

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF**  
**ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW**  
**THE YEAR OF MARK: EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM**

30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 Psalter Week 1

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



*Parish Office:* Stanley Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA

Monday – Friday 9am-3pm

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

*Safeguarding Representative:* Marion McGuire 07593 065 526

I wanted to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year, and to whisper a prayer that we will feel the surge of energy that comes with a new beginning.

We bid Matthew a fond farewell. And we are so grateful for his vision of a spiritual transfiguration which moves us from blindness to sight, deafness to hearing, drowsiness to awakening, lostness to finding and deadness to rising! Yet, as we move alongside Mark, we will see and feel the same beauty and grace at work in the stories that Jesus told and the conversations that came from them. Marks Gospel has great stories!

As a Teacher, Jesus is not into giving information. Instead, He teaches in a way that calls the listener to a heightened awareness. And over the next twelve months we will have the privilege of watching Him working with open and closed minds and offering to all the fullness He knows in Himself. (John 1,16)

Reuven Gold once told a great story. "Once upon a time, a very distressed disciple pounded on the door of his teachers house at midnight. The teacher opened the door. The house was in darkness, but the teacher held a candle in his hand. The disciple blurted out that he was filled with anxiety and had to speak with the teacher at once. The teacher opened wide the door. The disciple entered and the teacher closed the door. Then the teacher blew out the candle".

When he said the last sentence, Reuven's eyes widened, and a grin of revelation spread across his face. We know the problems we face. We know how the door opens and closes. How the light flashes in the darkness. We know how those who wait, who watch and who move with compassion, discover, without worshipping their emotions, the thing that is needed.

In 'The Gift: Poems by the Great Sufi Master', Daniel Ladinsky describes the alertness demanded by Jesus In today's Gospel beautifully.

How do I Listen to others?

As if everyone were my Master

Speaking to me, His Cherished, Last, Words.



# St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	Cyril Ford†
		4.00pm	Youth Mass	Mary Galloghly†

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> **NO MASS**

Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Paul Baker†

## ST FRANCIS XAVIER

Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	William Wright†
		10.15am	Rosary	
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Margaret Maloney†
		10.15am	Mothers Prayers	
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00-12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.10pm	Mass	May Gillard†
		7.00pm	Rosary	

## ST NICHOLAS

Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.40am	Rosary	
		10.00am	Mass	John O'Sullivan†
		10.30am	Confessions	

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Ken Breadmore†
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	John Cole
		10.30am	Mass	Peter Meehan†

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

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

### And those who are unwell or in hospital

Peter Bentley, Kenneth Maimo, Freda Crookall, Kate McGrath, Anne Adams, Yvette Briggs, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Sheila O'Neill, Eileen Collins, Eileen Green, Carol Clarke and Alex McCall

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**PLEASE NOTE** – The Children's Carol Concert is now on **THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER at 6.00pm** and not 17<sup>th</sup> December. We hope to offer everyone who comes to the concert mulled wine, tea, coffee or squash and a mince pie! If you would like to donate a box of mince pies for this wonderful occasion, can you please bring them in to the sacristy by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Any unopened boxes can be used on Christmas Eve or we can take them to the Foodbank on Friday 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP MEETING** – Every first and third Tuesday in the month, 7.45-9.15pm in the Church. Everyone is welcome; the next meeting is on **2<sup>nd</sup> December**.

**BRACKNELL CATENIANS** – Will be holding their Dinner and Carols Evening at 7.30pm on Tuesday **2nd December** 2014, at the Hilton Hotel, Bracknell. Cost £23 pp. Please contact [bf318.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:bf318.secretary@gmail.com) for details or for other enquires.

**CARERS AND TODDLERS GROUP** - Each **Tuesday** in the Hall 9.30am-11.30am

**JOURNEY OF FAITH** – Every **Tuesday**. You are invited to join any of our weekly sessions to deepen your Catholic Faith from 7.30pm-9pm in the Church Hall. This week's topic is **Scripture and Tradition**.

**SECULAR FRANCISAN ORDER** – The next meeting is on Thursday **4<sup>th</sup> December** 2.00pm in the Parish room

**ST MARGARET CLITHEROW SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE** – Please come along on Saturday **6<sup>th</sup> December** from 12.30-3.00pm.

**ADVENT PREPARATION** - Would you like to know more about the Sunday readings we hear in Advent? Come along to Gospel Challenge in the Parish Room, 7.45 pm to 9.30 pm on Monday **8<sup>th</sup> December**.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)** - Anyone interested in finding out more about the work of the PPC or interested in joining the PPC from January 2015 is invited to our PPC social evening on Wednesday **10th December** at 7.15pm in the Hall.

**YOUTH ADVENT PARTY** – **Friday 12 December** from **7pm-9.30pm** in the Church hall. Come along for an evening of fun including a quiz, music and pizza! All young people in Year 7 and above are welcome.



**SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Sunday **14<sup>th</sup> December**, starting at 12.30pm in the hall. If you are new to the parish and would like to come along, please contact the parish office on 01344 425729 or email [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**QUIZ NIGHT** – Back for its 3rd year Catherine Hannan's super Charity Quiz and Raffle. On **17th January 2015** at 7.15pm in the Church Hall. Cost £6 per person. Bring your own drinks and snacks. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available. All money raised this year will go to **Child Bereavement UK**. To donate or pay for tickets please go to UK Virgin Money Giving and type in my name.

**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.

**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.

## PARISH NEWS

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** – The repose of the soul of Joanna O’Connell †. Her Requiem Mass is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**COUNTERS FOR THE OFFERINGS** – We are in need of 2 persons to join the team of counters for the Offerings after the 10.30am Mass on a Sunday, it can be a couple of 2 single persons. There are 5 teams at the moment, so the commitment will only be once every six weeks. Please contact Pauline Leahy 01344 428700 or pleahy1@hotmail.co.uk if you can help.

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY** - It is very important that parents sign their children into the Children's liturgy. At one session we had over 60 children in the hall and only 20 names in the book, for safe guarding reasons we must know how many children are in the hall. The children are always very welcome but we ask that a parent accompanies younger children if possible so that we have the required number of adults in the hall.

**FOODBANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL** - The following items are needed by weekend of **6th December**. Please can you help? There is a red box in the porch for your items. Many thanks for your offerings. Fray Bentos pies, tinned salmon/chicken or ham, boxes or tins of chocolates, nuts, dates, savoury snacks children's selection boxes, Christmas fruit cake & Christmas crackers.

**KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA** – Christmas posters and stickers are available in the porch – please help yourself.

**Living Our Faith**  
*The people of the Diocese of Portsmouth*



We eased through 82% of target this week. This is a fantastic achievement, so well done and a huge thank you to all that have pledged thus so far.

Somebody mentioned to me during the week, that they had been away when I spoke and they were not really sure that they were fully aware of the appeal and its purposes. Well Living Our Faith is a Diocese wide appeal to raise funds to support clergy training (a record 12 men are currently undergoing training at seminaries, but each costs £25,000pa!). Lay training so that our parishes are better equipped to lead us in Evangelisation, and thirdly for renewing facilities including land and builds.

This is a 5 year pledge period, and our Parish was set a target of £165,000. We will retain 25% of monies raised and our share will be used to provide a facility for the disabled, and once over the target we get to keep 80% of additional funds received.

We want as many of our community as possible to be involved in this critical fund raising. No amount is too small. We have received a cash payment for £5 and we also have received pledges of £100 per month for the full 5 years. Give what you can, but please do get involved. If you have been thinking about this for a few weeks, then we fully understand, but we do need to reach our target, so can I suggest that you go to the home page of our website, and on the right hand side click to go through to a page where you can download a pledge, look at some advertising, and you can also read my talk given at all Masses in October.

Please see the Home page on our Website - [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.or.uk](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.or.uk)

Please put your pledges in the special yellow box at the back of the church. Only I get to see the pledges as this is strictly confidential.

Peter