

**ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW**

**THE YEAR OF MARK: EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM  
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME  
WELCOMING THE LEAST**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Psalter Week 1**

**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](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)**

**Safeguarding Representative: Marion McGuire 07593 065 526**

When St Francis kissed the leper, the leper became Christ. The transfiguration of the leper happened with a kiss. In this act of love, Christ appeared bringing His Abba with Him. So when we welcome Christ, we welcome the One who sent Him. Leper into Christ, Christ into God!

Why does Jesus teach us to begin with the least, and who are they? When we begin with the least, we dissolve powerful hierarchies. Those at the top are always included. Those at the bottom always excluded. The lowly have nothing to offer; and when we kiss them we turn the world upside down. An exhilarating activity!

But today I want to offer one more way of thinking about the least. To consider the inescapable poverty within us all. In his wonderful book, "Markings", Dag Hammarskjold points to it. "People comment on Jesus lack of moral principles. He sat at meal with publicans and sinners, he consorted with harlots. Did he do this to obtain their votes? Or did he think that, perhaps, he could convert them by such 'appeasement'? Or was his humanity rich and deep enough to make contact, even in them, with what in human nature is indestructible, and upon which the future has to be built?"



Before any encounter with another I take a moment to remember my own humanity. There is no experience that this person has had that I cannot share, no fear that I cannot understand, no brokenness that I cannot care about. It is because I am vulnerable, that I am enough. The 'least' is now understood as the bare basic material that is common to us all. It lies hidden beneath all that we do or do not possess. In Gospel language, it means to welcome the Beloved Son of God in each person.

This is the breakthrough. Our shared humanity reveals the One who lies hidden. This is what is beautiful and our greatest treasure. It is the first and yet it is the least. When we become the servant of the least, we strangely find ourselves as first.

# ***St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow***

## **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Georgia Connt†
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Doris, Alirio & Victoria
		10.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Divine Mercy Chaplet with Benediction</b>	
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Tony Clements†

## **ST PIO OF PIETRELCINA**

Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	John Collins†
		10.15am	Rosary	

## **OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**

Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1200</b>	<b>Requiem Mass</b>	<b>Gwendoline Megan Price†</b>
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00-12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.10pm	Mass	Parents & Godparents† of Veronica Jastrebski
		7.00pm	Rosary	

## **Ss COSMAS & DAMINAN**

Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.40am	Rosary	
		10.00am	Mass	Sr's Monica Orange & Chris Fealy's Intentions
		1030am	Confessions	

## **TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Semus Wright†
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Michael Devlin†
		10.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions

### **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, Bridget Tanner, Ena Stanton, Peggy O'Sullivan, Kate McGrath, Frances Dyson and Yvonne Gantzer.

**Those who are unwell or in hospital:** Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Eileen Collins, Una Mair, Esther Brophy, Winnie Justice, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Bill Guilfoyle and Nora Cronin.

## DATES, NEWS AND VIEWS

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** - Gwendoline Price† and Joseph Patrick Flanagan† who have died. Gwendoline Price's Requiem Mass is on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 12.00. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

**HOME MISSION SUNDAY** - Home Mission Sunday is celebrated this Sunday **20<sup>th</sup> September** and is themed: PROCLAIM God's Mercy. On this day we are encouraged to pray for the work of evangelisation in England and Wales, remembering in our prayers especially those whom we know are distant from the life of faith. Please support the second offering which funds the bishops' national work of evangelisation and the development of this year's Proclaim '15: Building Missionary Parishes initiative. It is possible to donate online at: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/donations](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/donations). For more information see: [www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms15](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms15). Copies of the Pastoral letter from the Bishops of England and Wales are available in the Porch.

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET WITH BENEDICTION** – Is this Sunday **20<sup>th</sup> September** at 2.30pm.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE – New Beginnings** - We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month to reflect on and prepare for the Liturgy of the Word in the following Sunday Mass. Our meetings are held in the Parish room at 7.45pm. You are very welcome to join us. More information is on the Parish web site.

**CARER AND TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday at 10.00am in the hall during school term time.

**OVER 50s KEEP FIT CLASSES** – On Tuesday 2.00pm-3.00pm in the hall.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** - Our next PPC meeting will be on Wednesday **23<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.15pm** in the Church hall.

**CONFERENCE ON MIGRANT SLAVERY** - The Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Team of the Diocese of Portsmouth are hosting a conference of Migrant Slavery on the **26<sup>th</sup> September** 2015, 9.30 – 3.30 pm. St. Bede's Church, Popely Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. There are an excellent team of speakers including Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Fiona Cunningham, Centre for Social Justice, Jess Gealer, Medaille Trust and Laura Franklin, Assistant Commissioner, Police and Crime Commissioner, Isle of Wight. Booking is essential: the day will cost £10. The day is likely to become fully booked very quickly so please register by completing the form on the Portsmouth Catholic Diocese website. Once you have registered you will be contacted on how to pay the charge.

**MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING** - Will be held in the Church hall 9.15am-11.15am on Friday **25<sup>th</sup> September**. All are welcome.

**THE FOODBANK** – Are very short of biscuits, tinned fruit, jam, milk (long life) and tinned vegetables. Thank you.

**THE ASCOT & BRACKNELL ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**- Are holding their Annual Fundraising Event on Saturday **26<sup>th</sup> September** after 10.00am Mass, we are in need of homemade cakes and cupcakes to sell on the day. Please support us at the 10.00am Mass and afterwards in the Church Hall as all proceeds go to helping the poor and needy in our communities.

**2015 ARCHBISHOP ROMERO LECTURE** - Will be given by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga SDB at 7pm on Thursday, **1<sup>st</sup> October** at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. He will speak about 'From Romero to Francis: The Joy & the Tensions of Becoming a Poor Church with the Poor'. The Lecture is free, and no tickets are required.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS MEETING** – Will be held on Thursday  
**1<sup>st</sup> October** at 7.00pm in the hall.

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING** - The next sessions take place at The Kirby Room, St Luke, Englefield Road, Theale RG7 5AS, on Saturday **3rd October**. Child Protection will take place from 10am-12.30pm. For those working with Vulnerable Adults, this will take place from 1.30pm – 4pm. It is also a requirement that we attend a refresher session every three years. There is a Refresher session on Tuesday **6th October** at Immaculate Conception, 63/67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU46 9BS, between 7.00pm–9.00 pm. There is also one at St Luke's (address as above) on Saturday **10th October** from 10am - 12.30pm. If you wish to book onto any of these sessions, email Soraya Ciccaraone [soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**A QUIZ NIGHT** - In the Church Hall on Saturday **10<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.15 pm. Money raised will go to Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service. Tickets are £5 per person to be paid in cash on the night and a maximum of 6 people per team is permitted. To register a team, please send an e-mail to [stjosephsquizbracknell@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsquizbracknell@gmail.com) or, add your name to the Sign-Up Sheet at the back of the church. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. Tea, coffee and cakes will also be available for purchase. There will be a raffle for which we would really welcome donations. A marked box will be left in the Church porch for your contributions. So if you feel quizzical please come along for a fun night!

**SECOND OFFERINGS & FUNDRAISING IN GENERAL** – Just in case you missed this item last week. Many have commented that we are in danger of donor saturation through 2<sup>nd</sup> offerings and other requests for financial support from our community. The Offertory offering supports the day to day running of the Parish, whilst Christmas and Easter contribute the bulk of the Parish Priest's annual income. Additionally we are obliged to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> offering on 10 dates, determined by the Diocese and for pre allocated causes (eg Peter's Pence, Bamenda, Cathedral etc). The topic has been discussed at PPC and Finance committees and now a subcommittee has been formed, staffed by members of both those committees, chaired by Peter, current chair of Finance, and in future they will assess all requests for offerings and wider fundraising. Fr Danny is not a member of this new committee and that will remain the case, so that he cannot be accused of favouritism. The committee will draw up a points based system and short form application which will be used on every occasion that our Parishioners wish to appeal for cash support from us. This might mean that some, who in the past have received support, will in future be disappointed if their request for an offering is turned aside. So, if in the coming 12 months you are thinking of fundraising via the Parish, please advise the office so that we can get this initiative off the ground. We do need to cut back as we are bombarded by requests and currently have no system for dealing with them.

**IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR PARISH** – Welcome! You can register online via our website at [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-registration-form.html](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-registration-form.html)

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERING**  
**Total £939.62 - Thank You**  
**PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES**  
**PAYABLE TO**  
**PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph**



**To everyone involved in launching**  
**this year's Confirmation Journey,**  
**including #squad!**