

# THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW

## THE CONTEMPLATIVE HEART

### THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

27 October 2019 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 155 - Psalter Week 2

Last week, we started a reflection on what a contemplative life looks like. In Luke's Gospel, it is clear that the prayers we pray, however we pray them, are the powerhouse from which we draw strength to transform the face of the earth by committing ourselves to the works of Justice and Peace.

This week, the teaching takes us a little bit deeper. Luke begins by identifying the 'audience' for the Parable which is coming. They are people whose relationship with God and others has become split and twisted. Instead of coming to God as the source, the wellspring, they only trust themselves. This mistake earns them the title 'self-righteous'. Worse still, over focusing on ego unfolds into contempt for others. The self-righteous can't get through life without looking down their noses at others. This is how they elevate and inflate their sense of themselves. The end result is a complete breakdown of the Love which builds community. The self-righteous have no genuine gratitude to God for the gift of life and have no genuine connection with their sisters and brothers. This Parable unmasks them and offers a better way.

Two ways of praying are contrasted. The stand-alone Pharisee displays snobbery and isolation. An attitude that will permeate his brief but revealing prayer. Although he begins by thanking God, this is mere politeness. He proceeds to blatant self-promotion rather than a true understanding of why he should be grateful. His true appreciation is for his imagined superiority to others which makes him 'different' from everyone else. As it turns out, he isn't speaking to God at all. The pronoun 'I' is used four times. He is the only centre of his prayer. As he rolls out his virtues for inspection he gives away his tendency to perfectionism. Here is a man who goes above and beyond the call of duty. As proof, he sneers at the tax collector, who is the real focus of his prayer. All he succeeded in doing was pushing God away.

The tax collector is the polar opposite of the Pharisee. He stands humbly. He has no achievements with which to boast. He bows in reverence as he asks for mercy for his failings. He can breathe the mercy of God with the same breath that he confesses his sins. He takes note of no one else. He is simply open to the gift that is coming.


In conclusion to the story of two men at prayer, Jesus offers a teaching. To everyone's surprise, the Pharisee got it wrong and the tax collector got it right. The Pharisee built a dam which blocked the flow of grace. The tax collector simply opened the door of his heart. Genuine prayer arises from an awareness that everything is a gift from God; gifts which are given to build up the communion of love. This double sensitivity unites us with all who are lost and all who have lost their way which is, of course, everyone. The need for and the openness to mercy is the foundation stone on which the new community will be built. Paradoxically this is what begins the process of exaltation. God's Grace flows into the hearts of all who call to Him, exalting them into a community bound together by a common gift and a common quest for Justice.

Thomas Merton saw and embraced this bond of humanity in a moment of grace. He wrote, " In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the centre of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realisation that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I was theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation. This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud. And I suppose my happiness could have taken form in the words: 'Thank God, thank God that I am like other people, that I am a person among people'. It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race, though it is a race dedicated to many absurdities and one which makes terrible mistakes; yet, with all that, God Himself glorified in becoming a member of the human race. A member of the human race!" (*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* [New York, Doubleday, 1966] 156-7)

Merton's insight into our bittersweet truth leaves no room for praying like a Pharisee. God cannot resist giving us the gift of mercy, or resist filling the empty cup. Sacred, unconditional love is unleashed in the very moment we give up the pretence of self-reliance. Teresa of Avila, that amazing contemplative, expressed it like this. "Humility is the Queen without whom none can checkmate the Divine King". That's worth consideration. (*Karen Speerstra, Divine Sparks* [Sandpoint, ID: Morning Light Press, 2005] 206)



# DID YOU KNOW...?

 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Midday on Tuesdays**, please email the item text you need to make known to the parish via the newsletter to [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PASTORAL CARE/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT CONTACT MOBILE NUMBER** - Our Pastoral Care team and Bereavement Support Group, offers support and home visits to the sick, the housebound, the lonely and the bereaved. We will visit you at home with Holy Communion if required. If you, a relative or friend who lives in our parish would like a home visit or to meet for a chat please email [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care) or 07376 790 256 (Bereavement Support).



**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (the SVP)** - Provides practical help and support whenever possible for those who need it. Are you lonely? Are you in need of help of any kind? or do you know someone who is? If so, contact the SVP on 07731862349 to arrange a visit. All calls are completely confidential.

**WANTED: CHEST OF DRAWERS FOR A FAMILY IN NEED** If you can help please contact the SVP on 07731 862 349



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR – October:** 28<sup>th</sup> Ss Simon & Jude; 30<sup>th</sup> Blessed Winchester Martyrs. **November:** 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints; 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls; 9<sup>th</sup> Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday; 11<sup>th</sup> St Martin of Tours; 12<sup>th</sup> St Josaphat; 16<sup>th</sup> St Edmund of Abingdon; 18<sup>th</sup> Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul, Rome; 21<sup>st</sup> The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 22<sup>nd</sup> St Cecilia; 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew

**PARISH REGISTER – Have you registered you and/or your family on the parish register yet? If not, please go to the website [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org) drop down “Parish Life” and click on “Parish Registration”, this is a secure database and very important for our parish and parishioners.**



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1789.39**  
**SECOND OFFERINGS FOR NOVEMBER: 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> BAMENDA**

**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.

Please complete and return all forms to the parish office.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm-9:30pm. Please contact the parish office for venue details.

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP** – Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am during term time in the hall. **PLEASE NOTE: NO BABY & TODDLER GROUP ON 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER DUE TO HALF TERM**

**KEEP FIT** – Tuesdays 2pm in the hall.

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

*Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”*

**RCIA** – Thursdays 7:30pm-9pm in the hall.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Thursdays 7:30pm-8:30pm in the church. All are welcome.

**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING:** Every last Friday in the month at 12.10pm Mass, refreshments after Mass in the hall.

**Car park reserved for persons with limited mobility.**

*Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”*

**TEAS & COFFEES** – After all weekend Masses

**OFS – Saturday 16 November 2019** at 2pm-4pm in the hall.



**BERKSHIRE CREDIT UNION CONTACT POINTS AND DATES:** Come along and have a chat with a trained volunteer at one of the locations points:

**Mondays 10am – 12pm:** St Paul’s Church, The Square, Ralphs Ride, RG12 9LP **AND** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

**Tuesdays 10am – 12pm:** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

**Wednesdays 2.15pm: 4.15pm:** Crown Wood School, Opladen Way, Bracknell RG12 0PE

**Thursdays 10am – 12pm:** Holy Trinity Church, The Langley Hall, The Ring, Bracknell RG12 1HD **AND 1.30pm – 3.30pm Walk-In Café, Gt Hollands Square.**

**Fridays 10am – 12pm:** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, RG12 1BE

**Visit Berkshire Credit Union at <https://www.cslberks.org.uk>**



## SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

**Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy**, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, Bracknell, RG12 1BE Tel: 01344 425729

**Fr Kevin Bidgood**, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot, SL5 9HG Tel: 01344 620591

**Fr Marcus Brisley** Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS and Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, RG45 6JG, Tel: 01252 876820

**Fr Simon Thomson**, Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE Tel: 0118 9780348

## 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, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Derek Alexander, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Doreen Gladwin, Manuela Maria Barros, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D’Souza, Donal Hanley, Jacquie Rawstron, Jim and Francis McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Brenda Hook, Simon Brennan, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Pauline McShane, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker and Vilma Taborda

If you would like to add a name to this list with consent, or if you want a name removed, please contact the Parish Office.

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



**NIGHT SHELTER** – A huge thank you for the generous donations we have received for Night Shelter camp beds. We have already raised enough for our initial requirement of 12 beds and if we have any money left, we will make sure it is used to buy more beds or to help us run the Night Shelter this year.

**THE LIFE HOUSE** needs a volunteer to tend the small garden and a Bracknell resident with a vehicle who could take some heavy things to the Longshot Lane Refuse Centre. Please contact the parish office on 01344 425729 if you can help.



**FRIDAY SOUP & ROLL:** As the weather is turning cold, we would like to serve soup, roll, tea and cake in the hall after 12.10pm Friday Mass during the winter months. We need **cooks to make soup and simple cakes**. Cooking requires a level 2 food hygiene cert which can be completed easily online and will be funded by the parish. Please contact the parish office or email [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care).



Join our joyful singing group as we reach out to the residents in our local care homes with fun singalongs throughout the year! If you're musically minded and play an instrument or if you just love singing, this could be your opportunity to serve our parish and our community, bringing people much needed moments of joy and happiness. Email [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) if you'd like to find out more.



St Margaret Clitherow School **FIREWORKS NIGHT** will take place on **Friday 8 November**. Please come and join us for our annual Fireworks display. Gates open at 6:30pm, Fireworks at 7:30pm. Tickets will be sold at the gate or online at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/smc-fireworks-night-tickets-75281409723](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/smc-fireworks-night-tickets-75281409723)



**DEMENTIA FORUM** – If you'd like to hear about how Carers are supported in Bracknell Forest, come along to our Dementia Forum and hear from Bracknell Forest Council, Bracknell Memory Clinic and supporting organisations. The forum is open to anyone. A free lunch is provided. Date: **Friday 1 November 2019** 11:30am-2:30pm Easthampstead Baptist Church, Bracknell, RG12 7NS Contact Karen White on 01344 823220 to book your place.(Book early as places are limited!)



**YOUTH SUNDAY** Weekend 23rd/24th Nov - The Diocesan Youth Mission Team are running a number of events for our young people aged 14-17 and also our young adults 18-35, to help celebrate this year's national Youth Sunday. Look out for the flyers at the back of the church. To register your interest and for further information please contact [youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**ABLAZE!** (age +13) - Next meeting - Friday, 8th November in the Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm.  
**IGNITE!** (age 10-12) - Next meeting - Friday, 15th November in the Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm.

New to either of our youth groups? Want to make some new friends and have some fun? Register on our Parish website and just come along. We look forward to welcoming you!



**SPECIAL MASS FOR THE BEREAVED** – A very special and beautiful Mass in remembrance of those who have died and their bereaved relatives and friends, will be celebrated on Saturday 16 November at 10am. Refreshments will be available in the hall after Mass courtesy of the Bereavement Support Group. Everyone is welcome.



**WORLD DAY OF THE POOR** - 'The hope of the poor shall not perish for ever'. On the World Day of the Poor, Nov 17th, from 1pm to 5:30pm, Caritas Portsmouth are holding an afternoon in St. Peters, Winchester where we can all come together to share experiences and encourage new ideas around the issue of poverty. The event will include a short play by "Staging Faith" on the life of St. Vincent De Paul, and also some personal testimonies of people who have experienced life on the margins. There will be opportunities to network with others and to see what we can practically do to help those in need around us. Come along and let this event be the place where we begin to open our church doors to those in need and be a voice of the voiceless. For further information contact Kevin Gallagher from Caritas at [caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 07388994057

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING ACROSS THE DIOCESE

#### Vulnerable Adult Awareness

Saturday 9th November (10.00am – 12.30pm) English Martyrs, Didcot, OX11 7AJ

Email [soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or telephone: 023 92 836511 / 023 92 816396 / 023 92 825430 to book a place

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING TAKING PLACE IN OUR PARISH HALL

Child & Vulnerable Adult Awareness REFRESHER Training – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am-12:30pm

Child Protection Awareness Training – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 1pm-4pm

Vulnerable Adults Awareness Training – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – 10am-12:30pm

To book a place on the training here in our parish, please email [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

If you have previously attended full training for child and or vulnerable adult awareness, you only need attend the **REFRESHER** training. If you are new to a parish volunteering role with children, you will need to attend the **Child Protection** training.

# TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Saturday	26th	6pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	Bill Docherty RIP (100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
		10:30am	Mass	Robbie McDonald RIP
Monday	28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Mass	
Thursday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am	Communion Service	

## ALL SAINTS, HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12:10pm	Mass	
		7pm	Mass	

## COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Mass	
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## THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6pm	Mass	Anna Maria Johnson RIP
Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10:30am	Mass	

**Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer**

**Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help  
10.15 am Mother's Prayers**

**Saturday: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary**

**Confessions: Every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment**

**THESE WILL BE CANCELLED FOR "REQUIEM MASS AND "NO MASS"**

**Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE**

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm**

**Telephone: 01344 425729**

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

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

**Follow us on Facebook**

**Please make cheques payable to (full name): PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy**

**Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch**

**Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher**

**Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab**

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

**Safeguarding email: [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

**PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL**