

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK
EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

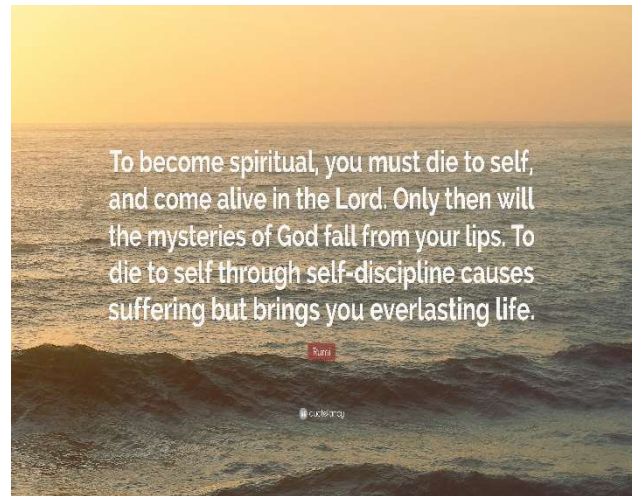
DYING TO OUR SELF

18 March 2018 – Mass Book Page 169, Psalter Week 1



Some people from Greece have arrived for the festival and have asked to 'see' Jesus. But this is more than a casual meeting. To 'see' Jesus is to enter into a profound revelation. In Saint John's Gospel, Jesus must be 'lifted up', (Jn, 3.14) crucified in order to be seen. For Jesus, the arrival of these Greeks is a sign that the time of universal revelation is at hand. The Beloved Son of God has come for all people. Yet, the way that He shows himself is paradoxical. The image of the single grain of wheat that falls on the ground and dies in order to grow into 'much fruit' (v.24) provides the key to understanding this paradox. For Jesus, death is never seen as a loss. It is only the beginning of a time of change that will yield greater results than an individual life.

Jesus will become more through death, not less. In death he will become universally available. Closer to us than we are to ourselves. This revelation contains crucial instructions for His disciples. It illuminates a universal spiritual process. They are asked to see it and embrace it. If we identify ourselves as individuals with separate lives, we will lose that life. Death will eventually take it from us. But if we do not identify as individuals with separate lives, the death of that life becomes a gateway into transformation. There is no real loss here, only a crossing over to eternity. The death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus will make this truth clear. But still He has to navigate the anxiety which precedes loss. He does this by turning to His Abba in prayer. His prayer is answered immediately because it is aligned with the Father's will. It is to the glory of the Father to bring greater life out of lesser death. This is what God has always done. This is what God has been doing through His Beloved Son. This is what God will continue to do through His disciples. Death has held sway until now but now its reign of terror is ended. Jesus' death will not entail the universal fate of going down into the earth. In His death He will be 'lifted up from the earth'. (v.32). It is this kind of dying, as a transforming process, that will attract people to Jesus. Death as extinction will bow to death as exaltation. This will be the kind of death Jesus will die and thus will draw all people to Himself.



Wheat falls, acorns crack, and cocoons split, bringing bread, oak trees and butterflies. Seeing death as a transition is essential for any disciple of Jesus. In his poem, 'Holy Longing', Goethe has written,

As long as you haven't experienced
this: to die and so to grow,
You are only a troubled guest
On the dark earth.

If this is true, perhaps we should be practicing how to die to ourselves on a regular basis! Here is a little story in this theme.

Once upon a time, a rich and generous man would freely give gold coins to various groups of people. One day it would be widows, another day the less able, another day poor students. The only request he made was that they should wait in silence for the gift to be given.

When it was the day for lawyers, one pleaded his cause with gusto. The rich man simply passed by. The next day was the turn of the lame, so the lawyer put splints on his legs and posed as such. The rich man recognised him and passed by. The next day, the lawyer disguised himself as a widow, but he didn't fool the rich man who just passed him by.

So the lawyer found an undertaker and concocted a plan that he would be wrapped in a shroud and placed in the path of the rich man. Surely he would throw some gold coins on the shroud for a proper burial. Afterwards, the lawyer and the undertaker would split the proceeds.

The rich man did throw gold coins on the shroud. The lawyer's hand shot out and grabbed the coins. Then he jumped up and triumphantly proclaimed that he had deceived and beaten the rich man. "Do you see how, at last, I have received from your kindness?" "Yes", said the rich man, "but first you had to die".

We must die to the schemer and become the receiver. It is the posture of contemplative silence which allows us to receive the gold that the rich and generous man is giving. As Rumi says,

" The mystery of die before you die is this:
that the gifts come after your dying and not before.
Except for dying, you artful schemer,
no other skill impresses God".

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

Saturday	17 th	6.00pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	18 th	8.30am	Mass	Margaret Horn, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Doreen Read, RIP
Monday	19 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	20 th	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	James & Johanna Moriarty, RIP
Wednesday	21 st	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	Shaun Howard, Thanksgiving
Thursday	22 nd	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	Parish Volunteers
Friday	23 rd	11.00am	Stations of the Cross	
		11.30am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	Doris Robinson, RIP
Saturday	24 th	10.00am	Mass	Our Homeless Guests

PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord – YEAR B

Saturday	24 th	6.00pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	25 th	8.30am	Mass	Jozef Marchlewski, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Patrick and Ellen Quaid

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*Tuesday to Thursday During Lent: 11.00am Exposition; Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help, 10.15 am Mother's Prayers; Saturday: 9.30am Rosary, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary. Confessions: every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment.*

**Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE**  
Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

**Telephone: 01344 425729 Email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

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

**Please make cheques payable to (full name): "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".**

**Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy**

**Parish Secretary (Director of Administration): Elizabeth Fisher**

**Pastoral Assistant (Director of Evangelisation): Mary McNab**

**Safeguarding Representatives: Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read,**

**Safeguarding email: [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)**


**PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW CHURCH**



#### SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

**Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy**, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell, 01344 425729;  
**Fr Kevin Bidgood**, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot 01344 620591;  
**Fr Marcus Brisley** Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst & Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, 01252 876820;  
**Fr David O'Sullivan**, Corpus Christi, Wokingham 0118 9780348

# DID YOU KNOW...?

 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – NEW DEADLINE: Midday on Tuesdays**, please email your newsletter item(s) to the parish office [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: Maurice Timms, RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Tuesday 3 April 2018** at 10.00am, followed by a burial at 11.45am at All Saints Church, Stubbs Hill, Binfield, RG42 5NS. Please pray for his beloved wife Jo and all his family.

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



**LENT : Live Lent and let your light shine! “Give” rather than “Give Up”. Give the gift of your time by joining one of the below ministries which are so important for the life of our church and parishioners. We need YOU.**

**WELCOMING MINISTRY** – Warm and friendly greeting to our parishioners and visitors before the weekend Mass that you attend. A chance to meet other parishioners and help those in need with their visit to Mass.

**OFFERING COLLECTIONS** – During the Mass and 2<sup>nd</sup> offerings at the end of Mass, teams are needed for each of the weekend Masses.

**CONFIRMATION CATECHIST, MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRIES** – Support and guiding those going forward to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

**SOUP & ROLL FRIDAYS – YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY REQUIRED** – Can you spare a couple of hours on a Friday mid-morning, either setting up/ cooking/serving or clearing away. Great fun and camaraderie with our parishioners and the school children who join us after Mass. No experience needed other than a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate an easy online course, the cost reimbursed by the parish. Please contact the parish office for further details or to volunteer.

**FLOWER ARRANGING TEAMS** - We would love to welcome anyone who would like to join the team! No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to make our church look beautiful. If you think you would like to help with arranging flowers in church.

**Please contact the Parish Office with your details and which ministry you would like to join.**

**“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS”**



**PART-TIME CLEANER REQUIRED** - A lady with mobility problems is looking for a cleaner maybe a couple of times a month. Please contact the parish office if you are interested to help this lady.

## RESERVATIONS

**BOOKING OF PARISH HALL AND PARISH ROOMS** – If you wish to use the church hall or parish rooms bookings must be made with the Parish Office at least 6-8 weeks before requested date. Please note the regular events below before booking.

**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 reaching across lighted candles wearing loose clothing, etc. It is important to remember that they can be the cause of major fires and serious injury.



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR - MARCH** – 19<sup>th</sup> St Joseph; 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday; 29<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday; 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday; 31<sup>st</sup> Holy Saturday.

**APRIL** – 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday; 9<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation of the Lord; 11<sup>th</sup> St Stanislaus; 23<sup>rd</sup> St George; 25<sup>th</sup> St Mark; 28<sup>th</sup> St Louis Grignon de Montfort;



**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – CORPUS CHRISTI, WOKINGHAM** - Please join us at Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE for the **Life in the Spirit Seminars, every Wednesday from 7 February to 21 March 2018, 8.00pm to 9.30pm**

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm to 9.30pm in the Church Hall. All are welcome.

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

**KEEP FIT** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the hall.

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** – Sunday 8 April 2018 2.30pm at St Joseph's

**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.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass during term time in the hall.

**FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY** - Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 2pm in the Hall.



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1775.08** **THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.**

Please make cheques payable to (full name) “PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”. **Gift Aid envelopes and banker's/standing order forms available in the porch.**

**CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND**– Thank you for your generous donation of £116.10 towards this important fund.

**SECOND OFFERINGS - MARCH: 30<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday) For the Holy Places**

**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, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Jadwiga Butcher, Lilijan Rodenburg, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Emma Flavelle, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Anna Tighe, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Adrian Sweeney, Derek Alexander, Brenda Lynch, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Denise Rinzivillo, Sally Tarode, Babs White, Tim Roberts, Tess Johnson, Dorcas Innes-Grant.



# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....

**A WARM WELCOME** – We are delighted to warmly welcome **Fr Kevin Jones** who has kindly agreed to celebrate our Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am Masses this weekend while Fr Danny is with the Youth Alpha retreat.



**Pew Packs** - We hope your children enjoy the pew packs we so lovingly provide. We need your help to return pew packs complete with **ALL** their items to the box in the porch so that another family can use them after you. Disappointingly, many items have disappeared and cannot easily be replaced, please help us to keep providing these wonderful packs for our children at Mass. Thank you.



**NEW THEATRE ROYAL, PORTSMOUTH – Saturday 5 May 2018, 9.30am to 5.00pm**, Diocesan Day in Preparation for Eucharistic Congress! Workshops with Keynote speakers. This will be a **day for all to come and Adore!** Free event, booking essential via [congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or 07780 221686



**YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** – Bishop Philip invites our young people to join him and 20 students and FOCUS missionaries from the USA on a pilgrimage retreat to Lourdes from **12 to 16 July 2018**. Costs £550; full-board and flights from Southampton. For more information please contact Father P J Smith at [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



## BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM



**MINISTERS FOR EASTER MASSES** – The Easter Mass lists are now available on the porch noticeboard for **Ministers of the Holy Eucharist** and **Ministers of the Word**. Please write your name on the list to be a Minister at your preferred Mass.

**REFRAME - CATHOLIC VOICES**. Lenten Talks every **Wednesday** during Lent in the hall **7pm-8pm**.

**Talk 5: Being a 'Catholic Voice' in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Britain.**



**JOURNEY INTO A CONTEMPLATIVE HEART – “FALLING INTO SILENCE” A MASTER CLASS BY DR JAMES FINLEY** A series of 6 beautiful contemplative reflections by Dr James Finley, every **Thursday** in the hall, **7.30pm to 8.30pm**. Dr James Finley is a brilliant master of the contemplative life, a wonderful opportunity to 'rest and reflect in God and the Holy Spirit', preparing for the holy season of Easter. **“Some experiences are too deep for words”**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – Every Friday in Lent (not Good Friday) at **11.00am**, with Fr Danny and inspiration from Pax Christi, William Vanstone, Taize and Bishop Philip. Exposition **11.30am, Mass 12.10pm**.



**PENITENTIAL SERVICES** – For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area are:

**Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : Corpus Christi, Wokingham RG40 2HE

**Thursday 22 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : St Francis of Assisi, Ascot SL5 9HG



**PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION OF THE LORD** – Masses:

**Saturday 24 March 2018** - Vigil 6.00pm

**Sunday 25 March 2018** – 8.30am and 10.30am

**Please note: Clocks go forward 1 hour this weekend**



**CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH** – **Tuesday 27 March 2018** at 11.00am at the Cathedral. We have a “mobility impaired” accessible coach (better than the bus) for able-bodied and mobility impaired parishioners who wish to attend this most beautiful Mass. Please be at the church by **7.45am** as the coach will depart from St Joseph's Church at **8.00am**, returning approx **4.00pm**, please contact the parish office to be included on the coach list. **The coach is expensive this year, we would really appreciate a donation towards the cost of the coach.** Please note, the Parish Office will be closed on **27 March 2018**, no Exposition or 12.10pm Mass that day.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY : THE EASTER TRIDUUM** – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – **Thursday 29 March 2018 at 7.30pm**. All Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word are to be formerly Commissioned during this Mass and will receive their Faculty, please contact the parish office to confirm your attendance at this Mass so we can prepare your Faculty in advance.



**“ONE FRIDAY” BRACKNELL CHURCHES TOGETHER – PRAYER WALK** – **Friday 30 March 2018** - Bringing hope together. A solemn prayer walk with the cross, **9.45am** departing from Holy Trinity Church through the town centre, returning at **10.45am**. Please see the details on the porch noticeboard. Lots of activities for children.



**GOOD FRIDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Passion** – **Friday 30 March 2018, 3.00pm**. Day of fasting and abstinence.



**HOLY SATURDAY** : This beautiful Easter Vigil Service is on **Saturday 31 March 2018 at 7.30pm**



**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**Sunday 1 April 2018**

**Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am**