. They will be delivered via Zoom, aside from the Holy Spirit Day. Registration (and attendance link) will be shared closer to the time- please join us if you can!

Lenten Penitential Service

On Thursday 26th March, from 7:30pm-8:30pm, the church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS, will be holding a penitential service to prepare us spiritually for Easter.



Polish Community Easter Basket Blessing

Once again, St Joseph's Bracknell will celebrate Świąconka - the blessing of the Easter baskets - with members of the Polish community on Holy Saturday, at 12 noon.



Parish Events	When?	Where?
Gospel Outreach with Music	25/03, 1:45pm-3pm	Bracknell Care Home, RG12 7DN
Children's Liturgy (please pre-book) 👶 👶	22/03	Church Hall
Cuppa & Chat (60+) ☺	Every Tuesday (term time only), 2pm-3pm	Church Hall
New Parent Coffee Morning	03/04, 9am-10:30am	Church Hall
Soup & Roll	10/04, 12:45pm	Church Hall
ALPHA	19/03, 8pm-9pm	Online
Parish Prayer Group 🙏	24/03 7pm	Church Hall
Monthly Filipino Mass	05/04, 5pm	St. Joseph's Church

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

Amanda Killestein	Claire Berry	Evelyn Caruso	Mary Phelan	Sarah Flemming
Angela Dossett	Claire Hose	Inge Walker	Mary Stocking	Stan & Margaret Aburn
Ann D'Ambrosio	Colleen McCormack	Jacqueline Marshall	Mary Sullivan	Susan Tobin
Ann O'Sullivan	Debbie Hanley	Janet Read	Patricia Holmwood	Terri & Andy Landmann
Anne Hardy	Dorcas Innes-Grant	Jean Lovejoy	Paula Sandford	Ursula Docherty
Arthur Hardy	Douglas & Bernadette Hunt	Judith Newman	Peggy McCullough	Vilma Taborda
Audrey Lam	Dymphna Slade	Margaret Finnieston	Raf Roberts	Vivienne Halfpenny
Brenda Lynch	Eamon McNeill	Marie Swash	Rico Morales	
Bridget Riordan	Edmund & Kate Carroll	Mary King	Rita Hayes	Joseph Rice
Charles Beard	Eileen Tanner	Mary Murray	Sally Torode	

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

"The Chrism Mass this year takes place on Tuesday 31st March at 11am in the Cathedral. I wish to invite you to it! The Mass is the special Liturgy in Holy Week during which the Bishop blesses the three Holy Oils for use in the Sacraments: the Oil of the Blessing of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of Chrism. The blessing of the Holy Oils is one of the most ancient ceremonies of the Church and it is always celebrated in the Cathedral with the priests, deacons, religious and lay people of the diocese. The Mass is one of the main diocesan events of the year and is a celebration of thanksgiving to God for our Diocese of Portsmouth, its clergy, religious and people. During it, all the priests make a renewal of their commitment to priestly service, "manifesting their communion with the Bishop" (Roman Missal). It is always a wonderful manifestation of the Church in our Diocese of Portsmouth and an opportunity to thank God for our Catholic faith. I would like to invite you all to join us for this great celebration!"- *Bishop Philip*

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday	14 th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	15 th	8:30am	Mass	<i>Derek Alexander RIP</i>
		10:30am	Mass	<i>James Reilly RIP</i>
Monday	16 th		NO MASS	
ST PATRICK, Bishop, feast				
Tuesday	17 th	10am	Mass	
Wednesday	18 th	10am	Mass	
ST JOSEPH, Solemnity				
Thursday	19 th	10am	Mass	
Friday	20 th	10am	Mass	
		11am	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	21 st	10am	Mass	
		11am	Confessions	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT				
Saturday	21 st	6pm	Mass	<i>Anne Adams RIP</i>
Sunday	22 nd	8:30am	Mass	
		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