

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE
THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C
GROWING IN TRUST

2 December 2018 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 82 - Psalter Week 1

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With grateful hearts we say goodbye to St. Mark and his wonderful Gospel. Over the last year, we have sung Marks' prayer-song that it will be 'on earth as it is in heaven'. We have nurtured this Sacred awareness of the presence of God in our lives, and have been pulled back to earth with Heavens Agenda. We are heavens children, with the earth in our hands, shaping it into the world God wants.

And now, as we begin 2019, we continue the journey in the company of St. Luke. Take his Gospel close to your heart now. Use it to nourish your prayer and understanding in the months ahead. The golden thread of Luke's Gospel is his unashamed inclusion and exaltation of the poor. The Parable of the relentless widow - our theme for the year - captures beautifully the ebb and flow of justice and mercy hidden in every Parable, every encounter with Jesus.

On this first day of the new year - the first Sunday in Advent - I want to invite everyone to enjoy the Season of Advent. It is a precious time of preparation for the Great Feast and Feasts of Christmastide. If we start celebrating too early, we might lose some of the depth and resonance Advent wraps around the Christmas story, which contain the first hints of the Resurrection of the Beloved Son of God.

We don't have to look very far to hear talk that our beautiful world is falling apart. In today's Gospel, the lamps which God hung in the sky to give light are sending out alarm signals. The polluted waters are fighting back, and the earth which God raised up in the waters, to give us a place to stand, is being reclaimed by oceans which are roaring in pain. We are perhaps more frightened now than we ever were of the consequences of the sins we commit on the world. Perhaps we are reminded of Noah, and are looking for rainbows. Perhaps we are asking, "Will God keep His promise, even though we keep breaking ours?"



The answer is a resounding Yes! But it is a new Rainbow; and it is the Beloved Son of God. He appears when everything is falling apart. His Advent banishes fear and His strength empowers His disciples to stand up straight. The Beloved Son of God is the new earth, the new place to stand. The waters cannot drown Him. He offers Salvation in the midst of a perishing world.

The collapsing world weighs us down. It fills our hearts with anxiety and paralyses us with fear. There is no anaesthetic available for this pain. We try to protect ourselves from being overwhelmed. But perhaps more from being blinded to the deeper reality. If we do not do this we will be sucked in, dragged down, because alone we are too vulnerable.

The remedy offered by Jesus is prayer and vigilance. As we sink our roots into His spiritual landscape, we can reclaim that true self which cannot be destroyed. Hand in hand with the Beloved Son of God we can find a new courage, not just to survive but to engage with the endings that are to come. Far from cowering before the powers of destruction we lean into them. We hold one another through and beyond every ending which invades our lives.

It does not matter if the ending is present in Global terms, or Social Terms, Political Terms or even in Personal terms. All we know is that these things cannot be avoided. But Jesus teaches the supremacy of the spiritual because it survives whatever history can throw at it. A beautiful story from the Vedanta illustrates this.

*Two birds of golden plumage sat in the same tree. The one above, serene, majestic, immersed in its own glory; the one below restless and eating the fruits of the tree, now sweet, now bitter. Once it ate an exceptionally bitter fruit, then it paused and looked up at the majestic bird above; but it soon forgot about the other bird and went on eating the fruits of the tree as before. Again, it ate a bitter fruit, and this time hopped up a few boughs nearer to the bird at the top. This happened many times until at last the lower bird came to the same branch as the higher bird and lost itself. She discovered, in an instant, that there had never been two birds; only one, serene, majestic immersed in glory.*

*The spiritual instinct at the heart of this Parable is easy to grasp. How all that flows and changes and how all that does not flow and change come together in the end. The absolute triumphs.*

*In the most threatening moments of our lives, the Beloved Son of God comes as a protecting shelter who will not allow final destruction. To sit with a pair of binoculars watching for 'Him coming on the clouds of heaven' is a wonderfully imaginative portrayal and study of Grace. But we should not forget, as we begin this new year, that He can only do this because earlier, and with a loud cry, 'He breathed His last' (Mark 15,37)*

# DID YOU KNOW...?



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



**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (the SVP)** - provides practical help and support whenever possible for those who need it. Are you lonely? Are you in need of help of any kind? Or do you know someone who is? If so, contact the SVP on 07731862349 to arrange a visit. All calls are completely confidential.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Do you have a **wardrobe, a double bed or a chest of drawers** in good condition that you no longer need? Would you be willing to donate it to the SVP? If so, contact the SVP on 07731862349. Thank you.



**BOOKING PARISH HALL AND PARISH ROOMS** – If you wish to use the church hall or parish rooms for your parish group, 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 – DECEMBER:** 1<sup>st</sup> St Francis Xavier; 7<sup>th</sup> St Ambrose; 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 13<sup>th</sup> St Lucy; 14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross; 25<sup>th</sup> The Nativity of the Lord; 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen; 27<sup>th</sup> St John; 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents; 29<sup>th</sup> St Thomas of Canterbury; 30<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.



**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING** – Mass on Friday 28 December will **NOT** be an Anointing of the Sick Mass

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

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

**ALPHA** – Every Tuesday 7pm – 8.45pm at Brown Bag, High Street, Bracknell until 4 December.

**OFS** - Next meeting Saturday 1 December at 2pm-4pm in the hall.

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

**RCIA** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the hall, all welcome.

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

**CHURCH SHOP** – Open every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 5.30pm-7pm; Sundays 9.30am – 10.30am.



**MASS OFFERINGS:** £1747.75.

**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 to the parish office.



**MYDONATE BT** – The world of donating is rapidly changing and becoming easier and more secure, which is why we have signed up to **MyDonateBT**. With **MyDonate** our parish receives more of your donation – as well as the full 25 per cent Gift Aid – it is a no direct fees, zero commission, not-for profit service. We will receive up to 63p more for every £10 given through **MyDonate**. We have a **MyDonate** link on the parish website [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk) orange button **“Parish Offerings”** where you can sign up to online donations. We also have donation buttons for **“Bamenda”** and **“CAFOD”**. Give it a go, it is really easy, you can do this on your phone or computer, a great way to donate to our beautiful church and parish.



## 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

**PEW PACKS** – Many of the pew packs have several important items missing and it is felt they are not being respected. Sadly we cannot keep replacing missing items and may have to cease providing them. Please return all items to the packs.

**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, 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, Gerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Fielding, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D'Souza, Donal Hanley, Pat Meehan, Jacqui Rawstron, Tom Larkin, Jim and Francis McEvoy.

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: JOHN HAND, RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Friday 7 December 2018** at 12.15pm, followed by service at 2.15pm at Easthampstead Park Cemetery. Please pray for John and all his family.

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



**THE JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP - INTRODUCTION TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE, Saturday 8 December** 9:30 am to 12:30pm exploring the prevalence of drug and alcohol problems in the UK, the impact on individuals, families, the wider community. Develop an understanding of support available for people with these difficulties. contact: Bernadette Fisher: [justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or via the Parish Office.



**CHURCH SHOP** - Opening during December on Saturday 1st/Sunday 2nd, Sunday 9th, Saturday 15th/Sunday 16th and Sunday 23rd. Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards, 2019 Calendars and Diaries now available



**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS** – The true spirit of Christmas Giving. Give a gift that will change a life. There are gifts for every budget from Happy Queen Bee at £4 to Help a Refugee child at £46. Each CAFOD World gift has been chosen for the real and lasting difference it makes to families living in developing countries. Catalogues are available at church or you can buy online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)



**IGNITE! (age 10-12) & ABLAZE! (13+) YOUTH GROUPS** - **IGNITE!** (age 10-12) - Next meeting **Friday 7 December** in the Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm. New to either of the groups? Get yourself signed up on the Parish website and come along! For further information, please contact [youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)



**ADVENT VIGIL - Friday 7 December 2018** from 7:45 to 12 midnight in the Church. The Prayer Group would like to invite everyone to come and join in this beautiful preparation for Advent. Please refer to flyer.



**ADVENT EVENT** - St Joseph's School 'Advent Event' **Saturday 15 December**, 10.30am – 1.00pm a chance to make a candle decoration, buy nearly new toys, create crafts, refreshments and more. Don't miss the chance to meet the shepherds and feed the farm animals in the stable! Entry is free.



**NEW GROUP: SOCIAL MEETUP** - For adults 30+. Hope to meet regularly to get to know others in a relaxed and informal setting. First event is on **Thursday 13 December 2018** at the Market Inn, Station Road, Bracknell, RG12 1HY - food at 6pm and Karaoke from 7pm onwards! If you're interested, please contact Lorraine by emailing [bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**A FAMILY CAROL CONCERT. THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 15 December** at 7.30pm. Thames Voyces invite everyone to join them at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church. This is the choir's 4<sup>th</sup> year performing at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church and they very much hope that the parishioners will join again this year following the 6.00pm Mass. Tickets £12/£10 (concession) or free for Under 16s. Wine and mince pies will be served at the interval.



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** – **Monday 17 December 2018 at 7.30pm**. Penitential Service for the parishes of the Pastoral Area at St Francis Church, Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG.



**ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE** - Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Wednesday 18 December 2018** at 6.00pm for a Carol Concert outside the Church, Princess Square Piazza. Please come and support our children. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after the service.



### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

**Saturday 22 December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 23 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
**8.30am Mass & 10.30am Mass**  
**Monday 24 December: 5.00pm Children's Mass**  
**Monday 24 December: 10.30pm Carol Service**  
**Monday 24 December: 11.00pm Midnight Mass**  
**Tuesday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass**  
**Wednesday 26 December to Saturday 29 December:**  
**10.00am Mass each day**  
**Saturday 29 December: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 30 December: 8.30am and 10.30am**  
**No Mass on Monday 31 December**  
**Tuesday 1 January 2019: 10.00am Mass**

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

|           |                 |                |      |                          |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|------|--------------------------|
| Saturday  | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass | Roma Bembridge, RIP      |
| Sunday    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass | Parish Intentions        |
|           |                 | 10.30am        | Mass | Shawn Daley, RIP         |
| Monday    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                          |
| Tuesday   | 4 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                          |
| Wednesday | 5 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Sister Josephine O'Grady |
| Thursday  | 6 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Thames Valley Hospice    |

### ST AMBROSE, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

**Friday**                      **7<sup>th</sup>**      **12.15pm**      **Requiem Mass – John Hand, RIP**

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday                      8<sup>th</sup>      10.00am      Mass      Pax Christi

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

|          |                 |         |      |                                     |
|----------|-----------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 8 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Georgia Conn, RIP & Deceased Family |
| Sunday   | 9 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Parish Intentions                   |
|          |                 | 10.30am | Mass | Peter Meehan, RIP                   |

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Tuesday to Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer;
Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help,
10.15 am Mother's Prayers;
Saturday: 9.30am Rosary, 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:** stj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org

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

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy
Deacon: Rev Aidan Lynch

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

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