

**THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK**  
**EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**THE DIGNITY OF SERVICE**

*4 February 2018 – Mass Book Page 134, Psalter Week 1*



The word is out. Jesus is a healer who banishes illness and inner torment. So, the moment the sun has set and strange sabbath rules no longer apply, they come to Him, bringing their sick in droves. It must have been a great evening for everyone. They are witnesses to how healing unbreaks the broken circles of love and restores lives and communities. Yet, in the Gospel, these cures are recorded but they are not embellished in any way. Even the 'demons' are not allowed to speak. If they are heard, Jesus will be misunderstood. He silences the 'demons' because He knows their half-truth is more dangerous than a lie.

The real Mission is unfolding, and Jesus has to stay close to the One who has sent him. He seeks out the desert and prayerful communion with His Abba. Here, he enjoys clarity and sees the right direction He needs to take. Jesus has to choose, and prayer will centre Him for those decisions. He cannot afford to be distracted by 'popularity'. His cures and exorcisms are magnets that draw large crowds. To His 'not yet fully trained disciples', crowds spell success. Fame and reputation are still a big temptation for them. Jesus calls followers but He does not court fans. The message is more important than the miracles. This is why He came. His identity, claimed and reclaimed in prayer, draws Him away from the crowds who seek Him. He must move on. The message, the spiritual revolution must be preached and taught in word and deed.

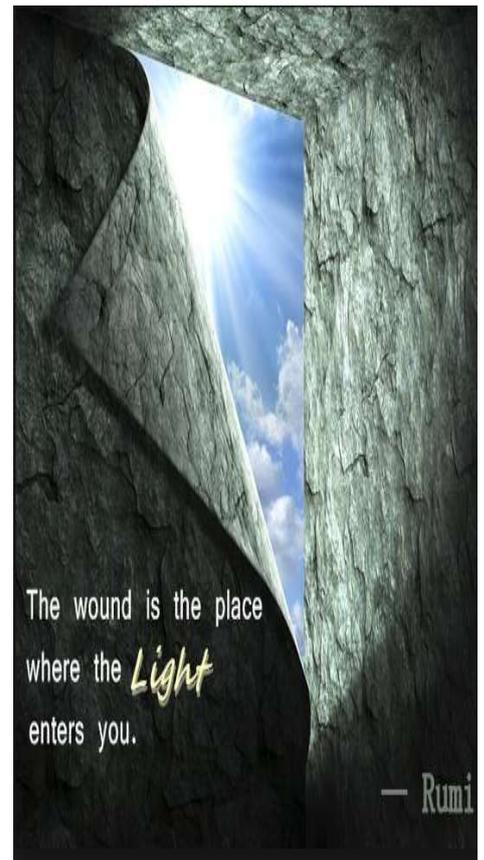
Ram Dass, a spiritual teacher in the Hindu tradition, suffered a severe stroke in 1977. In his wonderful book, 'Still Here: Embracing Aging, Changing and Dying', he wrote, "While cures aim at returning our bodies to what they were in the past, healing uses what is present to move us more deeply into soul awareness, and in some cases, physical improvement. Although I have not been cured of the effects of my stroke, I have certainly undergone profound healings of mind and heart". (p.67). For Ram, it is in the sickness that the healing begins.

And in his poem, 'Fever', John Updike speaks about the inner healing that came from his illness.

I have brought back a good  
message from the land of 102 degrees:  
God exists.

I had seriously doubted this before;  
but the bedposts spoke of it with utmost confidence,  
the thread of my blanket took it for granted. (Collected Poems 1953-1993) p.28

Again, some patients have reported a greater sense of being alive and closer to others when they were sick. This was the case for Fred who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. After an initial period of distress something amazing happened to him. He just stopped doing everything that didn't really matter. His terminally ill life had become vital and peaceful. When the doctor called to tell him they had made a mistake he was shattered. "When I heard this over the phone, I cried like a baby – because I was afraid my life would go back to the way it used to be". (Presence: Human Purpose and the Field of the Future, pp25-26)



This is the challenge the Gospel presents. Cures are a sign of the Kingdom of God. Like illness, they should be received as a gift and both should carry us to the new humanity. This is why Simon's mother-in-law is both cured and healed. The touch of Jesus is a transfusion. His life flows into her life. In loving the person, hidden at the centre of an illness, He lifts her up. The fever leaves and service begins. God's service to her becomes her service of others. This healing reconnects her to the true meaning of her life. The flow of life and love through her intimate communion with God, herself and her community results in the Dignity of Service. And the Gospels are clear that service is not menial work. It is the hallmark of the new humanity that Jesus, the Beloved Son of God came to establish. After all, He Himself came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10.45) What about us?



**CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS - Saturday 24 March 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at St Edmund Campion, 40A Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PY. Trainer Jo Hopkins.

**VULNERABLE ADULTS - Saturday 24 March 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at St Edmund Campion, 40A Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PY. Trainer Jo Hopkins.

To book a place on any of these courses, please email or call Soraya Ciccaraone, PA to Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator & Diocesan Financial Secretary [soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) 023 92 836511 (Direct Dial) / 023 92 816396 / 023 92 836511

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Francis Xavier Casimir, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Ernie Johnson, RIP
Monday	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		

### ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS, Martyrs

Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Marjorie Dineen, RIP
Wednesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Sick and Housebound of our Parish

### ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, RELIGIOUS

Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Victims of Human Trafficking
Friday	9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10am	Mass	Deceased Family Graham & Martha Block

### ST SCHOLASTICA, Virgin

Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Mass	Parish Intention
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### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Mass	World Day of Prayer for Sick & Carers
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Bill Docherty, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Jean Marc and Ted Bouchereau, RIP

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**Tuesday to Thursday:** 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help, 10.15 am Mother's Prayers; **Saturday:** 9.30am Rosary, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary. **Confessions:** every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment.

**Parish Office:** 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE  
Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

**Telephone:** 01344 425729 **Email:** [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)

**Please make cheques payable to (full name):** "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

**Parish Priest:** Fr Daniel McAvoy

**Parish Secretary (Director of Administration):** Elizabeth Fisher

**Pastoral Assistant (Director of Evangelisation):** Mary McNab

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read,

# DID YOU KNOW...?



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – NEW DEADLINE: Midday on Tuesdays**, please email your newsletter item(s) to the parish office [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS** – Would you be willing to gift some of your time to joining one of the below ministries which are so important for the life of our church and parishioners:

**WELCOMING MINISTRY** – Warm and friendly greeting to our parishioners and visitors before the weekend Mass that you attend. A chance to meet other parishioners and help those in need with their visit to Mass.

**OFFERING COLLECTIONS** – During the Mass and 2<sup>nd</sup> offerings at the end of Mass, teams are needed for each of the weekend Masses.

**CONFIRMATION CATECHIST, MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRIES** – Support and guiding those going forward to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

**SOUP & ROLL FRIDAYS – YOU HELP IS URGENTLY REQUIRED** – Can you spare a couple of hours on a Friday mid-morning, either setting up/ cooking/serving or clearing away. Great fun and camaraderie with our parishioners and the school children who join us after Mass. No experience needed other than a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate an easy online course, the cost reimbursed by the parish. Please contact the parish office for further details or to volunteer.

**FLOWER ARRANGING TEAMS** - We would love to welcome anyone who would like to join the team! No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to make our church look beautiful. If you think you would like to help with arranging flowers in church, please contact the Parish Office

**“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS”**



**PARISH DIY SOS** – Are you a qualified building trades person willing to gift time and experience to help with a building project for a local family with a disabled child? The materials will be provided but skilled and experienced people needed to gift their time to complete the build which will enormously improve the life of this disabled child. Please contact the Parish Office email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). Also, if you know anyone who might want to gift their time and skills please pass this information to them.

## RESERVATIONS

**BOOKING OF PARISH HALL AND PARISH ROOMS** – If you wish to use the church hall or parish rooms bookings must be made with the parish office at least 6 to 8 weeks before requested date. Please note the regular events below when making reservations.

**BEWARE: LIGHTING CANDLES** – Adults must accompany all children at the candle trays when lighting candles. Please ensure your children do not play around the candle trays, in the sand or with the lighted candles. Care must be taken reaching across lighted candles wearing loose clothing, etc. It is important to remember that they can be the cause of major fires and serious injury.



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR - FEBRUARY** – 5<sup>th</sup> St Agatha, 6<sup>th</sup> St Paul Miki & Companions, 8<sup>th</sup> St Josephine Bakhita, 10<sup>th</sup> St Scholastica, 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> The Chair of St Peter.

**CAN YOU HELP?** - Are you willing to provide transport for parishioners to parish events during the year? If so, please contact the parish office for further details.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm to 9.30pm in the Church Hall. All are welcome.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am in the hall during term time.

**KEEP FIT** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the hall during term time.

**PRAYER GROUPS** – Evening Group: 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 7.45pm – 9.30pm Hall. Day Group: 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 10.30am – 11.30am Hall.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Every Thursday, during term time, everyone welcome.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass during term time in the hall.

**YOUTH ALPHA** – Every Friday 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the hall.



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1770.83** **THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.** Please make cheques payable to (full name) “PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”. **Gift Aid envelopes and banker's/standing order forms available in the porch.**

**SECOND OFFERING FOR Racial Justice 27/28 January: £234.27, thank you very much.**

**SECOND OFFERINGS - FEBRUARY: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Fast Day (offering envelopes 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>)**



**PARISH CENSUS** - A reminder to complete the parish census either online on [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-census-form.html](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-census-form.html) or a paper copy from the porch. Please return paper copies in an envelope marked “parish office”. A “Parish Database Census Information” sheet is also available to help you and answer some typical queries.

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE – Friday 2 March 2018 at 10.30am in the Methodist Church, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, RG45 6LT followed by refreshments. Please join us, men and children welcome too.**

**We pray for those in our parish community who are sick, housebound or in hospital and for those who care for them.**

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Jadwiga Butcher, Lilijan Rodenburg, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Emma Flavelle, Angelina Ediale, Josephine & Maurice Timms, Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Anna Tighe, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Adrian Sweeney, Derek Alexander, Brenda Lynch, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Denise Rinzivillo, Sally Tarode.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....

**URGENT!** Please respond before **Monday 12 February 2018** to the government's consultation on Relationships Education in primary schools and Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) in secondary schools See <https://www.spuc.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/respond-to-sex-education-consultation>. Also, if you have any experience of pro-life vigils at abortion providers, please respond by **Monday 19 February 2018** to the government survey on this important issue. See <https://www.spuc.org.uk/bufferzonesreview>



**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Everyone is welcome to our choir practice every Thursday in the Church from **7.30pm to 8.30pm** with our wonderful organist John Weeks. Just come along, you will be warmly welcomed. **“To sing is praying twice”.**



**YOUTH ALPHA** - Are you in Year 9 or above and free on Friday evenings to come and hang out with other young people to share food and explore life's **BIG** questions? Join us every **Friday 6:30pm-8:30pm** in the church hall. Bring a friend or two. No pressure. No charge. Register now on the parish website [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)



**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – CORPUS CHRISTI, WOKINGHAM** - Please join us at Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE for the **Life in the Spirit Seminars, every Wednesday from 7 February to 21 March 2018, 8.00pm to 9.30pm**



**SYNAGOGUE VISIT** - Bracknell Forest Faith and Belief Forum organising a visit to the Jewish Synagogue in Maidenhead: Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead SL6 8QX) on **Wednesday 7 February 2018 from 7pm - 8.30pm**. Visitors of all faiths or none are very welcome. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible to register your interest or to arrange a lift.



**CAFOD, The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development** – Need volunteers to help with their work. There are many ways to get involved, please come to one of our **Lent Fast Day** briefings by Thom Flint who is CAFOD's Film and Photography Content Producer on **Thursday 8 February 2018, 7:15pm to 9pm** at English Martyrs Church Reading. For more information and to book your place please call Jo Lewry on 01252 329385 or email [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk)



**the word is LOVE – Friday 9 February 2018 7.45pm- 9.30pm** St Joseph's Church Hall and **Saturday 10 February 2018, 10am** upstairs at the Bull, followed by chocolate heart giveaway. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> gathering for prayer and worship focussed on the new town centre, sharing what has been done to date and looking to the future. Please join us on both days in celebration with Holy Trinity and other Bracknell churches and christians together. Please see the poster on the porch noticeboard.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – Wednesday 14 February 2018, the times of Masses are 12.00 noon and 7.30pm**



**JOURNEY INTO A CONTEMPLATIVE HEART – “FALLING INTO SILENCE” A MASTER CLASS BY DR JAMES FINLEY** - A series of six reflections by Dr James Finley, the first reflection on **Thursday 15 February 2018, 7.30pm to 8.30pm** in the hall. Dr Finley is a brilliant master of the contemplative life, this is a beautiful opportunity to prepare for the holy season of Easter.



**SAVE THE DATE!!! REFRAME** - a *Catholic Voices* initiative. A series of talks every Wednesday during Lent from **7pm-8pm** in the parish hall exploring relevant topics that will help us to share the Church's story in our conversations at work and at home. The first talk on **Wednesday 21 February 2018** is entitled "How to Defend the Faith Without Raising your Voice". More details to follow.



**CAFOD's FAMILY FAST DAY** - Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On **Friday 23 February 2018 FAMILY FAST DAY** can you give up a meal or eat simple meal and then put what you saved in the CAFOD Family Fast Day envelope. This Lent your donation will make the double the difference. For every pound you donate the UK Government will also donate a pound up to total of £5 million meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed. So please give generously and help us raise £5 million. CAFOD donation envelopes will be available in the church porch from weekend **10th/11th February 2018** for returning weekend **24th/25th February 2018**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - Just a couple of quick reminders...We have lots of membership cards waiting to be picked up, so if you've registered online, don't forget to collect your cards from the back of the Church before Mass. Please also remember that we welcome children from the age of 3 until they start their First Holy Communion journey in Year 3. Thank you.



**'ROMERO – HEARTBEAT OF EL SALVADOR'** is a new play by RISE Theatre on **Friday 9 March 2018 at 7pm** —Rise Theatre performing at Holme Grange School, Heathlands Rd, Wokingham RG40 3AL. A challenging and moving production about the life and legacy of this great man of justice, Blessed Oscar Romero and the people of El Salvador. Suitable for adults and children 11+. Admission by ticket only - for your **Free Ticket** please contact Corpus Christi Parish Office on 0118 978 0348 or email [wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). See our Notice Board for further details.



**ENGAGED COUPLE'S BREAKFAST** - Are you getting married 2018 - either a church in our diocese or a church elsewhere or abroad? If you are: CONGRATULATIONS! Bishop Philip invites you and all engaged couples to an Engaged Couples Breakfast on **Saturday 17 March 2018 at 9.15 am (prompt) to 11.45am** in the Cathedral Centre, Catholic Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, PO1 3HG. After breakfast, a chance to meet Bishop Philip. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend this very special event.