

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN: DISAPPEARING INTO THE FULLNESS OF JOY

"Not only the thirsty seek water,
The water, as well, seeks the thirsty." (Rumi, Fragments, 1999)

Trade blood with me, brother and sister, and conspire to unravel the wrappings of our lives to gain the consoling terror of Truth.

It might be one of those classic dupes, like the holy Grail or the Fountain of Youth ... But some things must be done out of folly or pride or sin, to fly into the sun to stand against the wind.

You and I

We sniff like bloodhounds through the forest of our lives to catch a scent where meaning paused, breathless and heaving from our pursuit, then plunged again into the thicket where we lost him and our youth. And in those thickets our middle years will snag, until, down a final and forgotten trail, where at last Meaning will be met, he will suddenly turn to greet us with the bony hand of death!

But, sister and brother, we both dimly see the struggle is the goal, the search is what we know. All the rest is Heaven!

Then, when despair was ripe and bursting, the hand of the laughing angel pushed us over the edge of a Sunday afternoon. Down the screaming cliffside of our soul. We scraped for a handhold. The dark beach rushed upwards!

There, on that dark beach, in the everlasting night, we let loose the choking grip we had on life and the thieving sea swirled around us and escaped down the sand with all we ever held in our hands.

Now of a sudden, of a sudden In this moment of our breaking

Came an absurd dawn of Hope....So arbitrary, so crazy
Like shooting dice for apostleship or listening for the Spirit in the wind.

Like some mythic Greek, astride the stars, from an ornate urn, slung on His shoulder
Had poured a terrible beauty Over the Earth.

And so, sister and brother, in this runaway comedy we bungle through. A pilgrim is stretched across the sky
And I

I will cast my lot with Him for fellowship and more.

He is a person like me And more

Who will scream the absence of His God and die And then

Leave behind some Palestinian knoll At dawn A broken tomb.



A Prayer of Discipleship, ' The Hour of the Unexpected' John Shea, 1977' pp, 50-51

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

(Psalter Week 3)

Sat 22 nd	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Camba Family
Sun 23 rd	8.30am	Mass	Doris Robinsont†
	10.30am	Mass	Frank Ducasset†
Mon 24 th	NO MASS		

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Tue 25 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Kenneth Knight†
Wed 26 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
	9.30am	Mass	Gregory James Arthur†
Thu 27 th	11.00am	Requiem Mass	Ellen Higgins†
Fri 28 th	11.00-12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	12.10pm	Mass	Elizabeth Cousens
Sat 29 th	9.40am	Rosary	
	10.00am	Mass	Fawzi Kheir
	10.30am	Confessions	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(Psalter Week 4)

Sat 29 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Frank Baxter†
Sun 30 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
	10.30am	Mass	Maire Mair†

Parish of Saint Joseph and Saint Margaret Clitherow
St. Joseph's Church, Stanley Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA

www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk
Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Rev Fr. Daniel McAvoy

Secretaries: Mrs Mary McNab & Mrs Christine Cole

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9.00am till 3.00pm

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

Safeguarding Representative: Lisa and Alan Greenhow

Coordinator for the Sick & Housebound: Mrs Liz Carpenter

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE PRAY - For the repose of the souls of Ellen Higginst†, who's Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday 27th March at 11.00am. Also, Lilian Fenton† who's funeral takes place at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Thursday 27th March at 3.45pm. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

BISHOP PHILIP'S LENT CATECHESIS - The Third Sunday of Lent – Bishop Philip reflects on the meeting of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well. Online catechesis is offered each week to help you take a spiritual pilgrimage with Christ this Lent. The video is available on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk each Monday which includes the Gospel for the coming Sunday, followed by Bishop Philip's catechesis. There are also accompanying discussion questions which can be downloaded. You may wish to use these materials individually, or in small groups within the parish. For more information, see the poster.

RITE OF ELECTION – HOMILY AND PHOTOS - The Rite of Election held on Saturday 8th March at the cathedral was a beautiful occasion in which the catechumens and candidates, who will be baptised and received into the Church at this year's Easter Vigil, were welcomed by Bishop Philip, and their names inscribed in the Book of the Elect. The homily and photos of this occasion can be seen at [http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bishop/homilies/Rite of Election 2014.php](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bishop/homilies/Rite%20of%20Election%202014.php)

PLEASE PRAY FOR – for those preparing to be received into the Church this Easter: Elaine Williams, Breslau Meyer, Louise Doyle, Ome Nwanze and Danny O'Brien

NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST JUDE FAVERSHAM – The Carmelite Friars are holding a Summer Celebration on Saturday 31st May, starting at 11.00am with Devotions and Anointing, 12.00-13.00pm Picnic in the grounds (bring your own picnic), and at 13.30pm open air Mass followed by a St Jude procession and prayers, please email shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk for more details.

CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETINGS - All parents in the parish are invited to these sessions, on **27 March and 5 June** from 7.30pm onwards.

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 Porch. These projects are for developing the spiritual life of young people who are the future of these countries. For more information please call Renata Clayton (01344 484495). **Donations after all weekend Masses during Lent.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Stations of the Cross will take place in Church every Saturday at 9am during Lent.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSAL – Saturday 29th March 1pm-2.30pm for Mass on 10th May (Children only).

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

DIOCESAN FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION

FOCUS ON TEAMS: Formation for Mission Team

The Formation for Mission Team is led by Fr. David O Sullivan and is responsible for advising, training and developing catechetical resources in the Diocese. This is a diocesan team.

Why is this important? We are all concerned with the transmission of our faith to the next generation, as parents, grandparents and as church members. Good catechesis does really help this process.

We have parish catechists. There are many wonderful and committed parish catechists all over the Diocese. However, they are not usually experts in catechesis and rely on published programs. In addition, there are rarely resources within the parish for monitoring of and training in the delivery of programs. The Formation for Mission Team will be able to fill this gap.

The Formation for Mission Team needs the input of parish catechists. We need around 5 parish volunteers to form the following central teams: children's liturgy, baptism preparation, first communion preparation, confirmation preparation, RCIA and courses and events. This is 30 in total. These need to be people with parish experience who can use their experience at parish level to help and encourage others to develop excellent catechetical programs at all levels.

What is the Time Commitment? Around 6 Saturday meetings a year, with a few hours individual work in between. Some may choose to offer more time than that.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS BRACKNELL - Seven Tuesdays starting 6th May 2014. Speakers; Jenny Baker, David Matthews, David Payne, Maria Rodrigues, Matt van Duyvenbode, Charles Whitehead & James Wilkinson. Time; 8:00 – 9:30 pm. Venue; St Joseph's Church, Stanley Walk, Town Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 1HA (Access to the church car park is via Service Yard D on The Ring). Information; 01344 420465 or stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR COMMUNITY – Arianit Koleci, Christian Linz Jose, Philip Medalla, Jason, John and Jack Tobin, Amira Henry, Lily Ann Hersey, Lucy Mary Mitchell, Willow Louise Adams and Jacob Michael O'Donnell who were baptised here recently, please keep them and their families in your prayers.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – The next meeting is on Monday **24th March** at 75 Qualitas, please contact Anne on 01344 451847 for more details.

TEAS AND COFFEES AFTER MASS - Teas and Coffees Rota: More volunteers required for the 8.30am & 10.30am Masses. Please contact Theresa McDougall on 01344 427556. **Please note:** the Tea/Coffee after 6pm Mass this week **only** has been cancelled

JUST TO SAY THANK YOU TO

***All those who minister to the
Parish and Town with a
tenderness and love***

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS

Envelopes – £ 376.39

Loose Plate - £598.91

Cheques - £10

Total £985.30 - Thank You

LENTEN PROJECT

£462.71 – Thank You

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph**