

**THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE**  
**THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

**REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!**

**31 March 2019 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 168 - Psalter Week 4**

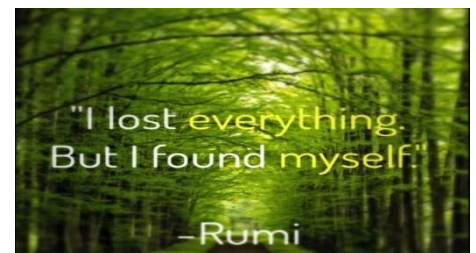
**PARISH PRAYER FOR EVANGELISATION:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for gathering us together and calling us to serve as your disciples. You have given us, through your Son Jesus, the mission of evangelising and witnessing your love to the world. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we discern your will 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.

Who is listening to the Parable of the Prodigal Son? First, the tax collectors and sinners who are 'outside' the law. Second, the scribes and Pharisees who are 'inside' the law. And here they all are, gathered at the feet of Jesus. What will he teach them?

The Pharisees and scribes are described as 'grumblers'. They are very confused that Jesus is welcoming and accepting people whose bad behaviour has put them outside the law. Is He approving and sanctioning their behaviour? But Jesus doesn't see the world the way they see it. He shares a meal with the lost daughters and sons, and has conversations with other lost daughters and sons. Whatever He is doing He is seeking out the lost. In today's Parable, a father welcomes two lost sons. The youngest, symbol of the 'sinners', the eldest, symbol of the Pharisees. Jesus has diagnosed the same sickness in all of them - their failure to rejoice. The story that unfolds is an invitation to a celebration that just has to happen.

This Parable is so rich it is hard to know where to mine it first. Should we gaze upon an unusual father who keeps nothing for himself, who behaves rather oddly throughout the story? What will he do with a younger son who is lost in sin and an older son who is lost in self-righteousness? How will he change their mindset to party mode? Or should we focus on the son who went away? Who severs his connection to family and community. Who squanders resources he never worked for. Who becomes a pig. Who, like so many others, takes the gifts of God but does not deepen their connection with the Giver? Who end up running on empty and alone? Who live like slaves in exile instead of the life of a beloved child at home? Who resign themselves to being treated as a hired hand? Who talk themselves into the loss of love? Or should we focus on the Son who stayed in the fields? The hard worker whose foot never taps to the sound of music? Who is suspicious and angry and refuses, even though he did take his own half of the dough, to accept the invitation to dance? Who stayed at home, not as a Beloved Son but with the calculating mind of a slave? Who lives with smouldering resentment which erupts in a tirade against his father about how unfair he has been?

The lost son makes the first move and it is all that he needs to do. The father has been waiting for this moment and his compassion covers the distance between them instantly. Arriving, this same compassion erupts in kisses and embraces. It is a tsunami of tenderness. It is a picture of overwhelming love and reconciliation. People have to turn back to God but they don't have to crawl back. Compassion meets them more than halfway and tears up the script of unworthiness. What happens when a broken sinner meets a wildly joyous father?



The other lost son has chosen the identity of a hired hand, with all the dullness that enforced employment brings. If he had chosen to live in the house and as a free and vibrant worker in the vineyard, he would now be singing and dancing to the music the father has written. What would his life had been if he had not turned it into drudgery? What if he had rested in the joy the Father always brings? Celebration is the natural overflow of divine love. If only he would take his cup and drink.

I can never pray this Parable without being moved to tears of joy by it. I know in this I am not alone. Tears flow on the border between time and eternity, the Sacred and the profane. And this story is truly one with the power to make tears because it shows what God is like in conversation. It is a story of how we can so easily separate ourselves from the love that does not fail. It is the story of how obsess about the mistakes we have made and cling ever more tightly to our brokenness, even though God is not doing that at all. It is a story of the tragedy of those who sit just outside the gates of God's heart like beggars waiting for a reward, while God is saying, come in and have it all.

For the Father, and for His Beloved Son, Grace is Grace is Grace is Grace. When the punishment and reward mindset meets the indiscriminate host it shouts 'Not Fair'. Perhaps we all have an instinctive understanding of the older brother because he is so much like us. The Gospel is an invitation to Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice! But we can only be joyful when we have let go of the mindset that keeps us imprisoned in misery. When we break free of our attachment to old sins (our own and those of others) and when we can break free from the belief that we are working for rewards, will we hear the music, the chink of the glasses and know that we are home!

## 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)

**CLOCKS GO FORWARD AT 2am ON SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2019**



**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.



**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: £1809.01**



**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.

**SECOND OFFERINGS FOR MARCH: 30/31<sup>st</sup> Clergy Assistance Fund**

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

**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:** Every last Friday in the month 12.10pm Mass, refreshments after Mass. **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.....



### JOINT YOUTH GROUP SOCIAL EVENT – Friday 5 April 2019 - Indoor Climbing - FULLY BOOKED.

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)



**ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL MINI-VINNIES** – Held an afternoon tea party on **Tuesday 26 March** for some of our elderly parishioners who had the most wonderful time, lovely cakes, singing songs and chatting. The Mini-Vinnies are the young SVP members. Mini Vinnies like to turn concern into action inside and outside school!

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS** will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ascot on Sunday 28 April at 2.30pm. All are welcome



### 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**

**Every Friday in Lent (not Good Friday) at 11.00am. Exposition 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm.**

**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. Programme starts at Holy Trinity assembling 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 arriving at Union Square at 11.15am

There will then 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 let Fr Jim know [btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parih.org](mailto:btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parih.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**

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C**

Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Deceased & Injured-Christchurch Tragedy
		10.30am	Mass	Night Shelter Guests and Volunteers
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Sylvia Allison, RIP
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Deceased and Suffering of Mozambique, Malawi & Zimbabwe Flood Disaster
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	Gerald and Beryl Meadows
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Mass	Pro-Life

### **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

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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, 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**

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm**

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

**Website: [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://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](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

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