

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE
THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

THE POWER OF FORGIVING

7 April 2019 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 176 - Psalter Week 1

PARISH PRAYER FOR EVANGELISATION: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for gathering us together and calling us to serve as your disciples. You have given us, through your Son Jesus, the mission of evangelising and witnessing your love to the world. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we discern your will for the spiritual renewal of our parish. Give us strength, courage and clear vision as we use our gifts to serve you. We entrust our parish family to the care of St. Joseph, St. Margaret Clitherow, with Mary our Mother. We ask for their intercession and guidance as we strive to bear witness to the Gospel. Amen.*

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According to one tradition, the Divine Glory once resided in the Temple in Jerusalem. But the sins of the people were so awful that God departed, leaping from the Temple to the Garden of Olives and then up to heaven. Now God is back. Jesus, the bearer of Divine Glory is returning to the Temple by the same path. It is early - a new day - so we can expect something new. What will happen when divine glory encounters sin once more?

St. John sets the scene, "All the people came to Him..." This teaching is for all people and for all time because they need it. Jesus is seated and is about to teach but there is an interruption. This teaching will be a masterclass in relationships, taught relationally. The lost tribe of the scribes and Pharisees are at it again. Clearly the Parable of the Prodigal didn't have the desired effect. A woman (who was clearly committing adultery all by herself) is 'caught', 'brought' and 'made to stand there'. This is what the Pharisees do really well - holding people in their sin. Notice too how they make full use of a favourite tool of the self righteous - the stare. It is used to demote a person to an object, to hold them in the sin and to close off the flow of time and the newness it might bring. Their real agenda is to trap Jesus, to hold Him. But in their haste they have unwittingly given Him the raw material of His response.

'Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground'. (v.9). It doesn't matter what He wrote, but that He wrote twice with his finger, on the earth, and that twice He bent down and straightened up. The One who writes with His finger is close to God (Ex:31:18) like Moses, who having witnessed the sins of his community goes back up the mountain to plead for them. When Moses asks if he can see the divine glory, God accepts but hides him in the cleft of a rock. Then God tells him to cut two more tablets with these words. "I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former tablet which you broke". As the Glory of God passes by, Moses is treated to the beautiful words of Exodus 34, 6-8. You can read it for yourself! So God writes a second time, God frees what people can only hold.

For Jesus, the Pharisees and Scribes have not truly understood the law of Moses. The true interpretation is that God always writes twice. What happens between the first and second writing? An understanding that there are no people who are without sin and that they live only because of God's infinite mercy. If all live by Grace, who can throw the first stone? The need to ask for forgiveness for myself takes precedence over the need to condemn another? Jesus alternative to the holding stare of the Pharisees and their followers is to hold up a mirror and then bend down again. He will not use their staring strategy. He gives them the self knowledge they need to change. The divine glory does not have to return to heaven as it has found another way to heal the sins of the earth.

Jesus writes with his finger as a sign that God is speaking. He writes twice as a sign that God is forgiving. He writes on the earth as a sign that this teaching is for all peoples of all times. He refuses to stare as a sign that sins are not held. And when they got what He was trying to say what did they do? Did they let go of vengeance in favour of forgiveness? Did they give up judgement in favour of friendship? No! They walked away, preferring to live in isolation - one by one - than in the joy of the community. They remained alone and unconnected. A tragedy which proves that the longer we choose to live as judge, jury and executioner of the weak the harder it is to see the truth and power of the alternative.

But Jesus keeps faith with her. He stands and looks without staring. And just as those who walked away needed to see their distorted self in order to repent and have life, she needs to see her true self reflected in His gaze so that she can 'see and believe'. He calls her 'Woman' - a title of honour - and points her to her true self. He asks her, 'Has no-one condemned you?' This is the first and only time she speaks and her answer is powerful. "No-one, Lord". The suffocating neck brace of condemnation has evaporated. When she calls Jesus 'Lord' she knows He speaks from the heart of God. She knows she must now Go! But she also knows that as she goes she must walk without sin.



The Divine Glory has returned. Sin will not drive it away. He has written the truth of twice upon the earth, and built a new Temple of forgiveness in the precincts of the old. The woman is free to take her first steps into the future that is coming. The question is, are we?

## DID YOU KNOW...?



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Midday on Tuesdays**, please email any item text you need to make known to the parish via the newsletter to [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF : JOHANNA LENZ, RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Friday 12 April 2019** at 11.30am. Please pray for Johanna and all her family.

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

**CAR PARK – FUNERAL GATE:** We politely ask you not to park in the spaces at the town centre side of the car park after 12noon the day before a Requiem Mass at the Church, the rest of the car park is available. This is to enable the funeral gate to be closed to secure the area for the hearse and family mourners' cars to turn and park at the church for the Requiem Mass. Thank you.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS & EXPOSITION – FRIDAY 12 APRIL** the Stations of the Cross will be at 10.00am and Exposition at 10.30am before the Requiem Mass for Johanna Lenz, RIP.



**PASTORAL CARE CONTACT MOBILE NUMBER-** We can provide home visits by Care team members for whatever reason. It could be in the case of illness, to see a friendly face or just for a chat. To request a visit email [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or ring **07394 440 938**



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR – APRIL:** 14<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday; 18<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday; 19<sup>th</sup> Good Friday; 20<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday; 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday; 29<sup>th</sup> St Catherine of Siena; 30<sup>th</sup> St George.

**MASS OFFERINGS: £1946.64 SECOND OFFERING: CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND £162.64**



**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, please complete and return all forms to the parish office.

**THE SHOP WILL BE OPEN EVERY SECOND SATURDAY EACH MONTH 5.30pm - 7.00pm AND EVERY SUNDAY 9.30am – 10.30am (EXCEPT EASTER SUNDAY)**

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm-9:30pm.** Please contact the parish office for venue details.

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP –** Closed until next school term.

**KEEP FIT –** Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm in the hall

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

**CHOIR PRACTICE –** Every Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome. Instrumentalists also invited to join us.

**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING:** No Anointing of the Sick Mass on **Friday 26 April**. Next Anointing of the Sick Mass is **Friday 31 May 2019**. **Car park reserved for persons with limited mobility.**

**TEAS & COFFEES –** After all weekend Masses,

**JOURNEY IN FATH –** 7.30pm-9.00pm in the hall.

**OFS - Saturday 20 April 2019** at 2pm-4pm in the hall.



**BERKSHIRE CREDIT UNION CONTACT POINTS AND DATES:** Come along and have a chat with a trained volunteer at one of the locations points:

**Mondays 10am – 12pm:** St Paul's Church, The Square, Ralphs Ride, RG12 9LP **AND** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

**Tuesdays 10am – 12pm:** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

**Wednesdays 2.15pm: 4.15pm:** Crown Wood School, Opladen Way, Bracknell RG12 0PE

**Thursdays 10am – 12pm:** Holy Trinity Church, The Langley Hall, The Ring, Bracknell RG12 1HD

**Fridays 10am – 12pm:** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, RG12 1BE

Visit Berkshire Credit Union at <https://www.cslberks.org.uk>

**SUNDAY MASS PARKING IN SERVICE YARD D –** Please be aware that the Sunday Mass parking concession in Service Yard D for the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses ends at 1200 noon.



### SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

**Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy**, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell, Tel: 01344 425729

**Fr Kevin Bidgood**, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot, SL5 9HG Tel: 01344 620591

**Fr Marcus Brisley** Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS and Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, RG45 6JG, Tel: 01252 876820

**Fr David O'Sullivan**, Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE Tel: 0118 9780348

**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.

**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, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Lilijan Rodenburg, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Derek Alexander, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Sally Tarode, Babs White, Tess Johnson, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Doreen Gladwin, Manuela Maria Barros, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Fielding, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D'Souza, Donal Hanley, Pat Meehan, Jacqui Rawstron, Jim and Francis McEvoy, Mary Murray, Jane Rodriques Thelma Briggs, Hazel Andersen, Margaret Pearce, Bessie Smith.

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



**ABLAZE! (age +13)** - Next meeting - **Friday, 26th April** in the Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm.

**IGNITE! (age 10-12)** - Next meeting - **Friday, 3rd May** in the Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm.

New to either of the youth groups? Want to make some new friends and have fun? Get yourself registered on our Parish website and come along. We'll look forward to welcoming you! For further information please contact [youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**EASTER OCTAVE MASSES** – There will be Mass every day at 10.0am from Monday 22 April until Friday 26 April 2019. The Mass on Friday 26 April will **NOT** be for the Anointing of the Sick. The next Anointing of the Sick Mass is on Friday 31 May 2019



**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** – Now available in the porch for the tax year from 6 April 2019. **Please take your box of envelopes for use from weekend 1 April 2019.** If you would like to use the envelope system next year, along with Gift Aid, please complete the forms that are in the porch or contact the parish office.

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS** including The Rosary of God's Mercy for the British Isles and Benediction at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ascot on Sunday 28 April at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

Please visit [https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/?utm\\_campaign=a807b4f7-49da-4e1f-80dd](https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/?utm_campaign=a807b4f7-49da-4e1f-80dd)



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

### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Are a 14 stop journey following Christ on the path to Calvary and beyond to the tomb, with prayers and intercessions along the way to focus our hearts. The Stations of the Cross will be led by different parishioners each week:

**Every Thursday evening in Lent (not Holy Thursday) at 7.00pm in the church**

**Friday 12 April 2019 at 10.00am. Exposition 10.30am, Requiem Mass 11.30am. No Stations of the Cross on Good Friday**

**LENTEN BOOKLETS** – A variety of booklets with daily reflections for Lent now available to purchase in the shop



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

**Thursday 4 April 2019 at 7.30pm : Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS**

**Friday 12 April 2019 at 7.30pm : St Francis of Assisi, Ascot, SL5 9HG**



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

**Saturday 13 April 2019** - Vigil 6.00pm

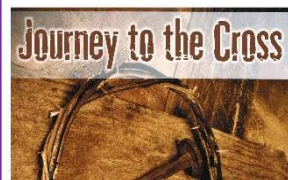
**Sunday 14 April 2019** – 8.30am and 10.30am



**CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH** – **Tuesday 16 April 2019** at 11.00am at the Cathedral. A “mobility impaired” accessible coach for able-bodied and mobility impaired parishioners who wish to attend this Mass. There is 1 place for wheelchair parishioners on a first come first served basis. Please be at the church by **7.30am** the coach will depart at **8.00am prompt**, returning **4.00pm**, please contact the parish office to be added to the list. **Donations appreciated towards the cost of the coach. Coach availability has now been offered to the other parishes in the Pastoral Area to fill the coach.**



**MAUNDY THURSDAY : THE EASTER TRIDUUM** – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – **Thursday 18 April 2019** at **7.30pm**. Existing Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word to be recommissioned at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.



**GOD'S FRIDAY : PRAYER WALK** – We have a Bracknell Churches joint event in the town centre on **Good Friday 19 April**. Programme starts at Holy Trinity meeting 10.15am for a prayer walk and stations into the town. If any youngsters want to dress up for the event please come to Holy Trinity Church's Langley Hall at 10.00am. We are aiming to arrive at Union Square at 11.15am

There will be singing led by choristers and singers from St Josephs, Holy Trinity and Warfield Church, all are welcome to join the singing. This is followed by a live worship band, puppet show and craft activities plus the now traditional giveaway activity until 1.30pm.

If you would like to help organise aspects of the prayer walk (readers, people to carry icons, cross etc, sing) or to sing when we reach Union Square please contact Fr Jim [btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parish.org](mailto:btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parish.org) or text 07775356652. If you would like to help in the square with giveaway, crafts, puppets, please sign up via this link, courtesy of Kerith Centre <https://kerith.churchsuite.co.uk/events/uyxx12oq>



**GOOD FRIDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Passion** – **Friday 19 April 2019, 3.00pm.** Day of fasting and abstinence.



**HOLY SATURDAY : This beautiful Easter Vigil Service is on Saturday 20 April 2019 at 8.00pm**



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

**Sunday 21 April 2019**

**Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am**

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

|               |                        |                |                                         |                                        |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Saturday      | 6 <sup>th</sup>        | 6.00pm         | Mass                                    | Johanna Lenz, RIP                      |
| Sunday        | 7 <sup>th</sup>        | 8.30am         | Mass                                    | Those Suffering Mental Health & Carers |
|               |                        | 10.30am        | Mass                                    | Parish Intentions                      |
| Monday        | 8 <sup>th</sup>        | <b>No Mass</b> |                                         |                                        |
| Tuesday       | 9 <sup>th</sup>        | <b>No Mass</b> |                                         |                                        |
| Wednesday     | 10 <sup>th</sup>       | <b>No Mass</b> |                                         |                                        |
| Thursday      | 11 <sup>th</sup>       | 9.30am         | Mass                                    | Victims of Knife Crime                 |
| <b>Friday</b> | <b>12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>11.30am</b> | <b>Requiem Mass – Johanna Lenz, RIP</b> |                                        |
| Saturday      | 13 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am        | Mass                                    | John Hayes, RIP                        |

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR C

|          |                  |         |      |                                        |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|----------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Gregory James Arthur, RIP (Foundation) |
| Sunday   | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Parish Intentions                      |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Ablaze! and Ignite! Youth Groups       |

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Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer, except when Requiem Mass is celebrated

**Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help,
10.15 am Mother's Prayers;**

**Saturday: 9.30am Stations of the Cross during Lent, 1st 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

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

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

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Follow us on FACEBOOK

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

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy

Deacon: Rev Aidan Lynch

Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher

Pastoral Assistant (Director of Evangelisation): Mary McNab

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

Safeguarding email: safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL