

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW
THE YEAR OF LUKE: THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GOING BEYOND OUR MIND

6th December 2015 Psalter Week 2

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

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The opening lines of this week's Gospel Story are very clever. On the one hand, they dateline the events that are taking place by naming the important leaders of the day. On the other hand, they are a scathing critique of the establishment which no longer does what it was supposed to do. The word of God bypasses them and moves for the heart of John.

Any Baptism, John's included, looks from the outside like a set of exterior rituals. But what is really going on is happening on the inside. Some say it's like taking a wash and becoming clean, others think of it like dying and rising again. John gives us a clue by calling his baptism a baptism of 'Repentance'.

The word literally means "Going beyond the Mind". When we do this, forgiveness follows. This is how it works. The problem with sin is it is very sticky. We can all remember the people who hurt us, with amazing clarity. We are quick learners. We soon learn to wound others. Some can only tell their life story in terms of blows given and received. As we do this, sin rises to a new status in our minds. We begin to identify with it.



There is a difference though in telling the story of sin and what the mind, left to itself, does with it. The story is true. The mind enthrones our experiences of hurting and being hurt as the secret and undeniable truth of what it means to be human. Our identity is fixed and we are no longer free to receive the Holy Spirit and to be bearers of Good News. We will not ripen and blossom into Compassion, Justice and Love. Worst still, when Jesus calls us we do not hear Him, for our inner voice of condemnation drowns His out.

John likens himself to a construction worker. Whatever mountains sin has created he will demolish, whatever rough paths have been carved on the landscapes of our Hearts he will make smooth, whatever valley delays His arrival John will fill, whatever roadblock is in the way he will remove.

Without John's preparation, Jesus cannot bring His radical address that convinces us we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. If we cling to our identity as a sinner, His words will not penetrate the armour of our self evaluation.

John is not 'The One' but he is important. He enables us to go beyond the mind and let go of sin so that our hearts are free to welcome The One.

St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	5 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Ken Breadmore†
Sunday	6 th	8.30am	Mass	John Cole
		10.30am	Mass	Peter Meeham†
Monday	7 th	NO MASS		

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday	8 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Miss Smythe†
Wednesday	9 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Sean McAuley†
		10.15am	Rosary	
Thursday	10 th	9.30am	Communion Service	
		10.15am	Mothers Prayers	
		11.00am	Requiem Mass	Maureen Groves†
			at St. Francis, Ascot	
Friday	11 th	11.00-12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.10pm	Mass	Doreen Tritton and family
		7.00pm	Rosary	
Saturday	12 th	9.40am	Rosary	
		10.00am	Mass	Kasia Szymaniec
		10.45am	Confessions	

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	12 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Mike Chapman†
Sunday	13 th	8.30am	Mass	James & Johanna Moriarty†
		10.30am	Mass	Sarah Davis†

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, 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.

DATES, NEWS AND VIEWS

PLEASE PRAY FOR – The repose of the soul of Maureen Groves†. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday 10th December** at St. Francis, Ascot at 11.00am.

KNIT AND STICH CRAFT GROUP – The next meeting of the craft group will be on **Wednesday 9th December** 11.00am-12.00pm in the Church Hall. All are welcome!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) – Our last gathering for this year will take place next **Wednesday 9th December** at 7.15pm. with an Advent Service followed by nibbles/drinks. Everyone is welcome – please bring a plate!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS EVENT – This will be held on **Friday 11th December** from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at St. Joseph's Church Hall. Pizza, quiz, games and music plus lots of fun to be had! To confirm attendance please email St. Joseph's Parish Office at stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01344 425729.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – The next meeting will be on **14th December** at 22 Pondmoor. Please contact Anne on 01344 451847 or the Parish Office for more information.

JOINT SCHOOLS CAROL SINGING – St. Joseph's and St. Margaret Clitherow's Primary Schools are holding a joint Carol Service at 6pm on **Thursday 17th December** outside on the square/piazza in front of the Church. We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies (and suitable alternatives for children) in the hall afterwards. Please contact maura@holt62.freeserve.co.uk if you are able to help with the catering on the evening.

THAMES VOYCES CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Our choir will be singing their annual family Christmas concert at St. Joseph's Church on **Saturday 19th December**. The concert starts at 7.30pm and the programme will include beautiful carols with a selection of short readings. Tickets will be available on the door £12/10 concessions children under 16 free. Other information www.thamesvoyces.org.uk

CAFOD – Could you help CAFOD here at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow? CAFOD is currently looking for people to help us thank parishioners here in Bracknell for their support, and assist with Fast Days (twice a year). If you could spare any time to help fight poverty and injustice please contact the Parish Office.

WORLD YOUTH EVENT IN POLAND – Thank you to everyone who supported us last weekend in our efforts to raise funds to go to the World Youth event with Pope Francis in Poland next summer. A special thank you to those who donated cakes, cupcakes and cookies.

Also thank you to everyone who has taken a free tube of Smarties home with them. Please don't forget to save all your spare 20p coins in the empty tube and return it to us when it's full! A HUGE thank you to those who have already returned their smarties tubes. – The Youth Fundraising Team

BRACKNELL FOODBANK – Has made an urgent appeal for tinned meat and bags of 500g/1kl sugar. If you are bringing your donations to the Church please do not leave them in the porch but bring them to the Parish Office. Thank you for your help.

THE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP – Will meet on **Tuesday 8th December** at 7.00pm in the Hall.

CHURCH CLEANING – On Saturday 12th December after the 10.00 Mass, you are very welcome to join the team.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – Now weekly at 8.30am and 10.30am Masses. To enable us to continue we welcome more people who are able to join the Team. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help. **Please note** : there will be NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 10.30am Mass this Sunday.

THE CHURCH SHOP – Will be open this Sunday after the 8.30am Mass until the start of the 10.30am Mass. This week there is a range of nativity items for sale.

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – For those who need to celebrate this sacrament there will be two Penitential Services in the Pastoral Area on **Thursday 17th December** at 7.30pm at the Immaculate Conception Crowthorne and 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**
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Friday 25th December - **10.00am Mass**

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

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

Friday 1st January - **10.00am Mass**

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING
Total £895.80 - Thank You

PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES
PAYABLE TO
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph



**All our choirs and musicians
who enrich our liturgy**