

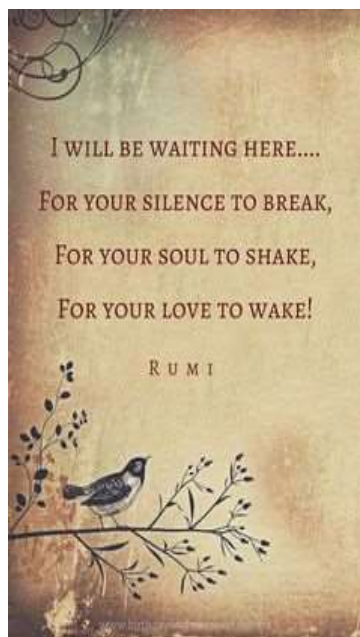
**THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK**  
**EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B**  
***SITTING AT HIS FEET, LISTENING TO HIS WORDS***

***3 December 2017 - Psalter Week 1 – Missal Page 82***



With grateful hearts we bow to St. Matthew as we take leave of him for a while. His absence will be filled by St. Mark who will be our leader and guide as we journey through this new year. St. Mark has much to teach us, and we have much to learn. The Gospel of St. Mark tells the story of Jesus, the Beloved Son of God. All good stories are good when the one telling the story is also listening to it, or telling it to themselves. So please spend time in St. Mark's company this year and, each week, prepare the Text chosen for the Sunday Eucharist in your prayer and reflection.

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. The text chosen for today is high drama. We are commanded to 'Be on our Guard'. Three times the Teacher tells us to 'Stay Awake' in the dark time of uncertainty. The importance of this is underlined by the ending, 'What I say to you I say to all: Stay Awake!' What's all that about then?



St. Mark will be inviting us to listen to the conversations, encounters and teachings of Jesus that communicate spiritual wisdom. All of these are intended to bring the listener from blindness to sight, from deafness to hearing, from lost to found, from sleeping to awaking and from dead to risen. St. Mark wants us to pay close attention to the teaching style of the Master - how he gears what he says to the mindset of his listeners, how he gives them the power to have a breakthrough in understanding.

Jesus, the Teacher, isn't just giving out information. Sitting at His feet, listening to His Word is an encounter with a higher consciousness which is bent on opening whoever is listening to the indwelling Spirit. Everything He says is geared towards the spiritual transformation of His disciples, crowds, religious authorities and individual seekers. To watch Him at work is to grasp the power of the Word made Flesh. Jesus is the embodiment of spiritual wisdom, bursting with grace upon grace and seeking to share its blessings.

Reuven Gold was a modern day sacred story teller and spiritual teacher. Here is one of his stories.

*A very advanced disciple was very distraught and pounded insistently on the door of their teacher's house at midnight. The teacher opened the door. The house was in darkness, but the teacher held a candle in his hand. The disciple blurted out that they were filled with anxiety and had to see the teacher at once. The teacher opened wide the door. The disciple entered, and the teacher closed the door. Then the teacher blew out the candle.*

*Reuven tells the story and waits to hear what sense it makes to those who have heard it. Then in a loud voice he shouts, "Don't worship your emotions!" His eyes widen. He grins then shakes with laughter. I got the story. I could see the disciples' problem. I saw how flashes of light can push away the darkness. It was a momentary shining but not a steady seeing. St. Mark will teach us, if we let him, how to hold the light that never fails.*

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Tony Griffin, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Eileen and Ronnie Killerstein's Intentions
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Kenneth Breadmore, RIP
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Nicholas Powell, RIP

### ST AMBROSE, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Helen Breen O'Grady
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.45am</b>	Exposition	

**12.00noon REQUIEM MASS – John Odell, RIP**

Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.00am</b>	Mass	Sean McAuley, RIP (Foundation)
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### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Mass	Peter Meehan, RIP
Sunday	10 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Mrs McAvoy, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Jose Coelho, 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, **No Confessions on Saturday 9 December 2017**

**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:** Elizabeth Fisher **Pastoral Assistant:** Mary McNab

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read  
**Safeguarding email:** [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW CHURCH**

# 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).



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

**John Odell** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 8 December 2017** at 12.00 noon at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church.

*May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR** – The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 22 December 2017 until Monday 1 January 2018 inclusive.



**SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA** - Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell, 01344 425729; Fr Kevin Bidgood, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot 01344 620591; Fr Marcus Brisley Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst & Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, 01252 876820; Fr David O'Sullivan, Corpus Christi, Wokingham 0118 9780348



**CHURCH SHOP** – We have lovely Church Art 2018 Calendars, 2018 diaries and a selection of beautiful Christmas Cards available in the shop along with other items that would make thoughtful Christmas gifts, all very reasonably priced.



**STREET EVANGELISATION IN BRACKNELL** spreading the Truth of the Church to the world.

To join us or want to find out more, please contact John: [johnrodger1@me.com](mailto:johnrodger1@me.com) or follow this link: <http://streevangelization.com/>



**TOILETRIES NEEDED** - Berkshire Women's Aid runs 9 refuges across Bracknell, Wokingham and Reading for women who have been subjected to domestic violence and their children. There are 2 refuges in Bracknell. Welcome Packs are provided in each room for new families arriving. These packs include shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, single bedding, nappies, children's vests pants and socks (NEW), nighties and pants (NEW). We would like to provide as many Welcome Packs as possible for them this Christmas. Please bring your donations to the Parish Office.

**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 - DECEMBER** – 1<sup>st</sup> St Edmund Campion; 7<sup>th</sup> St Ambrose; 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 13<sup>th</sup> St Lucy; 14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross; 25<sup>th</sup> The Nativity of the Lord; 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen; 27<sup>th</sup> St John; 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents; 29<sup>th</sup> St Thomas of Canterbury; 31<sup>st</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

**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. Last meeting 11 December 2017, resumes 8 January 2018

**KEEP FIT CLUB** – Closed, will resume January 2018.

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

**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. Last meeting 19 December 2017, resumes 2 January 2017

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass **during term time**. **No Soup & Roll on Friday 8 December 2017**

**YOUTH GROUP** – Closed until further notice.



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1429.84 THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.**

Please make cheques payable to (full name) "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph". **Gift Aid envelopes and bankers/standing order forms available in the porch.**



**CAFOD** is part of the DEC Rohingya crisis appeal. You can donate direct to CAFOD at [cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis](http://cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis) or by calling 08085 858885



**WORLD GIFTS** – Catalogue of special world gifts through which our refugee neighbours can continue to feel the warmth of our love including **Emergency Shelter** and **Help a Refugee Child**. Pick up your catalogue from the porch or the hall.

**We pray for the Sick and Housebound of our Community and for those who care for them.**

### Sick and Housebound:

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Jadwiga Butcher, Lilijan Rodenburg, Josephine Timms, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Emma Flavelle, Angelina Ediale, Maurice Timms

### Those who are unwell or in hospital:

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.

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION - ADMISSIONS CAP – Bishop Philip writes:** Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.



*The Catenians*

**BRACKNELL FOREST CATENIANS** - Evening of Christmas carols and readings at The Hilton Hotel, Bracknell on **Tuesday 5 December 2017** 7.00pm for 7.30pm. A 3-course meal with readings and carols throughout the evening. Cost is £25 per person, all are welcome, to book your meal call Richard Taylor on 01344 566956.



**ADVENT CAROLS IN LEXICON – Wednesday 6 December 2017**, 6.00pm – 8.00pm. 'We are the Fair' will be singing carols in the Lexicon, Christmas Tree between Waitrose and Marks & Spencer's. If you are a singer who can read music and would like to be part of this choir please contact Fr Jim Barlow of Holy Trinity Church on [barjimlow@googlemail.com](mailto:barjimlow@googlemail.com). All are welcome to come, join in and enjoy this beautiful event.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN LEXICON – Wednesday 20 December 2017**, 6.00pm – 8.00pm. 'We are the Fair' will be singing carols in the Lexicon, Christmas Tree between Waitrose and Marks & Spencer's. An open invitation for everyone to join in with the carol singing and uplifting start to Christmas.



**JOINT TOWN CENTRE MISSION GIVEAWAY Saturday 9 December 2017**, prayers at The Bull 9.00am, 10.00am - 12.00 noon Giveaway.



**TODDLER-TIVITY** – Christmas Celebration for families of under 5's. Christmas story told with puppets, music, carols, ribbons, instruments, Christmas crafts and refreshments on **Monday 11 and Monday 18 December 2017**, 9.45am AND 11.00am in the parish hall, cost per family £1. Please see the poster in the porch.



**PENITENTIAL SERVICES** – For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area are:

**Tuesday 12 December 2017**, 7.30pm at St Francis of Assisi, Ascot SL5 9HG;  
**Thursday 14 December 2017**, 7.30pm at Holy Ghost, Crowthorne RG45 6JG;  
**Thursday 21 December 2017**, 7.00pm at Corpus Christi, Wokingham RG40 2HE



**ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT CAROL SERVICE** - Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Thursday 14th December 2017** at 6.00pm for a Carol Concert outside the Church, town centre. Please come to support our children and join in with the beautiful carols. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after the service.



**A GOLDEN CHRISTMAS THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 16 December 2017** at 7.30pm. Exactly fifty years to the evening that New Thames Singers (now Thames Voyces) presented their first concert, Thames Voyces invite the whole family to join them at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church for a carol concert. It will include the usual mixture of Christmas readings and well-known carols for choir and audience. The choir will be conducted by their current Musical Director, Nick Austin. This is the choir's 3<sup>rd</sup> year of performing at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church and they very much hope that the parishioners will join again this year following the 6.00pm Mass. Tickets £12/£10 (concession) or free for Under 16's, buy on the door or telephone 0118 9677319. Wine and mince pies will be served at the interval.



**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – CORPUS CHRISTI, WOKINGHAM - Pope Francis said:** 'This current of grace (the Charismatic Renewal) is for all the Church, not just for some... Share with all in the Church the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.' (June 2017 – Pentecost Mass in Rome). 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



### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

**Saturday 23 December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 24 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
**8.30am Mass & 10.30am Mass**  
**Sunday 24 December: 5.00pm Children's Mass**  
**Sunday 24 December: 11.30pm Carol Service**  
**Sunday 24 December: 12.00 Midnight Mass**  
**Monday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass**  
**Tuesday 26 December to Saturday 30 December:**  
**12.00 noon Mass each day**  
**Saturday 30 December: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 31 December: 8.30am and 10.30am**  
**Monday 1 January 2018: 12.00 noon Mass**