

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A:

MAKING THE WORLD A MORE INTERESTING PLACE

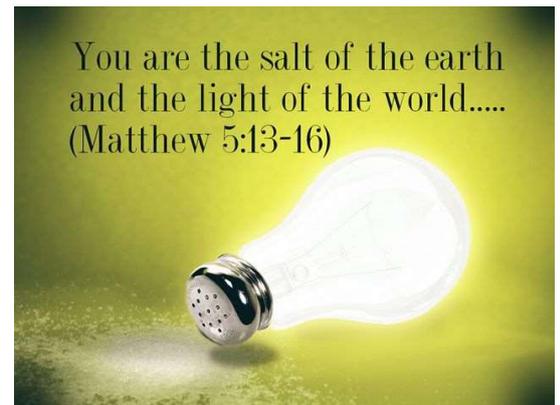
5 February 2017 - Psalter Week 1 – Missal Page 133



When I was about seven, my granny took us to Saltcoats, the holiday Mecca of the west coast of Scotland. It was mid-summer and still an icy gale swept from the North Pole over the sunbathers who shivered behind their windbreakers! My first trip to the beach, I dashed towards the sea and ran straight into an underwater hole. I sank like a corpse and managed to swallow what felt like a gallon of water. I can still taste it to this day. Too much salt, too much salt.

Isaiah's poetic prophecy in today's first reading is beautiful but it lacked maturity as it only applied to people in the community. I've always thought that one of the marks of any genuine spirituality is the wideness of its embrace. I become suspicious the moment I hear the language of exclusion, whether that is of individuals or groups. Exclusions create control, heightened security and territory that needs to be defended.

The Divine Teacher, on the other hand, situates His disciples in another place. You are the salt of the earth! You are the light of the World! We are something and we may not know it. When this happens, people lose their flavour. There is nothing to savour. It gets trampled underfoot. Jesus seeks to convince us of our high value. He cuts through any sense of self that cripples and halts - I am a sinner - I'm no good - I'm useless - I lack the skill etc. He fixes a new truth in the minds and hearts of His disciples. Hot on the heels of this compliment there is a warning which is meant to strengthen our freedom to be the salt that we are. We are here for the benefit of the earth. He calls us to bring zest, meaning and light to all.



Over the last few weeks, we have lost some wonderful members of our community. It was important to family members that they are remembered as people who made the world a better place. I guess we would all like people to say that when our own time comes. But what if people were to say, after we are gone, that the world has become a less interesting place! We were a shot of zest, adding just the right amount of salt to every bland situation. I wonder if something gets lost when we limit our understanding of salt and light to just good works. We seldom think of it as meaning creative engagement with a wily world. Yet the people of salt and light are called to be visionaries who are not afraid to try something new. If the experiment fails, we don't retreat to our old ways but find even more creative energy to address the situation before us. Think Big. Think New. Think Creative.

Teilhard de Chardin once wrote that he was afraid that people would lose their zest and passion for the coming to be of the world. He noted that if we do not find this drive in ourselves, we have not yet searched the full depth of our heart and mind. Perhaps we are afraid of what we might find there. Jesus reminds us that we have no need to be afraid. No need to be afraid!

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	4 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Molly and Christy Campbell, RIP
Sunday	5 th	8.30am	Mass	Michael Devlin, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Francis and Bridget Robinson
Monday	6 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	7 th	9.30am	Mass	William Docherty, RIP

ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, Religious

Wednesday	8 th	9.30am	Mass	John and Nancy McGill, RIP
Thursday	9 th	9.30am	Mass	Esther Brophy, RIP

ST SCHOLASTICA, Virgin

Friday	10 th	11.00am	Exposition (until 12.00noon)	
		12.10pm	Mass	Margaret Carey

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Saturday	11 th	10.00am	Mass	Francis Xavier Casimir, RIP
----------	------------------	---------	------	-----------------------------

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	11 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Alice and Paddy Egan, RIP
Sunday	12 th	8.30am	Mass	Edward Sheppard, RIP (Foundation)
		10.30am	Mass	Maxima and Cesar Camba, RIP

~~~~~

**Tuesday to Thursday:** 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** 10.15 am Mother's Prayers;  
**Saturday:** 9.30am Rosary, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life 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:** stj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

**Please make cheques payable to:** "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

**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](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) no later than midday on Wednesdays.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF Peggy Malone** who died this week. Peggy managed to juggle her vocation as a nursing sister with being housekeeper to Fr Michael and Fr Chris. The world will surely be less interesting without her, and, we give thanks that she made the world a better place for so many. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family and friends at this sad time. May she rest in Peace.

**BEWARE: LIGHTING CANDLES** – Adults must accompany all children at the candle trays when lighting candles. Please ensure your children do not play 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.



**PASTORAL CARE** - If you are interested in visiting the sick and lonely or if you would like to get involved in helping in a practical way, please contact the parish office or come to our next monthly Prayer and Pastoral Care meeting 7pm-8pm on **Wednesday 15 February 2017**.



**CAN WE HELP?** If you or someone you know is lonely, struggling or in need of practical help and support, please contact the parish office or the St Vincent de Paul Society on 07731862349.



**CAN YOU HELP?** This week the St Vincent de Paul Society (Ascot & Bracknell SVP) needs a chest of drawers, small armchair, and computer desk to help clients locally. Please call 07731862349 to arrange collection.



**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?** If you are going into hospital or know someone who is, please let Liz in our parish office know and also inform the hospital chaplain on arrival.



**SICK AND/OR HOUSEBOUND** If you know of anyone who is sick and/or housebound please let Liz in our parish office know as soon as possible so that a visit can be arranged.



**TIME OF REFLECTION & TRAINING : VISITS TO THE SICK AND LONELY** – On **Saturday 25 February 2017** from 10.45am to 11.45am a time of reflection and training for those who visit the sick and lonely, especially Eucharistic Ministers taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. **Note: no confessions after Mass.**



**CLOTHES BANK** - The Clothes Bank giveaway will be on Wednesday 8th February, held every quarter in St Joseph's Church Hall and coordinated by St Mark's Church Binfield. The Clothes Bank need donations of good quality used clothes for adults and children of all ages also children's trainers, especially sizes 10 – 2. Some clothes cannot be passed on though: pyjamas, underwear and socks for example need to be new. Please leave your donations in the ClothesBank container in the porch at St Joseph's Church next weekend **4th/5th February 2017**. Sorting of clothes at St Mark's Binfield on **Monday 6 February 2017**, from 9.30am until around 2pm, meeting at St Mark's again at 9am **Wednesday 8 February 2017** to load up boxes and setting up at St Joseph's at around 9.15am ready for the Giveaway to start at 10.15am ending at 1pm. Please contact the parish office if you are able to help out with either sorting on **Monday 6th February 2017** or the Giveaway on the **Wednesday 8th February 2017** or both.



**LAST WEEK'S MASS OFFERINGS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS:** Total amount £1,620.56. Please make cheques payable to "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

**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, 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, Francis Robinson, Tom Corridan, Allan James, Nicholas Powell

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

The Medaille Trust

At the PPC Meeting on Wednesday 8 February 2017 at 7.00pm in the parish hall, there will be a very important and thought-provoking talk given by the Medaille Trust on "Slavery in Bracknell?" Do you think it exists in our town? What has been the response of the Christian community to preventing and supporting victims caught up in it? Please come to a talk by Sharon Westby of The Medaille Trust to get an insight into Modern Slavery – all welcome.



**FEAST OF ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA – Wednesday 8 February 2017** St. Josephine Bakhita, a Canossian Sister was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Sudan when young. The trauma caused her to forget her own name. The name by which she is known is a mixture of the slave name (*bakhita*, Arabic for 'lucky') and her chosen Christian name, Josephine.

In 1883, Bakhita was bought and taken to Italy. She made her profession in 1896 with the Canossians and assigned to a convent spending the remaining 45 years of her life dedicated to assisting her community and teaching others to love God. Her last years of pain and sickness when asked would cheerfully reply 'as the Master desires'. St. Josephine was beatified in 1992 and canonized in October 2000 by Pope John Paul II. She is the first person canonized from Sudan, is the patron saint of the country and the **patron saint of victims of human slavery and trafficking**.

The Global Slavery Index estimates there are 45 million slaves today in the world and Government estimates in the UK suggest that there may be up to 15,000 men, women and children at present who are victims of human trafficking and slavery. Pope John Paul II said "The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offence against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights." Pope Francis says that trafficking is "an open wound on the body of contemporary society."



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK - Saturday 11 February 2017** we will celebrate the Mass at 10am with the anointing of the sick. Refreshments available after Mass. Everyone is welcome. If you need transport or can offer transport, please contact the parish office.



**CENTENARY OF THE FATIMA APPARITIONS – Saturday 18th February 2017** at 2pm, Cardinal Vincent Nichols will receive, bless and crown the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Westminster Cathedral for the Fatima Centenary year 2017, followed by Mass and Veneration of the Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco. The Statue and Relics will be visiting Portsmouth Cathedral on **26-27 August 2017**. For more information see [www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/newsletter.html](http://www.worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk/newsletter.html)



**THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET – URGENT!** Please help to save The Divine Mercy Chaplet! I am pleading for help with leading The Chaplet and for more Parishioners to attend on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 2.00 pm. Next Divine Mercy Chaplet is on **Sunday 19 February 2017**. Please contact Shaun via the Parish Office.

**VOLUNTEER DBS FORMS** – If you have recently volunteered for any of the ministries within the parish, your DBS Application Pack is ready for collection in the Sacristy, brown named envelope. Once completed and ID ready for copying, please contact Marion McGuire on 07712 048695

**DBS CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING - On Saturday 4th March 2017**, Child Protection Training - 10.00am – 12.30pm at Corpus Christi, Sturges Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 2HE. The Trainer is Jo Hopkins, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer. If you wish to attend this session, please register with Soraya Ciccarone email [soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) to book your place.



Thank you for your patience while we review our Children's Liturgy Safeguarding and Health & Safety procedures. We hope to be able to resume this important ministry in the very near future, however, this is dependent on having sufficient volunteers in place. Thank you to those who have already come forward, but we still need more! **Please note that a volunteer does not mean you have to lead the session - we also need general helpers.** Please contact the parish office if you would like to help.



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

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** - Monday 13 February 2017 at 58 Qualitas, Bracknell.

**KEEP FIT OVER 50's CLUB** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm to 3.00pm in the Hall.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday, 9.30am to 11.30am in the Hall during term time.

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

**RCIA** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the Hall.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after 12.10pm Mass, during term time.

**YOUTH GROUP** – Every Friday, 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the Hall, during term time.