

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK
EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
THE GIFT OF WISDOM

7 January 2018 – Mass Book Vigil Page 115, Day Page 118, Psalter Week 1



When we pray with the Gospels, and listen with our hearts to the story of Jesus, it's pretty clear that Simeon's prophecy came true. Jesus was accepted by some and rejected by others. But the great surprise for the infant church was His acceptance by people who were not Jews. For them, this was God's work. In the story of the Magi, heaven and earth come together: heaven in the form of a star and earth in the first breaths of the Beloved Son of God. Those who ponder this text are left in no doubt that God is the author of the life of Jesus and through Him God speaks to all of humanity.

As always, the rejection of Jesus is violent and evil. The news of his arrival causes fear in the hearts of those who have been faithfully unfaithful to their religious heritage. Jesus is a clear threat to their position and power. They have corrupted the faith they pledged to protect; when true faith arrives, they will be exposed. The birth of the New King means only one thing to them - He must be killed. Herod has murder on his mind, but he is no match for God. He stands in the Gospel as an example of all those who say pious and respectable things but only have treachery in their hearts.

In contrast to these idiots, the Wise Ones' hearts are only filled with joy. When the star halts over the stable, heaven and earth are one. They are joined, symmetrical and balanced. And they have found the One who is the fulfilment of their life's longing. The gifts they bring make it clear that they understand who they bow to adore. Gold, for his ordinary needs. Frankincense to honour his divinity. Myrrh for his saving death. What Herod tried to kill, the Wise Ones accept and worship. This is truly a story which celebrates the manifestation of the divinity of Christ to the Gentiles. Herod and his allies take a back seat so that this may be clearly seen.

The story then becomes an occasion for the giving a receiving of gifts. Christ Himself is the present. But now, Gift giving is the way that the invisible becomes visible. And at Christmas Time this is spiritual activity of the highest order. Why? Because it is our attempt to communicate our spirit to someone we care for, in such a way, that our spirit flows into them and they become stronger by our presence. When the gift symbolises a flow of Love, it is the perfect gift, no matter what is inside the wrapping paper. The gifts of the Wise Ones have always been seen as the perfect gifts. On the one hand it shows that they know who Jesus is, they are not fooled by outward trappings and they have truly discerned the inner identity and mission of the child. On the other hand, the gifts reveal the hearts of the ones who give them. The gifts are perfect because they reveal two hearts. The perfect gift is one that carries one heart to another.



One of my favourite stories is O'Henry's 'Gift of the Magi'. It is the story of Jim and Della. They are poor but each have a possession. Della has long, beautiful hair and Jim has the watch. As Christmas approaches, Della cuts her hair and sells it and buys Jim a platinum fob chain for his watch. When she gives it to him, he reveals that he has sold his watch to buy her a set of pure tortoise shell combs for her hair! They fall in the sofa laughing. O'Henry says, "Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are the wisest". Jim and Della are wise because although their gifts are now completely useless, they have done their job and carried them into each other's hearts. The gift has strengthened their relationship, assuring them that they know and are known, love and are loved. Oh, to be so Wise!

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – YEAR B

Saturday	6 th	6.00pm	Mass	Anna Maria Johnson, RIP
Sunday	7 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	Camba Family - Thanksgiving
Monday	8 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	9 th	9.30am	Mass	Elaine Eccles
Wednesday	10 th	9.30am	Mass	Arlette Ryan
Thursday	11 th	9.30am	Mass	People of the Republic of Congo
Friday	12 th	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10am	Mass	People of Bamenda
Saturday	13 th	10.00am	Mass	Hannah O'Grady, RIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday	13 th	6.00pm	Mass	Day of Prayer for Peace
Sunday	14 th	8.30am	Mass	Emily McLellan, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

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, 1st 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:** stj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: 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

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.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS – Why not make your New Year's resolution to be a volunteer for the important ministries serving the parish and Jesus:

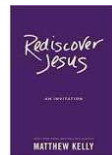
Welcoming Ministry – Warm and friendly greeting to our parishioners and visitors before the weekend Mass that you attend, handing out Mass Books and Hymn Books, newsletters and/or flyers, ensuring enough Eucharistic Ministers and Readers are available for the Mass using the rota, answering any queries parishioners/visitors may have. After Mass, collecting the Mass Books and Hymn Books and stacking onto the book trolley.

Offering Collections – Collect the baskets from the small table at the front of the Church (after Hail Mary), pass the baskets along the pews and chairs, empty all baskets into one and take to the altar with the bread and wine procession. For second offerings, before end of Mass, collect 2 baskets and stand in the porch by the door.

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.



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



"REDISCOVER JESUS" - Bishop Philip has sent a Christmas gift of Matthew Kelly's brilliant book **REDISCOVER JESUS** to every parishioner in the diocese, please collect your free copy from the porch. Have you ever had a Christmas where you felt like you were really prepared? Where you walked into Christmas Mass and you felt focused and peaceful and ready? We prepare for everything we consider important in life and Advent is the time we prepare for Christmas. For many people, preparing for Christmas includes shopping, cooking, wrapping presents, hanging decorations, etc. Often these activities are stressful, chaotic and they easily become a distraction from what Christmas is really all about.

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 - JANUARY – 1st Mary, Holy Mother of God, 2nd Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, 7th The Epiphany of the Lord, 8th The Baptism of the Lord, 12th St Aelred, 13th St Hilary, 17th St Anthony of Egypt, 19th St Wulstan, 20th St Fabian & St Sebastian, 22nd St Vincent, 24th St Francis de Sales, 25th The Conversation of St Paul, 26th St Timothy & St Titus, 27th St Angela Merici, 31st St John Bosco.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – Every 2nd and 4th Mondays 7.45pm to 9.30pm in the **Church Hall**. All are welcome. Resumes **Monday 8 January 2018**

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

TODDLER GROUP – Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am in the hall resumes **9 January 2018**

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

SOUP & ROLL – Every Friday after Mass **during term time**. Last soup & roll Friday 15 December, resumes **Friday 12 January 2018**.

YOUTH GROUP – Closed until further notice.



MASS OFFERINGS: £1711.57 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.**

SECOND OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY: 14th Peace Sunday; 20th/21st The Cathedral; 27th/28th Racial Justice



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



SVP – Turning Concern into Action – Are you lonely, hungry, cold, homeless? Know somebody who is? Please contact our parish SVP Group on 07731 862 349.

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, Eddie Moore, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Eddie Moore, Mike Daniel, Denise Rinzivillo,

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY – Baby Peter Oheneba Wireko who is being baptised on **Saturday 13 January 2018** at 12.30pm. Please pray for Peter and his parents Fritz and Rebecca.



PEACE SUNDAY - 14 JANUARY 2018: “The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice”. Pax Christi second offering envelopes will be available in the porch at all Masses this weekend **6th/7th January 2018**. Please take a Pax Christi envelope this weekend and return it next weekend **13th/14th January 2018**.



SENIOR CITIZEN'S EPIPHANY PARTY – **Sunday 14 January 2018** in the hall after 10.30am Mass. Please return your completed invitation slip to the parish office as soon as possible to be included on the guest list.



CAFOD, The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development - Are currently looking for volunteers to help them in their work. There are many ways to get involved such as in local schools, in your Parish, or raising issues with your MP. To find out more about our work please come to one of our **Lent Fast Day** briefings by Thom Flint who is CAFOD's Film and Photography Content Producer about his recent visit to Zimbabwe which is the focus country for Lent. Briefing dates and venues are: **Saturday 27 January 2018**, 10am to 12pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Fordingbridge, or **Tuesday 30 January 2018**, 7:15pm to 9:15pm at Sacred Heart Church Fareham, or **Saturday 3 February 2018**, 10:30am to 1pm at St Bede's Church Basingstoke, or **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



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING COURSES 2018:

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT - **Saturday 20 January 2018**, 10am to 12.30pm at Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon, 1 Radley Road, Abingdon OX14 3PL. Trainer – Val Croughan

COMBINED REFRESHER TRAINING COURSE - **Saturday 20 January 2018**, 1.30pm to 4.00pm at Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon Church, 1 Radley Road, Abingdon OX14 3PL. Trainer Val Croughan

VULNERABLE ADULTS - **Saturday 27 January 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at the Immaculate Conception Church, 63/67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS.

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



**Alton Day
Of Renewal**

ADORE (Alton Day Of REnewal) – **Saturday 27 January 2018** 11.00-4.00

You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on Renewal and Mission. At Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG. 11.00am *Rosary*; 11.30am *Mass*; 12.15 *Adoration* of the Blessed Sacrament; 1.00pm Shared lunch; 2.00pm *Praise & Worship*; 2.30 *Talk* “The Good News of Jesus Christ” by Charles Whitehead; 3.30 *Prayer for healing*. We end about 4pm.

There is no need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs). For more information and directions, see poster or website: www.altonrenewal.com

Or telephone Deacon John Foley on 07769 251747.

Next month's meeting is on 24th February: “The Spirit has anointed me” - guest speaker Fr Anthony Meredith



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**