

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

CHANGING OUR HEARTS AND BELIEVING THE GOOD NEWS

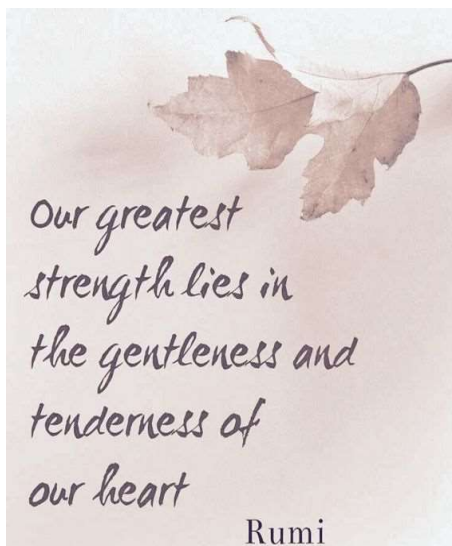
18 February 2018 – Mass Book Page 148, Psalter Week 1



If you made it to mass on Ash Wednesday, you will have received the traditional sign that Lent or Springtime has begun. The minister will have anointed your forehead with ashes and with words of invitation, "Change your heart, and believe the Good News!" It would be a mistake, of course, to think that this activity is confined to the six weeks of Lent! Changing hearts and believing in Jesus takes, at least, a lifetime.

Notice what unfolds as Jesus enters the waters of the river Jordan. He sinks. Then, He emerges in an act of human reaching and ascending openness. As He does so, he finds the heavens torn open, not for a second or two, but permanently. This opening allows the Spirit of Love to reach for Him. It does not land on him like a bird, it falls into Him. And then, from the inside, the Spirit drives Him into the wilderness. For Jesus, the moment of Baptism becomes the foundation for a struggle. The certainty of being loved unfolds into the desire to be faithful. This wilderness will be a place of testing and of conflict.

But not with God. It is Satan who holds sway here. Notice how quickly he makes his move on Jesus. He is associated with the 'wild beasts' - symbols of the violence Jesus will face if He is faithful to His mission. The Gospel of Mark isn't just 'Good News', it is good news in a bad world. Satan isn't a character in a novel and shouldn't be imagined this way. Rather, he is the inner, invisible energy of people, groups and nations who inflict suffering on others. This adversary of God manifests itself through individuals, groups and nations by turning them into wild beasts who devour God's good creation. At this moment, the Adversary is working through the wild beast Herod who has arrested John. But Jesus is not intimidated by this. In fact, he moves into the heart of Herod's territory. Jesus not only preaches the Kingdom of God, He is the Kingdom of God! His Baptism structures his identity in the world. He is sustained by divine love. His life in time is permeated by eternity. Now this must happen to others. Jesus' mission is to offer those He calls, the same gifts that are in Himself. This is why He tells them that the 'Kingdom of God is very near to you'.



Disciples must turn away from lives that alienate others and cause them suffering and turn toward lives that embrace the new humanity. Creation is being restored and they have a part to play in this work but the Adversary is strong and has many disciples of his own. This is why we speak of our struggle to be faithful. It does not come easily.

If we were to ask why it is difficult to change our hearts and believe the Good News, we might consider that it is because we also believe other things which don't sit well with the radical teaching of Jesus. We might prize wealth, beauty or power. We might have decided that no one can be trusted and increase our defence spending. We might believe in revenge or in our right to have power over others. This is why it is important to have a searing honesty with ourselves. Our behaviour will always reveal the beliefs we live by and this can be uncomfortable self-knowledge!

And finally, there is the thorny issue of time and death. If we allow Jesus to teach us how to value ourselves in a way that neither time nor death can destroy we will notice that our identity isn't defined by what we have or don't have. It will be found in the celebration of our true identity as daughters and sons of the Most High. If we keep faith with this, our faith in Jesus will gradually change to faith with Jesus. What we treasure and where our hearts live, will become united. The Good News will take us there and we will find that our choices, decisions and behaviour will flow from this treasure in our hearts. This is the adventure of discipleship. It is the lifelong journey of coming to know the infinite love which has chosen to live in the heart of our being. Wow!

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

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|-----------|------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 17 th | 6.00pm | Mass | The Poor and Hungry of the World |
| Sunday | 18 th | 8.30am | Mass | Parish Intentions |
| | | 10.30am | Mass | Friends & Family - Cathy Ann Johnson |
| Monday | 19 th | No Mass | | |
| Tuesday | 20 th | 11.00am | Exposition | |
| | | 12.10pm | Mass | Michael Ryan, RIP |
| Wednesday | 21 st | 11.00am | Exposition | |
| | | 12.10pm | Mass | Kathleen Webb, RIP |

THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, Feast

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|----------|------------------|---------|-----------------------|--|
| Thursday | 22 nd | 10.00am | Exposition | |
| | | 11.00am | Mass | Jim Webster, RIP and Deceased Knights of St Columba |
| Friday | 23 rd | 11.00am | Stations of the Cross | |
| | | 11.30am | Exposition | |
| | | 12.10am | Mass | Tim Roberts |
| Saturday | 24 th | 10.00am | Mass | The Sanctity of Human Life |

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

| | | | | |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 24 th | 6.00pm | Mass | Parish Intentions |
| Sunday | 25 th | 8.30am | Mass | Halina Kurowska, Bogdan Kaluza, RIP |
| | | 10.30am | Mass | Cesar & Maxima Camba, RIP |

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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. **NO CONFESSIONS SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY**

**Parish Office:** 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE  
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 (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)


**Safeguarding telephone number:** [07712 048695](tel:07712048695)

**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 SOULS OF:

**Mike Daniell**, RIP whose funeral service is on **Tuesday 20 February 2018**, 12.45pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.  
**Patrick Francis Messitt**, RIP whose funeral service is on **Thursday 22 February 2018**, 12.45pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.  
**Egle Ermelina Bennett**, RIP whose funeral service is on **Friday 23 February 2018**, 3.45pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

*May their souls 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 – YOU 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, we are waiting to hear from you.**

**“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS”**



**PARISH DIY SOS** – Are you a qualified building trades person willing to gift time and experience to help with a building project for a local family with a disabled child? The materials provided but skilled and experienced people needed. Please contact the Parish Office email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

## 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 - FEBRUARY** 22<sup>nd</sup> The Chair of St Peter. **MARCH** – 1<sup>st</sup> St David; 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick; 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.

**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.

**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, during term time, all welcome.

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

**YOUTH ALPHA** – Every Friday 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the hall.

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



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1752.84** **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.**

**SECOND OFFERINGS - FEBRUARY: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Fast Day (return donation envelopes 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>)**



**PARISH VACANCY** - A vacancy has arisen for an experienced hygiene technician in our parish. The successful applicant(s) will be an employee(s) of the Diocese of Portsmouth. The post is for one or two people to share, from Monday to Saturday, times to be agreed. In keeping with current practice, the successful applicant(s) will need to be DBS checked. Please contact parish office for more information or to request an application form.

**CLOTHESBANK GIVEAWAY** – Many thanks to all who donated clothes to the recent ClothesBank Giveaway. 55 adults and 61 children were helped, some were very much in need. Thank you, too, to those who volunteered on the day. Next ClothesBank Giveaway is on **Wednesday 25 April 2018**. If you would benefit from help of this kind, please contact the parish office.

**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 & Maurice 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.



# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Everyone is welcome to our choir practice every Thursday in the Church from **7.30pm to 8.30pm** with our wonderful organist John Weeks. Just come along, you will be warmly welcomed.

*“To sing is praying twice”*



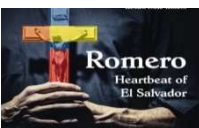
**YOUTH ALPHA** - Are you in Year 9 or above and free on Friday evenings to come and hang out with other young people to share food and explore life's **BIG** questions? Join us every **Friday 6:30pm-8:30pm** in the church hall. Bring a friend or two. No pressure. No charge. Register now on the parish website [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)



**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**



**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE – Friday 2 March 2018 at 10.30am in the Methodist Church, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, RG45 6LT followed by refreshments. Please join us, men and children welcome too.**



**'ROMERO – HEARTBEAT OF EL SALVADOR'** is a new play by RISE Theatre on **Friday 9 March 2018 at 7pm** —Rise Theatre performing at Holme Grange School, Heathlands Rd, Wokingham RG40 3AL. A challenging and moving production on the life and legacy of this great man of justice, Blessed Oscar Romero and the people of El Salvador. Suitable for adults and children 11+. Admission by ticket only - for your **Free Ticket** please contact Corpus Christi Parish Office on 0118 978 0348 or email [wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). For further details, please see the poster on the porch noticeboard.



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



**WEEKDAY MASSES DURING LENT** – Weekday Masses on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays will be at **12.10pm**, preceded by Exposition at **11.00am** to enable everyone to come to our weekday celebration of Lent. The exception is **Thursday 22 February 2018** when Exposition will be **10.00am** and Mass at **11.00am** due to the funeral service for Patrick Messitt.



**JOURNEY INTO A CONTEMPLATIVE HEART – “FALLING INTO SILENCE” A MASTER CLASS BY DR JAMES FINLEY** – A series of 6 reflections by Dr James Finley, commencing on **Thursday 15 February to Thursday 22 March 2018, 7.30pm to 8.30pm** in the hall. Dr Finley is a brilliant master of the contemplative life, a beautiful opportunity to 'rest in God' and prepare for the holy season of Easter.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – Every Friday in Lent commencing **Friday 16 February 2018** (not Good Friday) at **11.00am**, with Fr Danny and inspiration from Pax Christi, William Vanstone, Taize and Bishop Philip. Exposition follows at **11.30am**.



**REFRAME - Catholic Voices.** Talks every Wednesday during Lent from **7pm-8pm** in the hall commencing **Wednesday 21 February 2018**. Talks include 'How to defend the faith without raising your voice', 'Pope Francis' vision for the Church', 'Mercy and the migrant crisis', 'Building a Fairer World' and 'Catholic voice in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain'.



**CAFOD**  
just one world

**CAFOD's FAMILY FAST DAY** - Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On **Friday 23 February 2018 FAMILY FAST DAY** can you give up a meal or eat simply and put what is saved in the CAFOD Family Fast Day envelope. Your donation will make the double the difference, for every pound donated the UK Government will also donate a pound up to total of £5 million so twice the number of lives can be transformed. Please give generously and help us raise £5 million. CAFOD donation envelopes available in the porch weekend **10th/11th February** to be returned weekend **24th/25th February 2018**



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

**Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : The Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS  
**Thursday 15 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell  
**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



**CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH** – **Tuesday 27 March 2018** at 11.00am at the Cathedral. We have a "mobility impaired" accessible coach for able-bodied and mobility impaired parishioners who wish to attend this most beautiful Mass. We have only a few places for the coach departing 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 much more expensive this year, so we need to ask for a donation towards the cost of the coach which will be very much appreciated.** Please note, the Parish Office will be closed on **27 March 2018**, there will be 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 are to be formerly Commissioned during this Mass and will receive their Faculty, please contact the parish office to confirm you will be able to attend the Mass.



**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**