

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

THE LIGHT THAT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

12 November 2017 - Psalter Week 4 – Missal Page 152

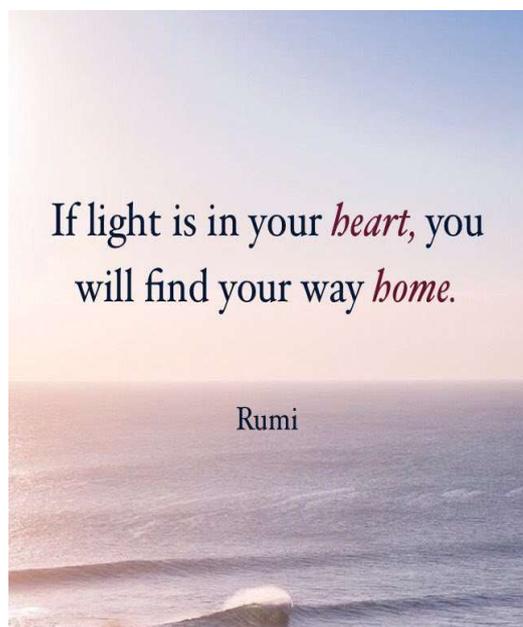


It's turning colder and the days are getting shorter. It's great to be able to flick a switch to push the darkness and the cold away. We live in blessed times! But how do we switch on to the teaching of Jesus, especially when we sit with Parables like the one given for this Sunday?

The Kingdom of Heaven is first, a new way of seeing reality and a new way of living in that new reality. Disciples must be transformed away from the ordinary and have the courage to act in the world in an extraordinary way. This is not easy. Saint Paul, writing to the new community in Corinth (2:5,17) said that 'anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.' Today's Parable explores this theme but highlights the danger of missing the main event.

From the outset the Parable is strange. Usually only one person awaits the bridegroom - the bride. But here we have ten. The bridegroom is obviously Christ but who are these others who are separated as wise or foolish? The call goes out that in the darkest moment the bridegroom has arrived. Lamps must be lit so He can recognise the faces of those who are waiting for Him. But lamps don't work without oil. The foolish have none, and the wise seem to be really selfish when they tell them to 'go and buy some for yourself'. The truth about the oil is that we have to have our own. Each of us must listen to the teaching of the Christ and make it our own. We cannot fly on the ticket of anyone else. Each person's lamp must produce its own wattage.

In the writings of the early Christians, Isaac of Nineveh wrote, " There is a Love like a small lamp, fed by oil, which goes out when the oil is ended; or like a rain-fed stream which goes dry, when rain no longer feeds it. But there is a love, like a spring gushing from the earth, never to be exhausted". The wise virgins are in touch with this river. So their oil is continuously replenished and not consumed. The foolish have not found it yet. They live by buying and selling. They keep looking outside of themselves for what can only be found within. Worse still, right to the end, the foolish think that it is Jesus, implored as Lord, who will open the door for them. They have not understood that the Kingdom of God has been given to them and they can only open the door by themselves. It is the lamp of their new vision and the oil of Love which will open the door. The Parable insists that must grow up, stand on our own feet and do the will of the Father for ourselves. Even the disciples who claim to have healed, prophesied and cast out devils 'in Jesus name' (Matt,7:21-23) are told it is not enough. The Parable concludes with a caution that we must stay awake to this truth. Every breath we take is the day or the hour when He might come.



Gandhi once said, "My life is my message". St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel, but use words only when necessary". The last words of Buddha to his followers was, " Be a light unto yourself". Martin Luther cautioned, "You are going to die alone, you better believe alone". Silesius asked, "What good if Gabriel hails the virgin and does not hail me?" This is the delicate balance needed to be a disciple of Jesus. On the one hand we proclaim from the heart that "He is Lord", yet worshipping Him from afar with extravagant praise and petition is not enough.

We cannot ride Him as if he was a horse. He must be invited to take up residence in our hearts. Allowed to build us up from the inside. To confirm us a beloved daughters and sons of God and as sisters and brothers all who really, really care for each other. This is how the Divine pleasure flows through us. Perhaps that is why Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians, "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ living in me". (Gal:2,20). The Parable of the Ten Virgins alerts us to the situation where we might know everything about Him, except the

one thing necessary. But if we awaken to the truth. If we take His Truth to heart. The door opens. We are like a person locked in a room, calling to be freed, who realises we had the key all the time.

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	11 th	6.00pm	Mass	Robert Buchanan, RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	All Who Are Homeless
Monday	13 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	14th	12.00noon REQUIEM MASS – Robbie McDonald, RIP		
Wednesday	15 th	9.30am	Mass	Peggy Pendergast

ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, Bishop

Thursday	16 th	9.30am	Mass	Eileen & Lance Perkins, Thanksgiving
Friday	17 th	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	Jim Grey
Saturday	18 th	10.00am	Mass	Bereaved of the Parish

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	18 th	6.00pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	19 th	8.30am	Mass	James & Johanna Moriarty, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Christopher Jose

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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 by 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:** "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: Robbie McDonald** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Tuesday 14 November 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. Am*



**WELCOME** – To Fr Richard Maniak who will celebrate our 10.30am Mass on **Sunday 12 November 2017** while Fr Danny attends the Cenotaph Service in the town centre.



**OPEN MORNINGS** - St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School Open Mornings for prospective parents to tour the school 10.30am to 12.00 noon: **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017** and **Tuesday 9 January 2018**. For more information visit their website <http://stmargaretclitherowbracknell.co.uk/>



**STREET EVANGELISATION IN BRACKNELL** spreading the Truth of the Church to the world. If you'd like to join us or want to find out more, please contact John: [johnrodger1@me.com](mailto:johnrodger1@me.com) or follow this link: <http://streetevangelization.com/>



**BRACKNELL HOMELESS NIGHTSHELTER – PART TIME MANAGER** – Required to supervise the shelter overnight for 2 nights per week. This is a paid post for the four months the night shelter it will be open commencing **Saturday 2 December 2017**. To join the team and help the poorest people in our community contact Elaine Chalmers Brown, Director, Pilgrim hearts Trust tel 01344 307040 [pilgrim.hearts@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrim.hearts@gmail.com)

**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 - NOVEMBER** – 1<sup>st</sup> **ALL SAINTS (Holy Day of Obligation)**; 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls; 4<sup>th</sup> St Charles Borromeo; 9<sup>th</sup> The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; 10<sup>th</sup> St Leo the Great; 11<sup>th</sup> St Martin of Tours; 14<sup>th</sup> Blessed Hugh Cook Faringdon & John Eynon & John Ruge; 16<sup>th</sup> St Edmund of Abingdon; 21<sup>st</sup> The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 22<sup>nd</sup> St Cecilia; 24<sup>th</sup> St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions; 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew

**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.

**KEEP FIT CLUB** – Every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in the Hall.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am in the hall during term time. Spaces available. **No Toddler Group on Tuesday 14 November 2017**

**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.

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

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



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1642.85. THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.**

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

**SECOND OFFERINGS BAMEANDA SUNDAY: £972.91, THANK YOU FOR YOUR OVERWHELMING RESPONSE.**



**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.



**CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK** – 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> November. Gifts in your Will are a very valuable and lasting way you can continue to support the Church's ministry and mission and help meet the needs of future generations. Do please consider gifts to the Church and Catholic charities next time you update your Will. For more information pick up a leaflet from the church porch; contact Your Catholic Legacy on 020 7095 5370; go to [www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk](http://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk)

**DIVINE CHAPLET – Sunday 19 November 2017 at 2.30pm at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church**

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, Adrian Sweeney, 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

**Those who are unwell or in hospital:**

Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Nicholas Powell, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Anna Tighe, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Maurice Timms

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION "ARE YOU READY?"** – For those of you who have put your child's name forward to begin the First Holy Communion journey, in due course you will be receiving a letter by email from Fr Danny outlining the next steps in the process.



**'WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF FAITH IN MODERN BRITAIN?'** - Bracknell Forest Faith & Belief Forum invite you to 'Celebrate Interfaith Week 2017' on **Tuesday 14 November 2017** from 7pm - 9pm at Coopers Hill Youth and Community Centre, Crowthorne Road North, off Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 7QS. To attend this event please contact [kate.eatwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.eatwell@hotmail.co.uk)



**PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE** - There will be a Prayer and Pastoral Care meeting on **Wednesday 15 November 2017** from 7pm to 8pm. Those who visit in the parish are particularly welcome to come and pray for those in our parish community in need of our love and support and to explore ways of supporting them.



**COUPLES FOR CHRIST** - Is a private international association of the lay faithful recognised by the Holy See (Vatican) with renewal programmes for the strengthening of Christian family life in all sectors of the family (kids, youth, singles, women, men, couples). David and Vivian Sinclair will share about this Catholic community and movement during the Homily at all Masses on **Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 November 2017** and will be available in the porch for discussion. If there is sufficient interest a series of talks and discussions can be held in the new year. David and Vivian Sinclair 07792 824785 / 07972 288207.



**SPECIAL MASS FOR THE BEREAVED** – A very special and beautiful Mass for the bereaved of the parish and bereaved relatives of our parishioners on **Saturday 18 November 2017** at 10.00am. Refreshments available in the hall after Mass courtesy of the Bereavement Support Group. Everyone is welcome.

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Saturday 18th November 2017, Refresher Training** – 10.00am – 12.30pm; The Holy Trinity, Bowenhurst Road, Church Crookham, GU51 3ST (Trainer – Sue Smy). Reservations please contact Soraya Ciccicone, tel: (Direct Dial) 023 92 836511/023 92 816396/023 92 825430 [soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**FRUITFUL DISCIPLESHIP IN OUR DIOCESE** - At Winchester Parish Centre, **Saturday 18th November 2017** 9.30am – 5pm. For all keen to know and serve the Lord more deeply, be an active disciple in community. Bishop Philip will be hosting the day and giving a talk at the start and end. Talks by Katherine Coolidge (global head of Called and Gifted) on Fruitful Discipleship and developing personal relationship with the Lord. A number of testimonies from parishioners and parishes doing wonderful work in serving others.



**WORLD DAY OF THE POOR** - At the end of the Year of Mercy in November last year, Pope Francis in his message *Misericordia et Misera* instituted a 'World Day of the Poor' to be the 33th Sunday in Ordinary Time, which this year is **Sunday 19 November 2017**. The Holy Father urges parishes and all Christian communities "make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance" with the poor.



**CAFOD MEMORIAL MASS** - Mass of Remembrance for all those CAFOD supporters, family and friends who have passed away will be held on **Sunday 19th November 2017** at 10am at St Michael & All Angels Church Leigh Park. Everyone is welcome



**KERYGMA RETREAT** – At Winchester Parish Centre, **Sunday 19th November 2017** 12noon-6pm. This is a day that allows you to see, hear and respond to the story that Pope Francis reminds us we must hear and respond to "over and over" – the kerygma, the Great Story of Jesus. This is a reflective day, utilising the spoken word, art, quiet reflection and discussion.



**TRAINING ON FAITH SHARING WITH OTHERS IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND THE PARISH** - St. Bede's Basingstoke, **Monday 20th November 2017** 9.30am – 5pm. For those who would like training in having conversations with those not yet active Catholics. Sharing your own story and Jesus's story with others, ie, family, friends, workplace, people in the parish. No particular background, but be a person who wants to share your faith. Also running the Kerygma Retreat in your parish.



**BRACKNELL CHORAL SOCIETY'S AUTUMN CONCERT** - **Saturday 25 November 2017 at 7.30pm** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church a flavour of the coming festive season. The programme includes Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. We will be singing Britten's lively and dramatic cantata *St Nicolas*, telling the story of the saint who became the model for Santa Claus. The choir is led by Greg Hallam, our professional musical director with professional orchestra and soloists, the Senesino Players, Robin Bailey (tenor) and Gwenllian Llyr (harp). Choristers from Worcester College, Oxford will join us for *Ceremony of Carols* and *St Nicolas*, in which the audience also has the opportunity to sing two glorious hymns. Tickets are £15 (accompanied under -18's free) and available from [tickets@bracknellchoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@bracknellchoral.org.uk) or at the door. Wine and soft drinks will be served in the interval for a small donation. **PLEASE NOTE, THERE WILL BE NO 6.00pm MASS ON SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER.**



**'STORY AND SONG'** at Coffee Republic, Bracknell on Tuesday 28 November 2017, 8.00pm-10.00pm Chris Trim from 'Vineyard', playing his own compositions and talks about his journey of faith especially for 20-40 year olds and those on edge of church life or unchurched. Tickets available from [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), search 'Story and Song', please see the flyer in the porch.



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 & Spencers. 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 listen 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 & Spencers. An open invitation for everyone to join in with the carol singing and uplifting start to Christmas.



**A GOLDEN CHRISTMAS. THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 16 December** 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 family 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 16s. Wine and mince pies will be served at the interval.