

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

29 January 2017 - Psalter Week 4 – Missal Page 130



The Beatitudes are the beginning of the massive teaching of Jesus known as the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon ends with a contrast between Wisdom and foolishness. The Wise, are those who hear The Words of Jesus and put them into action. The foolish, also hear His Words but do nothing with it.

Each time I hear or read this beautiful Sermon, it touches something deep inside of me in a way that other Sacred texts do not. It is so clear eyed and so daring, so sure of itself as it contradicts common thinking. It sweeps me along in a torrent of love and takes me to the place where, however dimly, I see what Jesus sees when he looks at me and you. Hearing it is like, as David Whyte said of poetry, "the art of overhearing ourselves say something from which it is impossible to retreat".

So what is it that Jesus sees when he moves to the higher plain? He sees people. He sees the circumstance of their lives. He sees the sacredness of their lives. He sees with three eyes and invites His disciples to do the same.

Jesus sees the people before Him and the negative circumstances that surround and pervade their lives. The poverty that goes so deep it crushes their spirit and reduces them to a constant state of mourning. In this situation they are meek, not violent or vengeful but hungering and thirsting for equality. Caught up in an unjust system, they are trying to better their lives and He is eager to support them. Jesus also sees a 'blessedness' dancing in the centre of their struggle for community. This blessedness is given by God, so is more powerful than the social and political systems that overwhelm them. It is already present and working its way towards a fuller space. It is moving mourning towards comfort, meekness towards inheritance and hunger and thirst towards satisfaction. It is giving notice to the current situation that it will not have the last word. The blessedness not only survives and overcomes human evil, it shines forth bringing its energies to the task of making life better.



When blessedness flows as Mercy, Purity of Heart, Peace-making, and Justice Making it becomes an atmosphere that all are invited to breathe. This is what Jesus sees and what He wants us to see. As Hopkins said in 'The Wreck of the Deutschland', "Ah! There was a heart right / There was a single eye". (Stanza 29)

As we listen to the Gospel for this fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are given another chance to be caught up in the stunning teaching of the Beloved Son of God. If we will allow it, it will grip us. Once heard, they are words from which it is impossible to retreat. It is being said. It is taking us to a higher plain. We might not stay there for long but we know that way back. The lightning bolt of truth which first touched us through these words, will never cease to call us to the abiding light that the darkness can never overcome.

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	28 th	6.00am	Vigil Mass	Michael Robinson, RIP
Sunday	29 th	8.30am	Mass	Jurgens Family Living & Deceased (Foundation)
		10.30am	Mass	Ernie Johnson, RIP
Monday	30 th	No Mass		

ST JOHN BOSCO, Founder

Tuesday	31 st	9.30am	Mass	Norberto Vazquez, RIP
Wednesday	1 st	9.30am	Mass	John McAvoy, RIP

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, Feast

Thursday	2 nd	9.30am	Mass	Theresa Mercieca, RIP
Friday	3 rd	11.00am	Exposition	(until 12.00noon)
		12.10pm	Mass	Dela Foy, RIP
Saturday	4 th	10.00am	Mass	PRO-LIFE

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	4 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Molly & Christie Campbell, RIP
Sunday	5 th	8.30am	Mass	Michael Devlin, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Francis and Bridget Robinson



Tuesday to Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** 10.15 am Mother's Prayers;
Saturday: 9.30am Rosary, 1st 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:** stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: 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 no later than midday on Wednesdays.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEER FOR OUR PARISH - We need volunteers to become involved in the life of our Parish by joining some of our ministries, groups and activities. Please contact the parish office to volunteer or to discuss any of these important ministries.

“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

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 - Jesus calls all of us to care for and to be “present” to others. Pastoral Care is a ministry of “presence”, a ministry of caring enough to give your time to be truly “present” to someone. It is the responsibility and privilege of all the baptised and should be freely offered to those with whom we come into contact. In this sense, it is about listening, supporting, encouraging and befriending. Pastoral Care is not just about ministering to one another but about revealing Jesus and cooperating with God’s mission of love and reconciliation through Christ and in His Spirit. 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 let Liz in our parish office know, tel 425729 or email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or contact the St Vincent de Paul Society (Ascot & Bracknell SVP) 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.



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.

Parishioner Emmy Bieniek’s nephew, Reece Gilkes and his friend are planning to travel around the world. Journeying through 5 continents and 50 countries, learning about people from all different walks of life to raise much needed awareness for the fight against modern day slavery and forced labour. If you would like to share in their adventures, sign up to updates via their website Asseenfromthesidecar.org



LAST WEEK’S MASS OFFERINGS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS: Total amount £1,545.43, Pax Christi Peace received a further £15.54. 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, Peggy Malone, 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.



BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS - This is a meeting with parents to support them and better prepare them for their faith journey with their child and to share your faith story with these young families. We are looking to expand our excellent team of 3 persons to 12 persons, so if you feel this is something you could do with confidence, please contact the parish office stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for details.

World Day
of the Sick



February 11

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. Parishioners who need transport and those offering transport can you 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. This will be 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



CHILDREN'S
Liturgy of the Word

Thank you for your patience while we reorganise Children's Liturgy, the aim is to ensure we are both meeting child safeguarding requirements and health and safety regulations relating to the hall capacity.

We hope to be able to resume this valued ministry in the very near future, however, this is dependent on having sufficient volunteers in place. Did you know that Diocesan guidelines require us to have 1 adult, checked/trained on safeguarding, in place for every 6 children aged 5-7 years and 1 adult to every 3 children aged under 5 years. Therefore, if we want to have 30 unaccompanied 6-7 years olds attend Children's Liturgy, we need at least 5 volunteer adults present!

A big thank you to all the volunteers that have already come forward and are in the process of completing the volunteer application process. However, we still welcome more volunteers to help ease the burden and allow us to cater for more children to attend. Note: Being a volunteer does not mean you are committing to lead the sessions - we very much also need people who could come along as general helpers and would, thereby, provide the adult presence required to meet the important safeguarding requirements. Please contact the parish office if you wish to volunteer.

We are currently in the process of redesigning the registration process to make this an on-line system, as well as ensuring we have a robust process in place to more closely monitor and control attendance numbers. Look out for more details about this coming soon.



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: kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



LENT

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS':

Saturday 4 February 2017 at St Bede's Primary School, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX 10.00am - 1.30pm. Talk on our Lenten focus plus updates on campaigns. To book a place please call 01252 329385

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: 1st/3rd Tuesdays 7.45pm – 9.30pm Hall. Day Group: 1st/3rd 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.