

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

THE YEAR OF MARK: EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM PREFERRING DARKNESS TO LIGHT

15th March 2015 Psalter Week 4

*Parish Office: Stanley Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA
Monday – Friday 9am-3pm*

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The Truth. The Highest Truth. The Truth above all other truths. What is it? Dante spoke of "the Love which moves the sun and the other stars." (Paradiso, 33.145) And that we, who are grounded and living in a Universe beyond our understanding are gradually led to this Truth, this Love and it should, in a good way, blow our minds. As Saint Paul wrote to his infant Churches, 'For it was the same God who said, Let there be light shining in the darkness, who has shone in our own hearts'.

So what is the Truth? The Son of Man, was sent into the world by the Love which could not tolerate human death. The Son of man was sent by this Love to bring us life without end. The Divine desires our wellbeing and His judgment is Light and Life and Love.

I suppose it's true that we are so used to being weighed, judged and written off by others that it may be difficult to accept this at first. Just sit in the cafe in Princess Square or Waterstones for five minutes and you will hear what a pleasant pastime condemning others is for many. Wherever it occurs it's a very bad habit and helps no one. So too, when we follow the holy triplex of lent and give ourselves to prayer, fasting and the care of the poor, from inside, our shadows can become deeper, more exposed to us. And our inner critic might make us wonder if Gods' Unconditional Love is meant for me. And, like many, we walk away to what looks like an easier place. It isn't.

The Sign, the only Sign that God loves us without regret, is, of course, the Crucifix. It deserves our awe, our respect, our gaze, our wonder and our love. Kneeling before the Sign is therapeutic. It's a bit like a poultice which draws the toxin out of us and frees us from condemnation and absurdity.

I turn to Fr William Vanstones' beautiful, 'Hymn to the Creator', where he expresses it better than I can.

"Drained is Love in making Full, Bound in setting other Free, Poor in making many Rich, Weak in giving Power to Be.

Therefore, He who Thee reveals, hangs, O Father, on that Tree.
Helpless. And the nails and thorns, tell of what Thy Love must be.

Thou art God, no monarch Thou, enthroned in easy state to reign.
Thou art God, whose arms of Love, aching, spent, the world sustain."



St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday	14 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Michael & Anna May McNamara
Sunday	15 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	David Hancock†
Monday	16 th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	17 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Sydney MacGuire†
Wednesday	18 th	NO MASS		
Thursday	19 th	9.00am	Mass at St Joseph's School	
Friday	20 th	10.45-11.45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.00pm	Mass	James & Johanna Moriarty†
		7.00pm	Rosary	
Saturday	21 st	9.30am	Stations of the Cross	
		10.00am	Mass	Tom Cossart†
		10.30am	Confessions	

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday	21 st	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	22 nd	8.30am	Mass	Doris Robinson†
		10.30am	Mass	George Brophy†

**We pray for the Sick and Housebound of Our Community
and for those who care for them.**

Sick and Housebound

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Audrey Dunne, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Sue Beasley, Adrian Sweeney, Thelma Briggs, Johanna Lenz, Peggy Prendergast, June Bartlett, Millicent & Brian Mecklenburgh, Tim Brierley, Bridget Tanner, Teresa Mercieca, Ena Stanton, Peggy O'Sullivan, Peggy Malone, Kate McGrath, Alex McCall and Patrick Holmwood

And those who are unwell or in hospital

Peter Bentley, Anne Adams, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Sheila O'Neill, Eileen Collins, Carol Clarke, Marjory Vermuelen, Una Mair and Peggy Heasman.

DATES, NEWS AND VIEWS

WE WELCOME – Fr Andrew and Fr Adrian who will be celebrating Mass with us this weekend.

PARISH CENSUS – Please ensure that you return any completed Census Forms in the box provided in the Porch. If you missed the chance to complete your Census Form during Mass last weekend, collect a copy from the porch or register on-line via our parish website. The Census Form will allow us to bring our parish records fully up to date. It is important that one form per household is completed, even if you have been in the Parish twenty years because the information given will supersede previous records. All information will be treated in confidence and comply with the Data Protection Act.

OUR WORK OF LOVE FOR LENT - St. Theresa`s Catholic Health Centre - Our thanks to Colm Lennon from the Diocesan BAMENDA Committee who, last weekend, told us more about the work of the Committee and in particular how we can help towards the rebuilding of the health centre in Bukow - our chosen Lenten project. Thank you to those of you who have already returned your envelope with your donation. A basket will be available in the porch after all weekend Masses during Lent for all donations. More envelopes and flyers are available on the notice board if you didn't manage to pick one up last week. Thank you and God bless you for your kindness.



You can visit the website www.bamendaandportsmouth.com or contact Colm Lennon Chair of the Bamenda and Portsmouth Committee at clennon@bamendaandportsmouth.com

JOURNEY OF FAITH, THE SCRUTINIES – The third Scrutiny is on Sunday **22nd March** at the 10.30am Mass.

PRAYER GROUP MEETING – The next meeting is on Tuesday **17th March** at 7.45pm in the Parish Room

JOURNEY OF FAITH – The week's topic for **17th March** is **Grace and the Beatitudes**.

KEEPING IN TOUCH (KIT) – A presentation will be held in the hall on **21st March** 2.00pm-4.00pm and all are invited to attend.

YOUTH SOCIAL – Year 7 and above on Friday **27th March**, from 7.00pm-9.30pm in the Parish Hall. There'll be fun activities, music and nibbles! Why not bring a friend?

CHURCH CLEANING - In preparation for Holy Week/ Easter will be on Saturday **28th March** 2015 at 10.45 after the 10.00am mass. More volunteers still needed.

CHILDRENS LITURGY - The Stations of the Cross for Children during the 10.30 mass on will be on Palm Sunday **29th March**. We are hoping to do this around the church's garden, weather permitting; we ask that all children aged 5 and under are accompanied by an adult.

CHRISM MASS – On Tuesday **31st March** at 11.00am in the Cathedral. If you would like to travel to Portsmouth by sharing a car please contact the Parish Office.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP – The training course will begin on **Tuesday 7th April** and run for 8 weeks. Further information about times, etc will be available nearer the time. If you would like to be part of this Ministry there is still time to sign up. If you have any difficulty attending the training sessions or need a lift please call Steve Rollins on 07747196014 or 07594976699. Anyone with ideas about what should be included in training can also call and speak to Steve.

CLOTHES BANK – We just wanted to extend our thanks to you all at St Joseph's for your kindness and generosity with the use of your hall for Clothes Bank. The first Giveaway went really well, praise God. We helped 37 adults and children in total with clothing and footwear. The day was a blessing to clients and volunteers alike. Very many thanks for your part in it all. We are looking forward to the next Clothes Bank on **13th May**. *Gisele and Jo from St Marks, Binfield.*

PASTORAL CARE SERVICES – So much outstanding practice already takes place in our local parishes that could be made more widely available. The Pastoral Care Services team is appealing for parishioners who have experience in caring for travellers, the bereaved, those with mental illness, the homeless, and people with dementia, residential homes, and disability. We are particularly concerned to promote support for those who are profoundly deaf and would appreciate contact with that part of the Catholic Community. Please consider joining one of the Diocesan Pastoral Care Teams. If you would like to talk about this contact Fr Peter Hollins on 01730 262290 or pcs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE LATEST NEWS - The Diocese of Portsmouth now issues a weekly e-news with photos, news, and information from around the Diocese. Go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk and add your email address to receive these updates. Are you on Facebook? Like 'Diocese of Portsmouth' to get all the latest info as it happens. You can also follow @BishopEgan and @PortsmouthRC on Twitter.

3 MINUTE RETREAT – Do you need inspiration? Try this short retreat while sitting at your computer. Go to www.loyolapress.com to find the link for the retreat.

THE RETIRING OFFERING – After all Masses this weekend is for the Clergy Assistance Fund.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – If you would like prayers for anyone who is sick, housebound or in hospital and those who care for them, please contact the Parish Office on 01344 425729 or speak to Fr. Danny.

THE PARISH EMERGENCY NUMBER – Is **07936 538 167**. Fr Danny can be contacted on this number by those who are very ill or needing viaticum.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING
Total £1076.38 - Thank You
PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES PAYABLE
TO
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph

Thank You
To those who visit the
sick and housebound