

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A
LOOKING WITH THE EYES OF LOVE

26 March 2017 - Psalter Week 4 – Missal Page 164



David Steindl-Rast has a very helpful insight into how we come to rest in a growing and deeper awareness of how God is present to us in every moment. In every breath. This 'awareness' might be born suddenly and then stay with us for the rest of our lives, or it may come more slowly, opening and unfolding over time. David asks us to notice how some years spring arrives suddenly. We may look out of our window or be driving along the road when we are ambushed by a depth of greenness and colour which wasn't there last time we looked. Other years, we catch spring in the act of arriving. We notice the early hint of blossom, the grass or the sound of birds returning. The point being that it does not matter whether it is sudden or gradual. All that matters is that we become aware, and deeply aware of the reality in which we live.

Life teaches us that God is always present in every breath we take. God is present in every atom of creation and is the source of its evolution. Sacred Scripture, Poetry and the Mystical Traditions of every faith see this and teach it to those seeking Wisdom.

But the story of the man born blind calls to those who cannot yet see to come to the one who can grant the gift of sight and of insight.

At the beginning of his great work, 'Auguries of Innocence' William Blake invites us to,

See a world in a grain of sand,
and a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
and eternity in an hour.



He emphasises '*seeing*' the spiritual in and through the material, '*perceiving*' the infinite ground of the finite world and '*sensing*' the eternal in the here and now. We complete creation when we look at it with the eye of Love. For some people, this can happen when they have their first baby, or experience the death of a loved one, or when they are at prayer or enjoying nature. But it doesn't always have to be the Big Bang. And when these peak experiences are yet to visit us, it does not follow that spiritual insight is denied us.

All we have to do is ponder what is before us in and what is in our hearts. Our faithfulness will allow The Sacred will find its own way to open our eyes and reveal itself to us.

Today's Gospel ends with Jesus going after the blind man who has been driven away by the so called religious elite. When He finds the man with new eyes, Jesus asks him a question, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man does not know who this is so he asks Jesus to tell him. The words Jesus gives to him are powerful. 'You are looking at Him, He is speaking to you'. The seeing man gives the only possible response, 'Lord, I believe'. And he worshipped Him.

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

Saturday	25 th	6.00pm	NO MASS	
Sunday	26 th	8.30am	Mass	Bill Docherty, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Gregory James Arthur, RIP (Foundation)
Monday	27 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	28 th	9.30am	Mass	Felix & Maria Villahermosa, RIP
Wednesday	29 th	9.30am	Mass	Margaret (Peggy) Mary Malone, RIP
Thursday	30 th	9.30am	Mass	
Friday	31 st	11.00am	Stations of the Cross	
		11.30am	Exposition	
		12.10am	Mass	Margaret (Peggy) Mary Malone, RIP
Saturday	1 st	10.00am	Mass	Pro-Life

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

Saturday	1 st	6.00pm	Mass	Ann Chapman, RIP
Sunday	2 nd	8.30am	Mass	Kenneth Knight, RIP (Foundation)
		10.30am	Mass	Sarah Davis, RIP



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

Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher **Pastoral Assistant:** Mary McNab

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.



CAFOD – EAST AFRICA CRISIS APPEAL – Second Collection weekend **1st and 2nd April 2017**. We need your help to end the urgent crisis in East Africa - over 16 million people are facing starvation, on the scale of the disaster of 1980.

EASTER CARDS – We have a selection of beautiful Easter Cards for sale in the shop.



CAR PARK SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - It is not unnoticed that the bollards system has been unavailable in recent weeks. We have been inspected by the Manufacturers to establish the cause of the faulty bollards. Whilst this work is undertaken, the annual renewal is deferred until further notice for those who paid their £50 subscription last year and have the blue windscreen stickers may continue to park.

We are experiencing opportunistic parking by a range of visitors, those who did not pay last year and are not attending services should not park. The car park is monitored by CCTV. Updates will to follow as we work with the manufacturer to have the equipment working properly again

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.



PARISH DATABASE CENSUS - Our parish is currently implementing a new database system. The new Pastoral Administration Management Information System (known as PAMIS) has already been successfully implemented in many parishes across the Diocese. So that we have the most up-to-date information available about our parishioners and our parish, we are asking that you complete our new Parish Census Form (one per household) online via our parish website; just follow the link: <http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-census-form.html> please complete

the census by **Monday 17 April 2017**.



LENTEN PROJECT : MEDAILLE TRUST – Sharon Westby from the Medaille Trust has helped us to understand more of the sufferings of our sisters and brothers who are trafficked and enslaved. All offerings can be gift aided so please use the envelopes provided which will be available at all weekend Masses throughout Lent. We do all this to set someone free.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Every Friday morning during Lent at 11.00am to 11.30am, followed by Exposition at 11.30am.

FREE TO GOOD HOME – Dominica Roberts is offering her car free of charge or for a charity donation (Life House, Fr Jaya, Medaille Trust, Bamenda?). Black Fiat Brava, 1200cc, Y registration, petrol, 2- door, 107,000 miles, MOT to September 2017, running well, good condition for year. Please speak to Dominica if you are interested.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE - Monday 27 March: 58 Qualitas, Bracknell

KEEP FIT OVER 50's CLUB – Every Tuesday 2.00pm to 3.00pm in the Hall.

TODDLER GROUP – Closed Tuesday 28 March until Tuesday 25 April 2017

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 Mass during term time.

YOUTH GROUP – Every Friday, 7.00pm – 9.00pm in the Hall during term time.



LAST WEEK'S MASS OFFERINGS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS: Total amount £1,581.98. Please make cheques payable to "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".



CAFOD – FAMILY FAST DAY – We are thrilled with your very substantial donations and gift aid, our total is £1480.56, a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone for your generosity.

**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, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, and Yvonne Gantzer, Jadwiga Butcher, June Cooper, Lillijan Rodenburg, Marjorie Brown Josephine & Maurice Timms, Andrea Brown, Blanche Shap, Chris Curtis.

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, Brian Mecklenburg, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Francis Robinson, Tom Corridan, Allan James, Nicholas Powell, Peggy O'Sullivan, Caroline Nirmalan, Kathleen Brosnan, Jackie Shaw

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



DEATH CAFE CROWTHORNE No. 4 - Wednesday 29 March 2017 at Beaton's Tea Rooms, 241 High St Crowthorne, RG45 7AH. We are a group of people drinking tea/coffee and eating cake talking about anything around the theme of death and dying. The idea is to make it easier to communicate about death in the community and to increase the awareness of death and dying with a view to making the most out of LIFE' See Poster in porch or contact Annie Cygler 01344 772496 or for more information email: deathcafecrowthorne@gmail.com. See Facebook: Death Cafe Crowthorne'

SOUTH BERKS PASTORAL AREA PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Fr Danny McAvoy, Fr Kevin Bidgood, Fr David Sullivan, Fr Marcus Brisley

St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5 April 2017

St Francis of Assisi, Ascot at 7.30pm on Thursday 6 April 2017

Private Confessions at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell at 10.45am Saturdays 1st and 8th April after 10.00am Mass. Also at Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS on Tuesday 11 April from 7.00pm to 8.30pm



CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH – Tuesday 11 April 2017 at 11.00am. We have a “mobility impaired” accessible bus for

both able-bodied and mobility impaired parishioners who wish to attend this most beautiful Mass at the Cathedral which all the Priests of the diocese attend. The bus will be departing from St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church at 8.00am, returning approx 4.00pm. There is no charge and no donations for the bus, it is free to the parishioners. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend Mass at our Cathedral. Please contact the parish office to be included for the bus. **Please note, the Parish Office will be closed on 11 April 2017. No 9.30am Mass.**



'REBUILDING MARRIAGE: BEHIND 'AMORIS LAETITIA' ('The Joy of Love') by POPE FRANCIS - On **Wednesday 12 April 2017**, 7pm - 8pm in St Joseph's Church Hall, Bracknell a talk on this subject will be given by Dr Austen Ivereigh, author of The Great

Reformer, a book about the papacy of Pope Francis. All are welcome to attend.



RITE OF ELECT – Please pray for our “Elect” who will be received into full Communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil: Christopher Apana, Denise Knight, Claudia Machado and Mitchell Wing.

DBS REFRESHER SAFEGUARDING TRAINING - On **Saturday 20 May 2017** at 10.00am – 12.30pm at St Joseph's, Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 5JJ. The Trainer is Jo Hopkins, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer. If you wish to attend this session, please register with Soraya Ciccarone email soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to book your place.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS LENTEN RETREAT - At Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading, RG7 5TQ. Last retreat date **Saturday 8 April**. Approximate timings are 9.30am to 4.30pm. Lunch is included. Places for each day are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. To sign-up online : <http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/retreat.html> or contact the parish office.



SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

MASS - Please contact the Parish Office if you are celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years and you wish to attend the Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX on **Saturday 24 June 2017** at 11am. You can also email: anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – We

hope to take a group from our parish to join the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from **Friday 18th - Friday 25th August 2017** and is led by Bishop Philip. For information contact the parish office or

visit <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/>