



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL
Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford
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 Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
 Charity No. 252878



All Masses are now live-streamed. Access via the Parish Website
FOR THE PROTECTION OF OTHERS PLEASE WEAR MASKS AT ALL MASSES

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday, 17th July 2022 Psalter Week 4 Cycle C

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Arthur Hughes RIP
Sunday 17 July	8.30 am	Eilish Brennan RIP
	10.30 am	Dec'd of the Alpera Family
Wednesday	10.00 am	Angus McGlynn RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Lil and Mick Ryan 60 th Wedding Anniversary

FEAST DAYS 17TH – 23RD JULY

Friday: St Mary Magdalene
 Saturday: St Bridget of Sweden, Patron of Europe

ANNIVERSARIES: 17TH – 23RD JULY

Michael Naughton, Theresa Scott, Frank Manini, John DeliTucker, Nora Graham

COFFEE AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

St Clement's School

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 10.30 am – 11.00 am or by appointment

DEATHS: Please remember in prayer Michael Flaherty of Courtlands Drive, who died in Princes Alice Hospice on Wednesday. Our sympathy to Catherine and the family. May he rest in peace.

Requiem Mass: 10.00 am, 3rd August, St Clement's Church.

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Mary Frost, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing, Martina Savage, Jimmy Finn, Mel Alvarez, Tony Ball, Shaun Gavigan, Mary Schneider, Carla Pelosi.

MANY THANKS: to Dympna and Fellow catechists for arranging so well the "Going Forth" Mass of Thanksgiving for recent First Holy Communions, and the reception afterwards. £225 was raised for HCPT at the reception.

"GROWING TOWARDS JESUS" CERTIFICATES are available from Fr Graham after Mass. Families on the programme please collect.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lil and Mick Ryan on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. We wish them every blessing from the Lord, and upon their family.

ALTAR SERVERS: If you would like to start or resume altar serving, please either speak to Robin Hannan or email him on robinhannan55@gmail.com.

EPSOM & EWELL FOOD BANK: Please place any non-perishable items you wish to donate in the marked boxes in the narthex.

THE REPOSITORY AND BOOKSTALL will be open at all Masses this weekend.

JULY 200 CLUB WINNERS: John Bell No.30 £30 Mary Bruce No. 212 £20 Congratulations!

CHURCH CLEANING - URGENT: Please either speak to Ann Hannan or email her on anna@hannanfamily.co.uk and she'll be in touch.

REFLECTION: 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

"Marysat down at the Lord's feet" Luke 10 : 39

It is easy to berate ourselves for being busy Marthas rather than contemplative Marys. That would be a simplistic misunderstanding of the readings. Superficially what Martha did was exactly what Abraham did. The difference between them is not what they did, but their underlying intention. Martha was unable to set aside her own plans and ideas. Mary, on the other hand, was able to resist society's expectations of her role as a woman (serving, carrying, fetching), as well as Martha's complaints, because she was able to see that this was a moment of grace.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 24th July 2022 Psalter Week 1 Cycle C

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Mary Jo Byrne RIP
Sunday 24 July	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Valentina Lim RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Wellbeing Ursuline Comm
Friday	10.00 am	All Parishioners
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Mary, Felix & Vincent Edwardson RIP
Sunday 31 July	8.30 am	Sean McCabe RIP
	10.30 am	Tess Murphy RIP

FEAST DAYS 24TH – 30TH JULY

Monday: St James, Apostle
 Tuesday: Ss Joachim and Anne
 Friday: Ss Mary, Martha and Lazarus

ANNIVERSARIES: 24TH – 30TH JULY

Sylvia Clifford, Mary Osborne, Jim Olivier, Betty Hay, Margaret Harris.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30 AM MASS

Parish Funds - Win & Lawrence Chu and Eunice Onyeonoro Akomah

But let us not forget Jesus' response to hearing his critics:

John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" (Luke 7:33-34)

I think it's safe to say that Jesus must have been seen partaking in such festivities to draw people's attention to his drinking wine.



Given that Jesus uses the image of a wedding feast for the kingdom of God, it would be odd for him to be suspicious of festivity and everything associated with it, including dancing and singing! As Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP has suggested, "The first preaching of the gospel is the festivity of Jesus – eating, drinking and taking pleasure in the company of just about anyone" (*Why Go To Church? The drama of the Eucharist* [Continuum, 2008], 203).

EMBRACING LIFE

It seems to me that if we spend just a little time digging into the scriptural texts, the overly-serious, party-poopier Jesus we think we have come to know and revere begins to turn into someone much more attractive – a jovial, humorous character who embraces life in all its wonder and beauty. If I were to come into our faith for the first time, this is the kind of person I could imagine spending time with, whom I could come to know and love deeply.

Fr Peter Morris' book *Christian Playfulness* is available from Redemptorist Publications. Visit www.rpbooks.co.uk
Code: 1867 ISBN: 9780852315644 Price: £4.95



Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.**

FIRST READING Genesis 18:1-10

PSALM Psalm 14

**RESPONSE The just will live in the presence
of the Lord.**

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue. **R.**
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. **R.**
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan

and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING Colossians 1:24-28

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Luke 10:38-42

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Behold, I stand at the door and knock,
says the Lord.
If anyone hears my voice and opens the
door to me,
I will enter his house and dine with him,
and he with me.**

Next Sunday's Readings:
Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

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JESUS IS HUMAN

Once, when I was abroad with my Redemptorist student community, I remember eating out one evening. As so often, there was a TV on in the background. The programme being shown was a film of the life of Jesus. I couldn't understand what was being said, but I could tell that the actor playing Jesus was, bluntly, playing him as boring.

That was not the only time that a film about Jesus has disappointed me. The same goes for some of the images out there. Jesus is often portrayed so seriously – forever glum, with almost no hint of personality or humour. Does this not strike you as odd? I think there's something missing. In his years of public ministry, Jesus was at times mobbed by people. There was something attractive about this man. They wanted to spend time with him. The fact that fairly recent images of Jesus smiling or laughing are so unpopular show us that we have culturally accepted a humourless Christ.

I don't know about you, but if I spent a considerable amount of time with someone and all they did was teach me all kinds of moral lessons, I'd give up on that friendship pretty quickly! But it's as though this is exactly what we have reduced Jesus to in our popular imagination. In some sense, we have not fully recognised Jesus' humanity.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that Christ "fully reveals humanity to itself and brings to light its very high calling" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22). For this reason, we are to look to him for what it means for us to be fully human, to live a full life.

Jesus came from a small village in first-century Palestine which had a strong family ethos, and he was highly likely to have attended several weddings. A wedding was a moment in a family's life when ordinary work would stop and people would feast. In contrast to modern-day Western culture, a wedding would last several days.

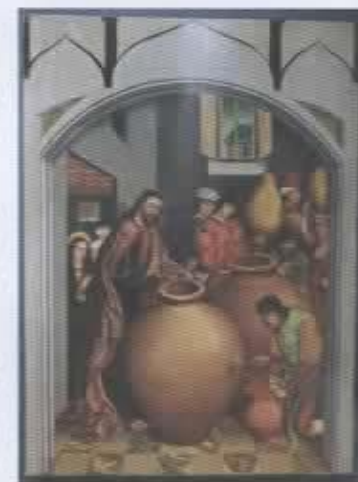
Fr Gerard Hughes SJ, in his classic spiritual book, *The God of Surprises* (DLT, 1985), writes about a retreatant who, as part of an exercise in Ignatian contemplation, prayed about the wedding at Cana:

"Did you see Christ?" I asked. "Yes," he said, "Christ was sitting upright on a straight-backed chair, clothed in a white robe, a staff in his hand, a crown of thorns on his head, looking disapproving." (36)

Faith and fun



Fr Peter Morris
C.Ss.R. reflects on
how we portray Jesus.



17 JULY 2022

16TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK IV

Faith and fun



Fr Peter Morris, C.Ss.R. considers attitudes to work and relaxation.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

One day my family asked me why I was walking so fast. They were visiting me for a long weekend during my time of study in London. I had unwittingly taken on a new pace – that of the rat race – and I was doing so when I was supposed to be relaxed and enjoying their company. My mad dash mainly happened on the London Underground: running up and down escalators, threading through crowds to catch a train. But even when I was above ground I was sprinting across streets to get to my destination as quickly as possible. I didn't realise how crazy it was until the people who knew me best pointed it out. I had bought into a system that kept my heart racing and my mind and body moving from one thing to the next with no opportunity to rest, no time to stop and smell the roses.

The fact that society, with our work ethic, seems to endorse this kind of behaviour seems to me to be a very serious problem. It seems that workaholicism is the socially acceptable addiction.

It may be a good idea to ask ourselves if our work or our busyness contributes to our sense of dignity as a human person. In Pope St John Paul II's encyclical on human work, *Laborem Exercens*, he expressed the goodness of work in this way:

It is not only good in the sense that it is useful or something to enjoy; it is also good as being something worthy, that is to say, something that corresponds to man's dignity, that expresses this dignity and increases it. (9)

There is something wrong going on if, by our work or busy lifestyle, our human life becomes stunted in some way. We are robbing ourselves, or perhaps we are being robbed, of our humanity. Yes, work is supposed to give us a sense of dignity and the knowledge that we are contributing positively in some way to society at large. Yet when work becomes the end in itself our freedom has been diminished.

An aspect of being human is having a life apart from our work. If this gets diminished, we lose parts of our identity and become very one-sided and bland. The wonderful thing about play is that it brings out another part of ourselves that does not necessarily see the light of day elsewhere. It can often bring out our joy, or mirth, as some put it.



Playfulness acts against boredom. And being boring is not the greatest witness to others. St Thomas Aquinas went as far to say that there is something sinful in boring our neighbour or in not bringing pleasure to others. Aquinas suggested that:

Now a man who is without mirth, not only is lacking in playful speech, but is also burdensome to others, since he is deaf to the moderate mirth of others. Consequently they are vicious, and are said to be boorish or rude. (*Summa Theologiae*, II: II, Q.168, art. 4)

Our lack of playfulness can have a negative effect on others. When we neglect our social lives, especially when we allow friendships to fade from our list of priorities, we can become more and more irritable. It can be so tempting to pursue good causes with such enthusiasm that other parts of our lives take second place. What happens in the process is that we can descend into anger and bitterness.

WITNESS TO THE GOOD NEWS

Someone who is boring, who has allowed their work to take over, to overly deplete their energy, who has also become angry and bitter, is not an attractive person at all. Moreover, I would argue that they would not be an adequate witness to the good news of Jesus. As Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Church grows "by attraction" (15). Good evangelists are attractive to others in their lifestyle and way of being.

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Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20-32

PSALM Psalm 137

**RESPONSE On the day I called,
you answered me, O Lord.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes. **R.**

4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal.
discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING Colossians 2:12-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word was made flesh and lived
among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Luke 11:1-13

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
receive mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they
shall see God.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21



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