

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

THE YEAR OF MARK: EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM STILL TRYING TO MAKE DEALS WITH GOD?

8th March 2015 Psalter Week 3

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

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In the film, *A House of Sand and Fog*, the son of an Islamic man is shot. The distressed Father begins to pray. "If You let my son live, I will lay in the park, put bird seed on my eyes, and let the birds eat my eyes out." Stress and Tragedy pull him into trying to make a deal with God. This is a place we might know. It's hard to erase or change the tapes we have about the deal making God.

The moment Jesus changes the name of the Temple, to 'My Fathers' House', the earthquake begins. In the Temple, 'Holy Exchange' is the name of the game. But Jesus' Father is not a deal maker. He does not exchange favours for sacrifices. What is 'needed' in the Temple is not needed in, "My Fathers House". It's

beginning to look as if Jesus is not just cleansing the Temple, He is replacing it. In His meeting with the woman at the well, (Jn 4: 23-24) He teaches her that access to God is immediate and direct for those who worship in spirit and in truth.



Our world is oiled by the 'quid pro quo'. But when these become part of our spiritual journey they become a major obstacle. When so called, religious elites, set themselves up as negotiators between people and God, all sorts of ugly things can happen. They might prey on people's fears or claim only they have rights on divine transactions. Marks Gospel 12:38 directly attacks those who, "devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearances say long prayers". Being paid to pray to God for poor widows, is a callous thing to do and it is fed by a belief in the deal making God.

In the Risen Jesus, the Sacred is relocated. God does not confine Himself only to Holy places. However, it is easier to repudiate the Temple than it is to eradicate the deal making God.

Let's begin by saying that The Father of Jesus is less at home in images of the market place and more at home when we are simply grateful for life and love and serve these two as best and in whatever way we can. Let's go on to say that it is in receiving and giving His Life and finding joy in both that we are admitted to the Holy of Holies. When our sacrifice is united with the divine sacrifice, life itself is seen as holy. And the next time we talk to God, the joy won't be in thinking we got a good deal but that we went beyond deals and into Love.

St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday	7 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Parish Intentions
Sunday	8 th	8.30am	Mass	Dorcas Innes-Grant
		10.30am	Mass	Maria Villahermosa
Monday	9 th	NO MASS		
Tuesday	10 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Margaret Rogerson
Wednesday	11 th	9.10am	Morning Prayer	
		9.30am	Mass	Tony Clements†
		10.15am	Rosary	
Thursday	12 th	NO MASS		
Friday	13 th	10.45-11.45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.00pm	Requiem Mass	Nancy Curtis†
		7.00pm	Rosary	
Saturday	14 th	9.30am	Stations of the Cross	
		10.00am	Mass	Gerald Reardon†
		10.30am	Confessions	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday	14 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Michael & Anna Mai McNamara
Sunday	15 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	David Hancock†

**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, Tim Brierley, Bridget Tanner, Teresa Mercieca, Ena Stanton, Peggy O'Sullivan, Peggy Malone, Kate McGrath, Alex McCall and Patrick Holmwood

And those who are unwell or in hospital

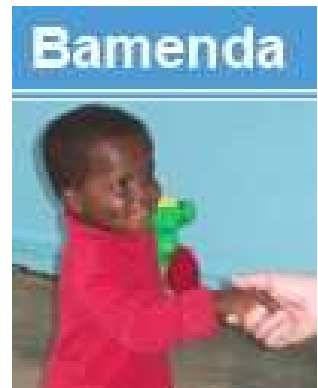
Peter Bentley, Anne Adams, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Sheila O'Neill, Eileen Collins, Carol Clarke, Marjory Vermuelen, and Peggy Heasman.

DATES, NEWS AND VIEWS

PLEASE PRAY – For the repose of the soul of Nancy Curtis† who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be held on Friday **13th March** at 12 noon. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH CENSUS – Please ensure that you return any completed Census Forms in the box provided in the Porch. If you missed the chance to complete your Census Form during Mass last weekend, collect a copy from the porch or register on-line via our parish website. The Census Form will allow us to bring our parish records fully up to date. It is important that one form per household is completed, even if you have been in the Parish twenty years because the information given will supersede previous records. All information will be treated in confidence and comply with the Data Protection Act.

OUR WORK OF LOVE FOR LENT - St. Theresa's Catholic Health Centre - To strengthen our commitment to our twin Diocese of Bamenda in Cameroon, we will be supporting the new health centre in Bukow, Bamessing. The present structure is totally inadequate and cannot serve the needs of the local population. At present there is a high level of maternal and child mortality. The local community is also very much involved in this project supplying their own time and materials where and when they can. However, the project is much larger than originally anticipated and the initial stage will be a building phase. More information is now on the noticeboard in the porch. This weekend we welcome Colm Lennon (Chair of the Bamenda and Portsmouth Committee) who will tell us more about the project and how we can help.



CHANGES TO THE CAR PARK – Work will begin on Monday **9th March** for refurbishment.

JOURNEY OF FAITH, THE SCRUTINIES – The second is on Sunday **March 8th** at the 8.30am Mass and the third on Sunday **22nd March** at the 10.30am Mass.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – The next meeting is on Monday **9th March** at 7.45pm in the Parish Room

JOURNEY OF FAITH – The week's topic for **10th March** is **Natural Law and the Ten Commandments**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) - Our next meeting is on Wednesday **11th March** at 7.15pm in the Hall.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS - On Saturday **14th March** at 7.30pm in the Church Hall there will be an Irish Night to celebrate St Patrick's Day. Tickets must be booked ahead, £5 per person. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. To book contact Catherine at cusackhannan@yahoo.co.uk

KEEPING IN TOUCH (KIT) – A presentation will be held in the hall on **21st March** 2.00pm-4.00pm and all are invited to attend.

CHILDRENS LITURGY - The Stations of the Cross for Children during the 10.30 mass on will be on Palm Sunday **29th March**. We are hoping to do this around the church's garden, weather permitting; we ask that all children aged 5 and under are accompanied by an adult.

CHRISM MASS – On Tuesday **31st March** at 11.00am in the Cathedral. If you would like to travel to Portsmouth by sharing a car please contact the Parish Office.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP – The training course will begin on **Tuesday 7th April** and run for 8 weeks. Further information about times, etc will be available nearer the time. If you would like to be part of this Ministry there is still time to sign up. If you have any difficulty attending the training sessions or need a lift please call Steve Rollins on 07747196014 or 07594976699. Anyone with ideas about what should be included in training can also call and speak to Steve.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – Are you celebrating a big wedding anniversary this year? If you are celebrating your **25th, 30th, 40th, 50th** wedding anniversary during 2015 or any anniversary over **60** years, Bishop Philip warmly invites you to the Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass at 11.00am on **Saturday 27th June**. The Mass will be held at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX, after which a light lunch will be served. This annual Mass is a wonderful celebration of and witness to marriage. To find out more, and to apply to attend, please contact the parish office 01344 425729 or by email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

JOIN IN OUR BIG WELCOMING - SATURDAY 28 MARCH MID-DAY When the church railings become permanent home to our Great Gallery of Greeters & Inspirers. . If you'd like to take part please see www.bracknellcommunitygallery.org or contact hughgibbons@just1.org.uk

PRAYING FOR THE EVANGELISATION STRATEGY TEAM - During Lent, Fr Danny will meet with possible team members for the Evangelisation Strategy Team. Please continue to pray during this time, that those with the gifts and skills to serve on this Team might come forward, and that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the process. Thank you.

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.

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.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERING
Total £1251.99 - Thank You

CAFOD

Total £835.22 - Thank You

PLEASE MAKE ANY CHEQUES PAYABLE
TO

PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph

Thank You
To all who serve tea
and coffee after each
Mass