

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

ON GIVING AND RECEIVING GIFTS: THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8 January 2017 - Psalter Week 1 – Missal Page 125



I hope you will agree that the best Christmas present anyone can receive is the gift of Jesus. He comes to us as a gift from God the Father. But, as we see in today's Gospel story, He is welcomed by some and rejected by others. And while His own people are divided, what is truly remarkable, is how warmly He is accepted by the Gentiles. The events surrounding the birth of Jesus, foretell his future destiny. When this happens, it is a sign that God, who holds past present and future as one, is at work. Those who understand are left in no doubt that God is the author of the life of Jesus.

The rejection of the child Messiah is totally evil. Herod's murderous intentions are hidden beneath a cloak of piety and lies. Herod tries his best but his smoke and mirrors are no match for God. His behaviour reveals him as a hypocrite, one whose words don't square with their thoughts, whose outside and inside are not aligned. In St. Matthew's Gospel, this is the enduring temptation for religious and political persons. To say pious and respectable things while holding treachery in their hearts.



In contrast, the Wise Ones rejoice at His coming! They are more than happy when heaven, signed by a star, and earth, signed by the infant Jesus, greet each other. They are overwhelmed with joy, and their gifts become an expression of their adoring hearts.

Many years ago, GK Chesterton had a little spat with Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Scientism. She told the press that she did not give presents at Christmas but instead she meditated on purity and truth till her friends were the better for it. Chesterton accused her of being unchristian, arguing that the whole point of Jesus Incarnation was to embody good will. If the three Wise Ones had taken Mary Eddy's stance, there would be no Christian art or civilisation. Thankfully they didn't and the gifts they bring are perfect, not because they can be weighed, priced and valued but because they take two interiors, the heart of the Christ child and their own hearts, and make them one.

Gift giving makes the invisible become visible. It is one of the ways that the hidden heart makes itself known. Gifts symbolise a flow of love. It does not matter, for those who love, if the gift is expensive or not. The little drummer boy only has one song, Charlie Brown's broken Christmas tree is the one that brings the kids together. What matters is that "perfect gifts" are perfect when they carry one person into the heart of another.

Jim and Della are in love but they are poor. Each has a proud possession. Della has beautiful hair and Jim has a fob watch. At Christmas, Della cuts her hair and sells it to buy Jim a platinum chain for his watch. On Christmas morning when she gives it to him, Jim reveals that he has sold his watch to buy Della a set of pure tortoiseshell combs for her hair. They roar with laughter because even though they know that their gifts are now useless, they know that they have carried them both into each other. These are gifts that strengthen their relationship, assuring them that they know and are known, love and loved. O. Henry, who penned this story in 'Gifts of the Magi' stated, "Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are the wisest."

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday	7 th	6.00om	Vigil Mass	Eddie McGrath, RIP
Sunday	8 th	8.30am	Mass	Adebayo Oduntan, RIP and Rene L Villardefrancos, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	George Lansley, RIP

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday	9 th	10.00am	Mass	
Tuesday	10 th	9.30am	Mass	Marie Sterratt, RIP
Wednesday	11 th	9.30am	Mass	Shirley and Lenny Mathurin
Thursday	12 th	9.30am	Communion Service	
Friday	13 th	11.00am	Exposition (until 12.00noon)	
		12.10pm	Mass	Eileen Turiff, RIP
Saturday	14 th	10.00am	Mass	Derek Carl Vaughan, RIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday	14 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Susan Beasley, RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.30am	Mass	
		10.30am	Mass	Francis and Bridget Robinson



Tuesday to Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** 10.15 am Mother's Prayers;
Saturday: 9.30am Rosary and Confessions every Saturday at 10.45am or on request

Parish Office: Stanley Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA
Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

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

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy

Safeguarding Representative: Marion McGuire 07712048695

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

DID YOU KNOW...?



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Please email your newsletter item(s) to the parish office stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk no later than midday on Wednesdays.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEER FOR OUR PARISH - We need volunteers to become involved in the life of our Parish by joining some of our ministries, groups and activities: Children's Liturgy, Youth Group, Hospitality/Welcoming, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Altar (Sacristans), Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation teams, Offering Counters and Verifiers, Pastoral Care, Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, Fairtrade Teas & Coffees, Brass Polishing, Church gardens and grounds, etc. Please contact the parish office to volunteer or to discuss any of these opportunities – *“Serve the Lord with Gladness”*

BEWARE: LIGHTING CANDLES – Adults must accompany all children at the candle trays when lighting candles. Please ensure your children are not playing around the candle trays, in the sand or with the lighted candles. Care must be taken when reaching across lighted candles wearing loose clothing, etc.



COMFY CHAIRS – There are 4 comfy chairs at the front pews for those who need to be nearer to the altar to receive Holy Communion or who need a more comfortable seat. Don't be shy, the chairs are for you to best support you at Mass.



Happy New Year to our Bracknell Foodbank supporters! Thank you for your amazing generosity over Christmas. We gave out a huge quantity of lovely food and festive items (like crackers) to bless local people in need.

Below is our current list of shortages. Please note, as a Trussell Trust foodbank, we will no longer be including sugar in our packs, so no sugar donations: longlife milk (1 litre), longlife fruit juice (1 litre), sponge puddings (tinned or twin packs), tinned fruit. We always take toiletries and personal care items too.

Donations to the Kerith Centre, Church Road, Bracknell, RG12 1EH Monday-Friday 9.30-5.00 or Sundays 9.00-1.00 or 5.30-8.00pm. We have donation points at Sainsburys (Bagshot Road), Tescos (Martins Heron & Warfield) and Waitrose (Bracknell) as well as St Joseph's Church.



WEDNESDAY GOSPEL WEBINAR – The Formation for Mission Team has regular webinars, for all adults in the Diocese of Portsmouth. A webinar is an internet online meeting to which anyone can register and participate. From **Wednesday 11th January 2017**, a weekly 'Wednesday Gospel Webinar' from 7pm to 8 pm to discover and study the following Sunday's Gospel in the light of the Church's teaching. For more information and to participate see www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/formation/webinar



To everyone who made our Church look and sound beautiful for Christmastime: Crib builders, Flowers, Musicians and Choir, Ministers of the Word and Eucharist, Sacristans and especially Fr Danny and Rita.

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, Thelma Briggs, Johanna Lenz, Bridget Tanner, Ena Stanton, Peggy O'Sullivan, Peggy Malone, Winnie Justice, Inge Walker, and Yvonne Gantzer, Jadwiga Butcher, June Cooper, Lilijan Rodenburg, Marjorie Brown Josephine & Maurice Timms.

Those who are unwell or in hospital: Bill Guilfoyle, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Una Mair, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Nora Cronin, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Teresa Bullock, Maria Bishop, Peggy Pendergast, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Serafina Delmundo, Veronica Jastrzebski, David McCann, Brian Mecklenburg, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Shaun Howard, Francis Robinson, Tom Corridan, Allan James.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF: Breda Worsford who died on Wednesday 28 December 2016, Breda's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's on **Tuesday 24 January 2017** at 10.00am. Esther Margaret Brophy who died on Sunday 1 January 2017, Esther's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's on **Friday 20 January 2017** at 10.30am. May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



SECOND OFFERING – PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY 15 JANUARY 2017 –

“The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.”

Please collect a Pax Christi envelope as you leave and return it next week at the offerings at Mass.



BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS

- We are looking for volunteers to join our Baptism Preparation team. If you have a heart for this most beautiful and rewarding ministry and would like to find out more about what is involved, please contact the Parish Office.



YOUTH GROUP - St Joseph's Youth Group resumes on

Friday 13 January 2017 in Hall 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Volunteers and sponsors are needed to support the youth community initiatives and activities also for safeguarding purposes, please contact the Parish Office or bkmaimo23@gmail.com.



SENIOR CITIZENS EPIPHANY PARTY- Sunday 15th January 2017 from 12.30pm.

Please return all invites to the office as soon as possible.

There will be NO REFRESHMENTS after the 10.30am mass on Sunday 15th January.



PASTORAL CARE – For those interested in forming a Pastoral Care group on

Wednesday 18 January 2017 from 7pm – 8pm in the hall, If you are unable to attend the meeting but interested in being involved please contact the parish office.



INVITATION FROM BISHOP PHILIP TO ALL ENGAGED COUPLES:

Saturday 11 February 2017 at 0915 in the Cathedral Centre for a Valentine's

Day Breakfast with Bishop Philip for those getting married in 2017. Concluding at 11.45am with a short service of blessing in the Cathedral. Please contact Kirsten McGuire on 023 9282 0894 or email:

kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



LENT

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS':

Saturday 4 February 2017 at St Bede's Primary

School, Basingstoke from 10.00am -1.30pm. Talk on our Lenten focus plus updates on campaigns. To book a place please call 01252 329385

GOSPEL CHALLENGE - Monday 9 January 2017 at 75 Qualitas, Bracknell.

KEEP FIT OVER 50's CLUB – Tuesday 10 January 2017, 2.00pm to 3.00pm in the Hall.

TODDLER GROUP – Tuesday 10 January 2017, 9.30am to 11.30am in the Hall during term time

PRAYER GROUPS – Resumes 10 & 11 January.

Evening Group: 1st/3rd Tuesdays 7.45pm – 9.30pm Hall.
Day Group: 1st/3rd Wednesdays 10.30am – 11.30am Hall.

RCIA – Thursday 12 January 2017, 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the Hall.

SOUP & ROLL – Every Friday after 12.10pm Mass, during term time (except 20.01.2017)