

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW
THE YEAR OF LUKE: THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE CHILD IN THE WOMB

20th December 2015 Psalter Week 4

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

Telephone: 01344 425729 Email: stj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk
Safeguarding Representative: Marion McGuire 07712048695

Elizabeth and Zechariah belong to a priestly family, but their child will be a Prophet, and not just any old Prophet. This prophet leaps for Joy, even in his mother's womb, as he hears that Jesus is on His Way. Great spiritual teachings often use images to help us understand the world of the spirit and how to navigate our way through it. The 'Womb' is one of those images.

In the infant Church, Mary was described as conceiving Jesus in her ear, her heart and her womb. These three work as one for her to give birth to the Beloved Son, as they do for us.

The image of the womb is also used to describe the slow movement of growth from darkness to light, or from what lies hidden to what can now be seen. The Word of God is often described as a tiny seed, planted in darkness. When it is mature it shows itself to the world. The pregnant womb bears the meaning of the slow arrival of wisdom.

The image of the womb is also used to let us know of the quality of Sacred Love. It states that it is God who shapes us in the womb, (Psalm 139) and asks, "Does a mother forget her baby, or a woman the child within her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you." (Is,49:15) Womb is the origin of every person to whom God is passionately committed.



Jesus belongs to His Jewish Community, and He belongs to the whole Human Race. When the beautiful Simeon cradles Him in his arms, he whispers the prayer, "a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel". Even the angels sing of a new peace for all. (Luke, 2:14)

All this wonderful Grace surrounds every child in the womb. The beloved Son of God is the fulfilment of the promise of every child in the womb. He is the 'firstborn' (Luke,2,7) there will be others. But first they must hear the Good News. When, on 25th December, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are evangelising the child in every womb.

St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	19 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Robert Buchanan†
Sunday	20 th	8.30am	Mass	Mary Blackmore†
		10.30am	Mass	Maire Mair†
Monday	21 st	NO MASS		
		7.30pm	Advent Penitential Service at Corpus Christi Wokingham	
Tuesday	22 nd	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Bridget Rosst†
Wednesday	23 rd	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	John Baptist Robertson†
		10.15am	Rosary	

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Thursday	24 th	5.00pm	Children's Mass	Parish Intentions
		8.00pm	Vigil Mass	Parish Intentions
		12.00am	Midnight Mass	Parish Intentions

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday	25 th	10.00am	Mass	Parish Intentions
--------	------------------	---------	------	-------------------

THE FEAST OF ST STEPHEN

Saturday	26 th	9.40am	Rosary	
		10.00am	Mass	Eileen Larkin†
		10.45am	Confessions	

THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday	26 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Patrick Hickey†
Sunday	27 th	8.30am	Mass	Joan & Ken Foster††
		10.30am	Mass	Maurice Kiema†

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, Sue Beasley, Adrian Sweeney, Thelma Briggs, Johanna Lenz, Peggy Prendergast, Millicent & Brian Mecklenburgh, Bridget Tanner, Ena Stanton, Peggy O'Sullivan, Frances Dyson, Winnie Justice, Inge Walker, Bill Guilfoyle and Yvonne Gantzer.

Those who are unwell or in hospital: Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Eileen Collins, Una Mair, Esther Brophy, Freda Edgington, Nuala Eacott, Anne Hardy and Nora Cronin.

PLEASE PRAY FOR – The repose of the soul of Jose Coelho† who has died. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen. His funeral will be held on **Tuesday 5th January** at 12.45pm at Easthampstead Park Cemetery.

CRIB OFFERINGS - This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Philip, our parish will be donating crib offerings to the Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For further information, please take a leaflet by the crib and keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

NIGHT SHELTER - This begins in our church on **Sunday 10th January** and we would be very grateful for any spare towels that you don't want plus toiletries (soap/flannel/toothbrushes). Please leave them with the Parish Office or contact Theresa McDougall on 07851 200987. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING – Refresher, Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults training sessions have now been as follows :-

Saturday 16th January 2016

at Our Lady & St. Edmund, Radley Road, Abingdon OX14 3PL

- Refresher training* 9.30am – 12.00 noon Val Croughan
- Child Protection training 9.30am – 12.00 noon Sue Smy
- Vulnerable Adults training 1.00pm – 3.30pm Val Croughan

*Please note that Refresher training is a combined CP and VA session and is for those who have undertaken their initial CP and/or VA training three or more years ago.

Saturday 23rd January 2016

at St. Edwards, Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3HJ

- Child Protection training 10.00am – 12.30pm Jo Hopkins
- Vulnerable Adults training 1.30pm – 4.00pm Jo Hopkins

Saturday 6th February 2016

at Holy Rood Church, Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4LD

- Child Protection training 10.00am – 12.30pm Sue Smy

People who wish to attend any of these sessions will need to book a place with the Portsmouth Diocese Parish Office by email to Soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP – Our next Mass will be celebrated on **Saturday 16th January** at 10.00am.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – For those who need to celebrate this sacrament there will be a Penitential Service in the Pastoral Area on **Monday 21st December** at 7.30pm at Corpus Christi Wokingham. There is also Confession at St. Josephs at 10.45am on Saturdays.

TIMES OF CHRISTMAS MASSES –

Thursday 24th December - 5.00pm Children's Mass
- 8.00pm Vigil Mass
- **12.00am Midnight Mass**
-

Friday 25th December - 10.00am Mass

Saturday 26th December to Wednesday 30th December, Masses will be celebrated at usual times.

Thursday 31st December - 9.30am Mass
- **12.00am Midnight Mass**

Friday 1st January - 10.00am Mass

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE OVER XMAS – The Parish Office will be closed from **Monday 21st December** and will re-open on **Tuesday 5th January** whilst Office staff take a well deserved break.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING
Total £885.15 - Thank You

PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES
PAYABLE TO
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph



To the children and staff at our
two schools for a wonderful carol
service