

# THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

*22 December 2019 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 90 - Psalter Week 4*

**24/25 December 2019 – Christmas Time Missal Pages 95-103**

**29 December 2019 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – Missal Page 106**

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Does doing God's will and the messiness of our own lives have anything in common? That is a question that needs careful and serious thought about this Sunday.

The last two Sunday's focused attention on John the Baptist, Matthew's writings change this Sunday to focus on Saint Joseph. Matthew wishes to ensure that we all understand and appreciate that Jesus is the Messiah promised by the prophets in Sacred Scripture, and that he comes through the line of David.

Also Paul, in the Second Reading argues that Jesus becomes the Son of God through the resurrection that fully reveals his divinity.

In the first reading, Isaiah offers a sign to king Ahaz confirming that the line of David would survive the attacks from neighboring nations. The sign is that "a maiden shall conceive and bear a son." Matthew in the Gospel uses that story to show the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in Jesus the Messiah, out of the line of David

The readings therefore place before us the mystery of the Incarnation prophesized in the Old Testament, and fulfilled in the New Testament.



The Gospel places two persons at the center of this mystery. First we have Mary who responds to God's message through the angel with unconditional faith and trust. In so doing, Mary risks so much: her future marriage and family reputation and placing everything in the hands of God. Then we have Joseph who at first is confused and afraid. We often hear that Gospel passage, and perhaps we wonder what Joseph was afraid of. He must have thought of the messiness of his own situation and in proceeding with the marriage it was not only against the Jewish faith and law, but, his family and friends might disown him. Joseph would have thought of a great personal mess he might be in if he went ahead with the marriage and he does not know what to make of Mary's conception before their marriage, but then divine intervention comes.


An Angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and reveals the mystery of the conception. The angel advises him to proceed with the marriage, because Mary "has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit." Joseph is told to celebrate this unexpected birth. When he awakes from his dream, Joseph decides to follow his faith; to do God's will and take Mary as his wife. In so doing, Joseph saves her reputation.

This Gospel gives us a model to follow in Mary and Joseph footsteps. Both faced a tremendous challenge to their faith when God asked them to open their hearts to welcome Jesus into their lives. So what message do we take home this Sunday?

- 1) Just as Mary and Joseph accepted to welcome Jesus into their lives with deep faith and trust, we too are challenged to do no less;
- 2) As we get to Christmas, in a few days' time, let us open our hearts so that in doing God's will like Mary and Joseph, Christ may be born in our lives this Christmas;
- 3) Both Mary and Joseph remind us that doing God's will this may lead us into the messiness of life; into situations or even places we never dreamed of; Pope Francis calls this "the Messy Church", the place we should all be a part of;
- 4) Are we ready and prepared for the second coming into this world of the Son of God – Jesus Christ?

To all those in the community who will be elsewhere at Christmas – a happy Christmas and may you go in the peace of Christ and come back to us safely.

# 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)



**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR – The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday 24 December 2019 until Wednesday 1 January 2020 inclusive.**

**We wish you all many blessings for Christmas and 2020**



**PASTORAL CARE/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION** - Our Pastoral Care team and Bereavement Support Group, offers support and home visits to the sick, the housebound, the lonely and the bereaved. We 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.

**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 especially when applying for any of the Sacraments.**



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR – December: 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> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR - January: 1<sup>st</sup> Mary, The Holy Mother of God; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen; 3<sup>rd</sup> The Most Holy Name of Jesus; 5<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany of the Lord; 12<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of the Lord; 13<sup>th</sup> St Hilary; 17<sup>th</sup> St Anthony of Egypt; 20<sup>th</sup> St Fabian; 21<sup>st</sup> St Agnes; 22<sup>nd</sup> St Vincent; 24<sup>th</sup> St Francis de Sales; 25<sup>th</sup> The Conversion of St Paul; 27<sup>th</sup> St Angela Merici; 28<sup>th</sup> St Thomas Aquinas; 31<sup>st</sup> St John Bosco.**



**Thank You!!!**

**MASS OFFERINGS: £1,999.74**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY**

Please make cheques payable to (full name) “**PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph**”. “**General Gift Aid**” envelopes and **Banker's/Standing Order** forms available in the porch, please complete and return all forms and general Gift Aid envelopes to the parish office. Registered Charity No. 246871 (Diocese of Portsmouth)

**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** – Closed until Tuesday 7 January 2020 9:30am-11:30am during term time in the hall.

**KEEP FIT** – Closed until Tuesday 7 January 2020 2pm in the hall.

**PRAYER GROUPS** – Closed until Tuesday 7 January 2020, resuming to usual group times.

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

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

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Closed until Thursday 9 January 7:30pm-9pm in the church. All are welcome.

**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: No Sacrament of Anointing on Friday 27 December 2019. Mass at 10.00am.**

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



**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, 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, Jim and Frances McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Brenda Hook, Simon Brennan, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, David Malcolmson.

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.....



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: BETTY WINN, RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Friday 3 January 2020** at 10.00am, then 12.00noon at Easthampstead Crematorium. Please pray for Betty and all her family.

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: PAULINE McSHANE, RIP** who passed away on Monday 9 December 2019. Arrangements for Pauline's funeral will be made known as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for Pauline and all her family.

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



### YOUTH ALPHA – On-Line Registration OPEN!! Register via the Parish Website

It's so important to explore Life's BIG questions and Youth Alpha will help you with that, especially for anyone aged 13 -17, whether already Confirmed or not. Join us on a 10 week journey of exploration starting **Friday 10 January 2020**, 7pm – 9pm in the Church Hall.

**Thinking about Confirmation?** Youth Alpha will provide you with a valuable opportunity to refresh your knowledge, consolidate your understanding of where you are on your faith journey and help you to decide whether joining the next Confirmation program is for you...

**We have a great team in place, fully committed to making this the best Youth Alpha yet! Register online via the Parish website and come along to our first session on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January to see what it's all about for yourself!**

**Got a question? Talk to anyone of our volunteers after all Masses this weekend or you can email us at [youth@bracknellcatholicurch.org](mailto:youth@bracknellcatholicurch.org).**

**Looking forward to welcoming you to Youth Alpha!**

**CHRISTMAS ITEMS – CHURCH SHOP:** Come and browse the beautiful range of advent calendars, Christmas cards, and 'Walk with Me' Advent journey booklets, also 2020 calendars and diaries.



**RCIA: PRAYING FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH ON THE JOURNEY OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION** - Please continue to pray for Atkins Amucherahowa, Emmanuel Quartey, Stephanie Storer and Gifty Tetteh.

*Lord, we pray for Atkins, Emmanuel, Stephanie and Gifty as they journey to you. Strengthen their faith. Open their hearts to the fullness of your love. Deepen their understanding. Set their hearts on fire for the Kingdom of God. We ask this through Jesus, who is The Way, The Truth and The Life, for all. Amen.*

**RCIA SPONSORS:** We had just one person respond to our appeal for people who usually attend this Mass to walk alongside our RCIA candidates as sponsors. Please reconsider. If you're not sure about what it entails please speak to Mary McNab or contact the parish office.



**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS CHRISTMAS MASSES – SIGN UP SHEETS:** There are spaces on the sign-up sheets on the porch noticeboard to sign up for the Christmas Masses, especially 5pm Vigil Mass on Tuesday 24 December.



**JENNI** - Thank you all for making my guide dog, Jenni, so welcome in our community. Jenni has now reached the end of her working life and has retired to live with friends in Devon. She will enjoy a permanent holiday, free from responsibilities. I shall be without a guide dog for some considerable time, which is a major adjustment. This is a very stressful time for me, compounded with the changes involved in moving to a new place. I would be grateful if you could please support me by not asking questions about my next dog etc! My situation is being assessed by the professionals, the process is time-consuming and I don't yet have any answers! Thank you for understanding.

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED** - The parish is looking for volunteers to count the offerings after the 10:30 Mass on Sundays. This is an important role and if you are happy working with numbers and are willing to commit 1-2 hours for this task every 4 or 5 weeks please contact the parish office.



### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

**Monday 23 December: No Mass**

**Tuesday 24 December: 5.00pm Vigil Mass**

**Tuesday 24 December: 9.30pm Carol Service**

**Tuesday 24 December: 10.00pm Mass During the Night**

**Wednesday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass**

**Thursday 26 December: 10.00am Mass**

**Friday 27 December: 10.00am Mass**

**Saturday 28 December: 10am and 6.00pm Mass**

**Sunday 29 December: 8.30am and 10.30am**

**No Mass Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 December**

**Wednesday 1 January 2020: 10.00am Mass**

# TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

|          |                  |         |      |                                         |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Madge McDonald, RIP                     |
| Sunday   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | George & Stella Lansley, RIP            |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | John Baptist Robinson, RIP (Foundation) |
| Monday   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | No Mass |      |                                         |

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## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

|                  |                        |                |                              |  |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>5.00pm</b>  | <b>Vigil Mass</b>            |  |
|                  |                        | <b>9.30pm</b>  | <b>Carol Concert</b>         |  |
|                  |                        | <b>10.00pm</b> | <b>Mass During the Night</b> |  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>25<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Mass During the Day</b>   |  |

### ST STEPHEN, First Martyr, Feast

|          |                  |         |      |                     |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|---------------------|
| Thursday | 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass | Justin Grattan, RIP |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|---------------------|

### ST JOHN, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast

|        |                  |         |      |                                 |
|--------|------------------|---------|------|---------------------------------|
| Friday | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass | James and Johanna Moriarty, RIP |
|--------|------------------|---------|------|---------------------------------|

### THE HOLY INNOCENTS, Feast

|          |                  |         |      |                          |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|--------------------------|
| Saturday | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass | Myriam D'Unienville, RIP |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|--------------------------|

## THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH – YEAR A

|          |                  |         |      |                       |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|-----------------------|
| Saturday | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Jackie Rawstron, RIP  |
| Sunday   | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Caroline D'Souza, RIP |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Sarah Davis, RIP      |
| Monday   | 30 <sup>th</sup> | No Mass |      |                       |
| Tuesday  | 31 <sup>st</sup> | No Mass |      |                       |

## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

|           |                 |         |      |                                     |
|-----------|-----------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 10.00am | Mass | Living & Deceased Aslin Family, RIP |
|-----------|-----------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------|

## Ss BASIL the GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN, Bishops, Doctors of the Church

|          |                 |        |      |                     |
|----------|-----------------|--------|------|---------------------|
| Thursday | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 9.30am | Mass | Breda Worsford, RIP |
|----------|-----------------|--------|------|---------------------|

## THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

|               |                       |                |                                       |          |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Friday</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Requiem Mass – Betty Winn, RIP</b> |          |
| Saturday      | 4 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am        | Mass                                  | Pro-Life |

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – YEAR A

|          |                 |         |      |                         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|------|-------------------------|
| Saturday | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | David Jon Hancock, RIP  |
| Sunday   | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Anna Maria Johnson, RIP |
|          |                 | 10.30am | Mass | Andrew Howard           |

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): PRC DTR 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**