

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

THE YEAR OF LUKE THE YEAR OF MERCY

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

1ST May 2016 - Psalter Week 2

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

Safeguarding Representative: Marion McGuire 07712048695

It is remarkable and refreshing to see how Pentecost had blown open the hearts of those who experienced it. The fire had melted away all the old categories and assumptions to allow for something wonderful to take their place. The infant church throws its door open to the pagans, and a new community is formed. It is indestructible. We have inherited a great legacy from them.

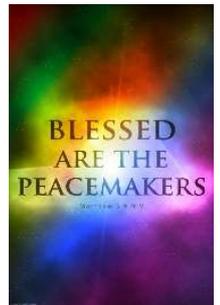
Since 1983, when I was ordained to the sacred priesthood, I have seen and heard many things. Ministering to people at the end of life, there is a common enough desire to leave their 'loved ones' some kind of financial boost. Sometimes, this last will and testament can become the source of family conflict, where for the sake of a few quid, relationships are shattered beyond repair. What was meant to help has only hurt.

Notice, how, in today's Gospel Jesus makes a living will before His disciples. His bequest is not something that will tear them apart, but something that will help them to stay together. He leaves them Peace, the only gift that will guarantee their future.

Peace does not divide but restores.

Once upon a time, two brothers met after forty years of being apart. Poverty had driven one of them to seek his fortune abroad. Like the brother who stayed at home, he had done okay but was never wealthy. When they met, they were strangers to, and suspicious of, each other. The tension was high and as each family member crept gratefully into bed, the two brothers were left alone. The one who stayed brought bread to the table, the one who left a bottle of wine from his suitcase. When the daughter of the household awoke the next morning, she noticed that neither of them had gone to bed that night. She went outside and saw them together in a field. They turned and waved, and side by side, stepping together, they came towards her. As she watched and waited, she knew that even though she had not yet had to stay awake through a long night to beat the darkness away with her love, she knew she would be able to do it.

Peace, the restoration of relationships, is the only inheritance worth having.



DATES AND NEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR – Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Hayes†. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated here at St. Joseph's on **Thursday 5th May 2016** at 11.30am. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES – In this year of Mercy, we are hoping that a group from our parish will join in the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes which takes place **19th August – 26th August** and is led by Bishop Philip. Fr John Cooke will be visiting our Parish at 7pm on **Tuesday 3rd May** for an information 'Roadshow' to answer any questions that you may have regarding what the Pilgrimage involves, the cost (Hotel Eliseo, all-inclusive price £838, ex travel insurance) and how we travel. More information and Booking Forms are available from the parish office. Please let the office staff know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending the 'Roadshow'.

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY – On **Wednesday 4 May 2016** at 6.45pm to 8.15pm in the Parish Hall.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISTS – Meeting at 7.30pm on **Thursday 5 May 2016** in the Parish Room.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSALS – Children only - In the Parish Hall on **Saturday 7 May 2016**, 1.00pm to 2.30pm

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET – **Sunday 15th May** Service is cancelled and will resume again on **Sunday 19 June 2016** at 2.30pm

CHURCH SHOP – Open only for First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards and gifts on **Saturday 7th May 10.30am to 11.30 am**

SERVICE OF HEALING – Everyone is welcome to the Service of Healing on **Sunday 8th May 2016** at 3pm. If you are willing to give someone a lift to/from the Service of Healing or make cakes or sandwiches for the afternoon tea, there will be sign-up sheets in the porch this weekend. "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit"

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - Have you heard of Marriage Encounter? Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience, open to married couples of all ages. You don't both have to be Catholics, and non-Catholic spouses are just as welcome. Spaces available at Park Place Pastoral Centre, near Fareham from **13th to 15th May**. Interested? Visit our website <http://wwme.org.uk/> or contact Chris and Mary Farrall – 023 80275401

DAY OF PRAYER FOR SHARING THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL - **Sat 14th May 2016** - Fr Mark Hogan would like to invite you to take part in a Diocesan day of prayer for the New Evangelisation (Sharing the Joy of the Gospel) from 10am to 4pm on **Saturday 14th May**. There is no need to sign up.

MASTERCLASS IN CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER – A series of eight reflections by Dr James Finley on Thomas Merton. Dr Finley is a brilliant master of the contemplative life. His insights into the journey to Merton's 'Palace of Nowhere' are outstanding. If you feel drawn to make this Masterclass, please contact the Parish Office indicating, if you can, what day of the week and time would best support you to complete the journey.

TAIZE PRAYER GROUP – Last Sunday evening we had a beautiful Holy Hour, in the style of prayers from the Monastery of Reconciliation in TAIZE. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all who gave their Sunday afternoon to prepare for this Ministry to the parents of the children who will soon be making their First Holy Communion. It is now time for us to inaugurate this style of prayer for the whole community. I would like to invite all singers and musicians who are drawn to this new venture to let me know of their availability so that we can wisely choose the right time to come together. This new Ministry of Prayer needs a leader and, if you feel 'called and gifted' to this task, please let me know, many thanks Fr Danny.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – The next meeting is on **Monday 9th May 2016** at 86 Qualitas, Bracknell. For further information please contact Ann on 01344 451847.

GOLF DAY FOR CAFOD – Organised by the Catenian Association on **Friday 8 July 2016** at 12.30pm at Wellow Golf Club, Ryedown Lane, East Wellow, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6BD. Golfers of all abilities welcome. There will be a cold carvery dinner in the Club Restaurant after the golf. For more information and/or an application form please contact Roger Lillie on 07729 368195 or email rlillie@cafod.org.uk

HOLY DOOR YEAR OF MERCY PILGRIMAGES – Abingdon on **Saturday 23rd July 2016** and the Portsmouth Cathedral on **Saturday 3rd September 2016**. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to take this beautiful pilgrimage.

FOODBANK – The Foodbank are desperately in need of the following items: sugar (550g/1kg), tinned rice pudding, long grain rice (500g/1kg), tinned fruit, jam/marmalade/honey, milk (1 litre long life carton), tinned meat, tinned tomatoes, cereal. All donations are very much appreciated.

SVP REQUEST FOR HELP – Do you have a set of good quality pots and pans that you no longer need? If so, please contact the St Vincent de Paul Society on 07731 862349.

CLOTHESBANK – Thank you to everyone who donated new and used clothes for the recent Clothes Giveaway.

PRAYER GROUPS -The Evening Prayer Group meet at 7:45 - 9.30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in the Church Hall. The Daytime Prayer Group meet at 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. after Mass and the Rosary on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the Church Hall. Please contact Anne D'souza for more information on 01344 420465.

CANDLE BOXES – The candle boxes have been temporarily removed for lock repairs. Please place any donations you may wish to make in the wall offertory boxes in the Church and Porch.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP – Every Tuesday at 9.30am in the Hall during school term time only.

SOUP & ROLL – Every Friday during term time after 12.10pm Mass. Volunteers are welcome.

GIFT AID BOXES – Please collect your box from the porch.

KEEP FIT – Every Tuesday from 2.00pm to 3.00pm

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING

Loose Cash	£702.65
Envelopes & Cheques	£310.40
Ukraine Offering	£665.62
Direct Debits	£510.00
Total amount:	£1523.05

Thank You

PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES

PAYABLE TO:

PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph



RACHEL, HILARY AND PATRICK

OUR BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAM