

**ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW**  
**THE YEAR OF LUKE THE YEAR OF MERCY**  
**THE RELENTLESS WIDOW**  
**GOING DEEPER**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Psalter Week 3**

**Parish Office: Stanley Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA**  
**Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm**

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

**Website: [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)**  
**Safeguarding Representative: Marion McGuire 07712048695**

St. Luke wants to join others who have written about, 'the events that have been fulfilled amongst us'. He wants 'Theophilus', that is, the one who has fallen in love with God, to know the Truth, to come to a deeper knowledge. For St. Luke, Baptism is not best experienced on a pair of water skis, it requires the skill of diving deep, going beyond the surface. And he uses some wonderful images to get this across.

After His Baptism, Jesus is praying and, in this moment, knows Himself to be The Beloved Son of God, filled with Gods' Spirit. The Spirit drives Him into the wilderness where he is tempted by Satan (the Liar) to become a self-centred Son of God. Jesus powerful 'No!' allows the Spirit to fill Him even more, and it is filled with the Spirit that he returns to Galilee.

Notice that the first thing Jesus does is to try and understand more of the experience He is having. He goes home, He goes to the Synagogue and consults the Sacred Texts. When He is handed the text, He bypasses the 'reading of the day' and searches for words that will make it clearer what it means to be The Beloved Son of God.



He discovers that it is to be on a mission of liberation. Whenever life is impoverished, it will be enriched. Wherever life is imprisoned, it will be made free. Wherever life is impaired, it will be enabled. Wherever life is hopeless, it will be raised from the grave. It is with these words that He begins His Ministry. In a nutshell, Jesus is called to a life of transfiguration.

Luke has made good on his promise. He gives 'Theophilus' the true understanding of the events that have been fulfilled. For Jesus they are no longer words of promise but words of now.

The message is crystal clear. If we claim to have had a religious experience, or that we have been touched by the Sacred - for some this happens through nature, by the death of a loved one, the birth of a child, by falling in love, by questing for the truth, by acting with compassion, by speaking up for the rights of the poor etc. There is always an 'event' where Gods Boundless Love breaks into our awareness and changes us forever. The temptation to stay on the surface or to become selfish can be strong in these moments. We must go deeper to fill out the meaning and our understanding of what is happening. And the litmus test of its authenticity is seen in a prayerful transfiguration of the suffering of the world. If that's not happening, maybe we have to look again.

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

### ***THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME***

Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Anthony Brand†
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	Ernie Johnson†
Monday	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO MASS</b>		

### ***St. TIMOTHY & St. TITUS***

Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Maura Holt
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Johanna Lenz
		10.15am	Rosary	

### ***St. THOMAS AQUINAS***

Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Maureen & David Barney
		10.15am	Mothers Prayers	
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup>	11.00-12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.10pm	Mass	Jurgens Family
		7.00pm	Rosary	

### ***OUR LADY ON SATURDAY***

Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.40am	Rosary	
		10.00am	Mass	Bridget & Francis Robinson
		10.45am	Confessions	

### ***FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME***

Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Melvyn Mia
Sunday	31 <sup>st</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Edward Sheppard
		10.30am	Mass	John O'Dea†

### **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, 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, Anne Hardy and Nora Cronin.

**INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN THE CALLED AND GIFTED PROGRAMME** - Do you want to understand better what God wants you to do with your life and how best to serve Him? The Called and Gifted programme is coming to our Parish soon. It consists of three steps to help you to discern the gifts you have been given by the Holy Spirit. It starts on Friday 4th March (evening) and continues on Saturday 5th March (all day), with formal teaching on a series of topics about how we, as lay Catholics, can recognise what we are called to do. After that, if you are interested, you can sign up for a personal conversation to help you start discerning your gifts and then, finally, join a small group for further meetings. You will find it inspiring and personal to you and there is no cost.

**WHEN: Friday 4th March 7pm – 9pm AND Saturday 5th March 9am - 4pm** (you need to attend both dates) **WHERE:** St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Parish Hall, Bracknell. For further information or to book your place, go to [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted)

**LAUNCH OF CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION** - Bishop Philip invites all grandparents to join him in the Cathedral for a special Mass to inaugurate the Catholic Grandparents' Association in our Diocese. The Mass will take place at 12.15pm on **Friday 12th February 2016** and will be followed by an address from Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA. If you are interested in going but would need a lift, please speak to Maura Holt or sign the interest sheet on the noticeboard. If we have enough people interested in going, it may be possible to hire a minibus. For information about the CGA, see their website: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

**DR AUSTEN IVEREIGH TALK ON POPE FRANCIS & MERCY** - Dr Austen Ivereigh, papal biographer and Catholic Voices coordinator, is coming to our diocese to speak on 'Mercy: the key to Pope Francis's reform' on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March** from 8.00pm to 9.00pm. Using stories and anecdotes from Pope Francis's past, Dr Ivereigh will show how he sees the recovery of mercy as God's primary attribute as the most significant theological shift of his lifetime, and the primary means of speaking to contemporary western society. He will show how mercy is Pope Francis's answer to the question posed by the 2012 Synod on the New Evangelization — how the Gospel can be re-presented to post-Christian cultures — and what this "missionary and pastoral conversion" entails for the Catholic Church at every level.

There is no cost but there will be a collection to cover expenses. The venue is St. Joseph's Church, St. Michael's Road, Basingstoke, RG22 6TY – on the same site as Bishop Challoner School.

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN** – Campaigners are calling for the Home Secretary to create buffer zones near abortion clinics within which boundaries it would be illegal for peaceful counsellors to offer pro-life alternatives. Please help mothers and sign SPUC's petition against Buffer Zones. There is a form in the porch or visit [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk).

**BRACKNELL AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE** - are currently recruiting for new volunteers in a variety of roles, including Receptionists, Advisers and Gateway Assessors (who carry out short diagnostic interviews). We're also looking for new Trustee Board members. If you're interested in finding out more about these opportunities, please give us a call on 01344 428107 for a chat about the options available.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – The next meetings of the group will be held on:

- **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January** at 86 Qualitas
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February** at 57 Ardingly

All are welcome to join. For more information please call Anne on 01344 451847.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** – The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January** at 7.00pm in the Church Hall.

**CRAFT GROUP** – The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January** from 11.00am-12.00pm in the Church Hall.

**RETIRING OFFERING THIS WEEKEND** – is for the Catholic Education Service, an obligatory offering towards the education of those in our schools.

**BRASS CLEANING** – we need helpers to clean the church brass about once a month, days and times to suit. If you are interested, please contact Dominica at [dominica.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:dominica.roberts@gmail.com)

**SOUP AND ROLLS** – are served every Friday after the 12.10 Mass.

**THE CHURCH SHOP** – Only one week left to grab your bargains at the January sale. Items will be marked at **UP TO 50% OFF**, you know it makes sense!

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERING**

Loose Cash	£855.15
Envelopes & Cheques	£302.95
Direct Debits	£510.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1668.10</b>

**Thank You**

PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES  
PAYABLE TO  
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph



**To all who are helping with  
the night shelter**