



Parish of Saint Joseph and Saint Margaret Clitherow

St. Joseph's Church, Stanley Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA

www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk

South Berkshire Pastoral Area

Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No. 246871



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

An extract from the letter to Priests from Bishop Philip for Lent

I have a couple of requests to make. First, I wanted to ask you, especially during Lent, to make every effort to keep your church open, if you don't do this already. (Stephen Morgan assures me that our diocesan insurers entirely approve of this, although obviously we need to take prudent security measures). Keeping the church open will be a great help to everyone with that third Lenten work, prayer. Before Christmas, in one of his morning Masses in the Vatican, Pope Francis said we should always keep the doors of our churches open:

'When we are on the street and find ourselves in front of a closed church we feel that something is strange. Sometimes they give us reasons as to why they are closed, excuses and justifications, but the fact remains that the church is closed and the people passing by cannot enter. Even worse, the Lord (is locked up and) cannot be close to His people.'

Recently, I had an overseas priest visiting me and we went by one of our notably beautiful churches. I suggested we stopped off to pay a visit, but to my embarrassment, we found it locked.

To be able to come and visit the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is one of the chief and most consoling practices in our Catholic life. We come to adore Him. Yet as we kneel there in prayer, He also looks at us, His creature. He remakes us; He refreshes us; He renews us; sending us out again into our daily life to carry our Cross, through the strength and joy of the Resurrection. I wonder if during Lent, if you don't do this already, you might consider putting on an hour of Eucharistic Adoration before your weekday Mass, and being there yourself?

My second request is that you do all you can this Lent to encourage the faithful to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament is essentially a One-on-one encounter in which the penitent meets Jesus personally to receive his mercy, love and forgiveness. I am aware, of course, that for many of our faithful the celebration of this Sacrament is in crisis. The issue here touches very deeply on people's theology of God and on their understanding of sin and redemption. I hope in a later year, we might address this matter together as a Diocese. But for 2014, thank you for all you do to encourage everyone to grow in their spiritual life and to come and meet Our Lord in this sacrament.

Forgive me mentioning the 'blindingly obvious', but please do not offer people a General Absolution (GA) or 'Rite Two-and-a-Half'. Some theologians suggest that because the conditions for GA are rarely present, such celebrations are not only illicit but invalid! I know from experience they cause confusion and dissension, and undermine the practice of individual confession. Instead, please draw people's attention to that beautiful paragraph of the *Catechism* about Christ addressing each sinner personally 'My son, your sins are forgiven' (1484).

Parish Priest: Rev Fr. Daniel McAvoy

Secretaries: Mrs Mary McNab & Mrs Christine Cole

Office Hours: Mon to Wed 9.00am till 1.00pm Thu and Fri 9.00am till 3.00pm

Tel: 01344 425729 **Email:** stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Representative: Lisa and Alan Greenhow

Coordinator for the Sick & Housebound: Mrs Liz Carpenter

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

(Psalter Week 1)

Sat 8 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	RCIA Candidates & Catechumens
Sun 9 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
	10.30am	Mass	Bridget & Francis Robinson
Mon 10 th	NO MASS		
Tue 11 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
Wed 12 th	9.15am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Ifiok Udoh
Thu 13 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Justice Enefiok Udoh
Fri 14 th	11 – 12	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	12.10pm	Mass	Justine Peter Grattan
Sat 15 th	9.40am	Rosary	
	10.00am	Requiem Mass	Helen Doran†
	10.30am	Confession	

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

(Psalter Week2)

Sat 15 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Gerry Berry†
Sun 16 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
	10.30am	Mass	Soane Family

*God of compassion and love, I place my worries before you,
knowing you hold them all, and place myself in the present.
Open my eyes to what I need to see, and give me strength to bring love
to the people and situations I have opened my eyes to.
Amen.*

PARISH NEWS

RITE OF ELECTION – On **Saturday 8th March** Bishop Phillip conducted the Rite of Election at Portsmouth Cathedral. Please pray for those who were present from our Parish and from our Pastoral Area; they will be entering into the fullness of the Catholic Church at the Easter Sunday Vigil.

CHILD PROTECTION AND VULNERABLE ADULTS SAFEGUARDING TRAINING to be held here in the hall at St. Joseph's on **Saturday 22 March 2014**. Child Protection training will take place between **10am and 12.30pm** followed by Vulnerable Adults Training from 1.30pm-4pm. If you are hoping to get involved in a parish ministry involving young people including Children's Liturgy, First Holy Communion or Confirmation and/or if you want to take Communion to the sick and housebound, you must attend one or both of these training sessions. If you have attended training in the past, you are probably due for refresher training so you are also encouraged to attend. **To book your place please contact Soraya Ciccaraone on 023 9282 5430 or email soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**. If you're not sure whether you are due refresher training, please contact Lisa, our parish Safeguarding Representative, on 01344 882576 or email lisagreenhow@aol.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING - The next PPC meeting will be on Wednesday 12th March at 7.15pm in the Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Parents Meeting – Reconciliation, a DVD Presentation on **Thursday 13th March at 7pm** in the Church Hall.

CONFIRMATION 2014 - Social evenings for the Confirmation Candidates: **14 March, 2 May and 30 May** from 7pm onwards.

NOT JUST CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETINGS - All parents in the parish are invited to these sessions, not just the parents of the Confirmation candidates. Dates are: **27 March and 5 June** from 7.30pm onwards. All are welcome.

TRAINING/RETRAINING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - There will be training/retraining of **all** Eucharistic Ministers on **18 March 2014 at 7pm** in the Church. It will begin with training/retraining of Eucharistic Ministers who serve at Mass and it will continue with training/retraining of Eucharistic Ministers who take/wish to take Holy Communion to our Sick and Housebound.

Please pray for the aged, sick, housebound and hospitalised of our community and for those who care for them.

"Take care of God's creation. But above all, take care of people in need"
Pope Francis

If you know of anyone who is sick, in hospital or housebound and unable to get to Mass, or just needing a priest, please tell Fr. Danny or contact the Parish Office

BIG BREW - A big thank you to everyone who helped or supported last weekend's Big Brew after all Masses to raise awareness of Fairtrade in our Parish . We raised £369.78 for CAFOD.

TEAS AND COFFEES AFTER MASS - Teas and Coffees will be served after **all** Masses on Sat evening and Sunday morning. If you go to 6pm Mass and you would like to go on a rota for serving teas and coffees, please sign up on Saturday evening after Mass.

OVER 50s - The Over 50s keep-fit group will meet at 2.45 pm on **Tuesday 11th March** to discuss the 2014 programme for day-trip excursions.

THIS YEAR'S LENTEN PROJECT IS FOR TWO PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE CHARITY AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED - They are for youth camps in Zambia and the Philippines. Please look at the display about these projects on the noticeboard in the narthex. As the projects are for developing the spiritual life of young people who are the future of these countries, I think they are very deserving of our support. We should support them in prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions please ask your Parish Representative for Aid to the Church in Need, Renata Clayton (01344 484495).

OXFAM - Catherine Hannan is again walking 100km in July 2014 to raise money for Oxfam. As part of fundraising she is holding a quiz on the evening of **22nd March** here at St Josephs. Please contact her if you are interested in attending either as a team or individually. £5 per adult, £3 per child or teenager if still at school. Bring your own snacks and drinks!! There will be a raffle on the night also so any donations of possible prizes would be gratefully accepted

THOM MCALLISTER – Is looking to share a house or flat, anything considered. Please contact Sally Torode on 075801 89805 if you can help.

LIFE - Reading and District LIFE's annual Easter quiz is now in the church shop, price £1. Good cause, good fun, many prizes.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY - Please take a Fast Day envelope and prayer card home with you this weekend and hand the green envelope with your donation into the Fast Day collection next week after your Friday fast. If you're a UK tax payer, please don't forget to Gift Aid your donation

***JUST TO SAY
THANK YOU TO***

**Everyone who helped
make the Big Brew a
success**

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

Envelopes – £ 342.75
Loose Plate - £619.90
Cheques - £325.00

Total £1287.65 - Thank You
PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph