

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

THE YEAR OF MARK: EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7th December 2014 Psalter Week 2

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

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Mark's Gospel opens with a beginning which has no end. And, in the light of the story that is to follow, it is clear that he seeks, more than anything, to transform the consciousness of every disciple. He does this by stripping the titles, 'CHRIST' and 'SON OF GOD' of their usual meaning.

If the reader wants the story of Jesus to be a story of earthly triumph and glory, they will have to think twice.

Mark tells the story of Jesus and it is Jesus' destiny to meet deadly resistance from those who think they are running the show.

It is Jesus' destiny to be misunderstood and abandoned by his disciples.

It is Jesus' destiny to be written off and written out and then to rise again. All of these will provide the true meaning of the titles with which He is adorned.

The Prophet John calls people to himself. The ones who come to him do so because they have begun to notice they are in prison and have come to be freed from sin. John demands they change their minds and their habits. He calls them to a painful self-examination. To shake off the shackles of the past, to walk away from what is hurting and destroying them and others through them. To say 'No' to what has imprisoned them, and to emerge from the waters of Baptism with a new sense of what mercy and faithfulness look like, what justice and love feel like. In short he gives them a renewed experience of freedom and purpose.

John watches them emerge from the waters. He deflects their gratitude and tells them that there is Another who will now restore their zest for life through His Spirit. To all on the edge of life giving change, the Baptist whispers his secret. "I am the beginning before it begins."

And all they have to do now is wait and welcome Him when He comes.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PLEASE NOTE – The Children's Carol Concert is now on **THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER at 6.00pm** and not 17th December. We hope to offer everyone who comes to the concert mulled wine, tea, coffee or squash and a mince pie!

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**.

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 **8th 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.

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

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. Bring a friend. RSVP to stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 01344 425729.



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 **16th December**.

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 Catherine's 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 or speak to Fr. Danny.

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

BRACKNELL LIFE HOUSE – Our Parish Community have pledged themselves to support the Life House, it's residents and staff, by praying for them every day and offering practical help. We are inviting the children to bring baby gifts to their Christmas Mass on 24th December at 5p.m. These should be brand new, excellent quality and will be delivered on Christmas Eve. You may want to join a group and bring one good thing in which many have a share! Thank You, Fr D.

BRACKNELL AND ASCOT SVP is very grateful for the recent donation of white goods, thank you. We still require a washing machine and vacuum cleaner. Please contact the parish office if you are able to donate.

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 - Many thanks for your generous offerings.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE LATEST NEWS! - The Diocese of Portsmouth now issues a weekly e-news with photos, news, and information from around the Diocese. Go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk and add your email address to receive these updates. Are you on Facebook? Like 'Diocese of Portsmouth' to get all the latest info as it happens. You can also follow @BishopEgan and @PortsmouthRC on Twitter.



To all the members of **ETERNITY** – our wonderful youth band and choir - for leading us in song and worship at our Youth Masses!

Living Our Faith
The people of the Diocese of Portsmouth



We need to de-emphasise the appeal during Advent and really concentrate on preparing for the *Wondrous Birthday of Jesus!*

So, no updates until after Christmas but you know, I'll still accept pledges! *Peter Hancock*

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING
Total £897.00 - Thank You

PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES
PAYABLE TO
PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph

St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	6 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Ken Breadmore†
Sunday	7 th	8.30am	Mass	John Cole
		10.30am	Mass	Peter Meehan†
Monday	8 th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	9 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Sean McAuley
Wednesday	10 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Barbara McAvoy†
		10.15am	Rosary	
Thursday	11 th	11.00am	Requiem Mass	Joanna O'Connell †
Friday	12 th	11.00-12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.10pm	Mass	Robin Cousens†
		7.00pm	Rosary	

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Saturday	13 th	9.40am	Rosary	
		10.00am	Mass	Leahy & Wright Families†
		10.30am	Confessions	

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	13 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Roma Bembridge
Sunday	14 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	Margaret Carey

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