

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK
EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

GROWING OUR CONTEMPLATIVE HEART: KISSING GOD ON THE INSIDE

12 August 2018 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 117 - Psalter Week 3

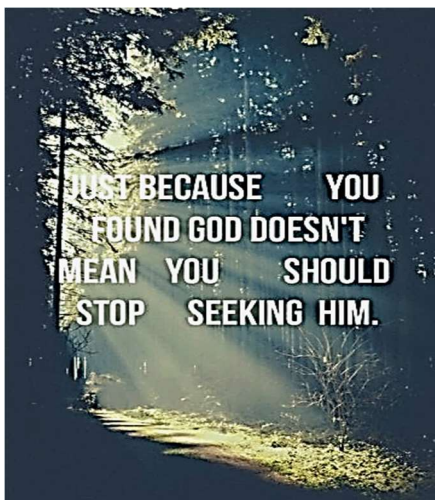
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Page 180

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Why are some people drawn to Jesus, so that they leave all things to follow Him? Why are there some who are not attracted to Him and openly oppose Him? It's pretty clear that Jesus wasn't everyone's 'cup of tea'. There are many who murmur and complain about Him. They just don't like Him and they certainly don't like His teaching. In this Sunday's Gospel, (Jn. 6:35-51) the complaint is about how Jesus sees Himself. His human origins are known to them yet He is saying, 'I have come down from heaven'. He can't have it both ways now can He? He cannot be, at the same time, born of humanity and born from the divine.

Instead of solving this puzzle, Jesus takes the conversation in another direction. He didn't just say 'I have come down from Heaven.' He said, 'I am the *bread* that came down from heaven (v.41) and 'I am the *bread* of life.' (v.35). Jesus is not as interested in His own identity and therefore His authority as those who complain about Him. He underlines instead His mission as the giver of divine life and invites them to eat the bread that satisfies hunger forever.

He challenges his adversaries to give up their complaining stance in life. This only deepens their lack of understanding and fuels their rage. Meanwhile, they are surrounded by people who can illumine their darkness - those who have come to Jesus to receive the 'bread come down from heaven'. They have come because they already know Jesus' Abba. The Father has led them to the Beloved Son. They have pondered Gods' Word. They have learned from it. They are open and ready. Now, as they sit at table with the One who is 'close to the Fathers' heart' (Jn. 1:18) they too are given access to the Fathers' heart and to His works.



In this context, Jesus powerfully states His central concern. If we eat the bread of life, we enter into all that Jesus is and join Him in His loving relationship to the Father. This is completely different from eating manna in the desert. Although it was given by God, it was earthly food for earthly life. Those who ate it died. Jesus is the living bread; bread that sustains people through death. In fact, this bread is precisely Jesus' flesh given for the life of a world in which death reigns supreme. Jesus, the bread of life, will enter into and go beyond death. Those who eat this bread of life will die and rise with Him.

So, in answer to the question at the beginning of this reflection, it seems that people are attracted to Jesus and enter into Him because they already know the One who sent Him. In other words, the love of God is already dancing in their hearts! When they see that love, blazing out of Jesus, they move towards it. Like is seeking like. Two fires become one fire.

In ancient spirituality, the love of God was imagined as a fire that pushed up the chest and moved out of the eyes. This allowed a person to see whatever of God was on the outside because they were in touch with the inner fire which was the source of their being. Perhaps this is why Jesus said, 'If your eye is healthy, it is because your whole body is filled with light.' (Lk:11,34). But if your eye is bad, it is because your body is filled with darkness. One who is not in touch with the inner light of God cannot see it in the external world. The problem with those who see themselves as 'religious authorities' in St. John's Gospel is filled with irony. They have hardened hearts. Their inner light has been extinguished. They cannot see the light of Christ. Their only remedy is to hang around with people whose hearts have not become a dark landscape. But they will not do that.

We are only searching for God and delighting in Jesus because God has already found us. As Meister Eckhart wrote, "God cannot be found or grasped in the external world. If we seek Him outside, we shall find Him nowhere; if we seek Him within, we shall find Him everywhere. This is not to say that only the inner world is real. Both are real; both have their own measure of importance. But, it is the inner world which has the priority and the greater importance ... Having discovered God within, we can discover Him without; but never the other way round." (*The Way of Paradox: Spiritual Life as Taught by Meister Eckhart* [New York: Paulist Press, 1987] 51)

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|          |                  |                |      |                            |
|----------|------------------|----------------|------|----------------------------|
| Saturday | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass | Poor and Sick of the World |
| Sunday   | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass | Dedicated Staff in the NHS |
|          |                  | 10.30am        | Mass | Michael Ross-Watson, RIP   |
| Monday   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                            |

### ST MAXIMILIAN MARIA KOLBE, Religious, Priest, Martyr

|         |                  |        |      |                                     |
|---------|------------------|--------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am | Mass | Starving and Destitute of the World |
|---------|------------------|--------|------|-------------------------------------|

### THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Solemnity – Holy Day of Obligation - Missal Page 180

|           |                  |           |            |                                    |
|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 12.00noon | Mass       | Nicola Howard, RIP                 |
|           |                  | 7.00pm    | Mass       | Care Workers and Home Carers       |
| Thursday  | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am    | Mass       | Joel Adams Perera                  |
| Friday    | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am   | Exposition |                                    |
|           |                  | 12.10pm   | Mass       | Suffering War-Torn People in Yemen |
| Saturday  | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am   | Mass       | Christian Unity                    |

### TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|          |                  |         |      |                        |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Parish Intentions      |
| Sunday   | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Community of Deacons   |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Ana and Tony Springall |

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Tuesday to Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer;
Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help, 10.15 am Mother's Prayers
Saturday: 9.30am Rosary, 1st Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary.
Confessions: every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment.

Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE

Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

Telephone: 01344 425729 Email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Please make cheques payable to (full name): “PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”.

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy

Parish Secretary (Director of Administration): Elizabeth Fisher

Pastoral Assistant (Director of Evangelisation): Mary McNab

Safeguarding Representatives: Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read,

Safeguarding email: safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL

DID YOU KNOW...?



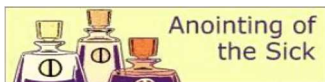
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Midday on Tuesdays, please email any items to stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (the SVP) - provides practical help and support whenever possible for those who need it. Are you lonely? Are you in need of help of any kind? or Do you know someone who is? If so, contact the SVP on 07731862349 to arrange a visit. All calls are completely confidential.



YOUNG VINCENTIANS RECRUITMENT NOTICE - The SVP is seeking to recruit a Young Vincentians Programme Manager, and a Mini Vinnies Officer as part of the expansion of our youth programme.
Young Vincentians Programme Manager: £30k pa; full time permanent contract. Closing date: 15:00 on **Thursday 23 August 2018**. Interviews: **Thursday 30 August 2018**. Start date: ASAP.
Mini Vinnies Officer: £23k pro rata; 2 days/wk; one year contract. Closing date: 10:00 **Monday 20 August 2018**. Interviews: **Friday 24 August 2018**. Start date: ASAP.
Both roles based at national office. For more details & application pack, please visit the vacancies section of the SVP website: <https://www.svp.org.uk/>



MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING – On the last **Friday** of the month, Anointing of the Sick will be part of the 12.10pm Mass All are welcome, especially those sick or suffering in any way. If you would like a lift to this Mass, please contact the parish office.



SIGNING OF FORMS – If you have a form that needs the certification and signature of a Parish Priest, ie, school forms, etc., please place your form in an envelope marked “Parish Office, Form for Signature” with a note of your phone number and post through the letterbox of the Presbytery Door. We will call you for collection when the form is ready. You do not need to have an appointment with Fr Danny.

BEWARE: LIGHTING CANDLES – Adults must accompany all children at the candle trays when lighting candles. Please ensure your children do not play around the candle trays, in the sand or with the lighted candles. Care must be taken reaching across lighted candles wearing loose clothing, etc. It is important to remember that they can be the cause of major fires and serious injury.



BOOKING PARISH HALL AND PARISH ROOMS – If you wish to use the church hall or parish rooms bookings must be made with the Parish Office at least 6-8 weeks before requested date. Please note the regular events below before booking.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR – AUGUST: 14th St Maximillian Maria Kolbe; **15th The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**; 20th St Bernard; 21st St Pius X; 22nd The Queenship of Mary; 24th St Bartholomew; 27th St Monica; 28th St Augustine of Hippo; 29th The Passion of St John the Baptist; 30th Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward.

CHURCH SHOP OPENING ON SATURDAY EVENINGS - The shop will be open from 5:30pm-7pm on the second Saturday of each month starting **Saturday 11 August 2018**.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – Closed until early September.

TODDLER GROUP – Closed until new school term in September.

KEEP FIT – Closed until new school term in September.

PRAYER GROUPS—Hall Evening Group: 1st/3rd Tuesdays 7.45pm – 9.30pm. Day Group: 1st/3rd Wednesdays 10.30- 11.30am

CHOIR PRACTICE – Every Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome.

ALPHA –No Alpha during August.

SOUP & ROLL – Closed until Friday 14 September.

FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY – Closed August, resumes September.



MASS OFFERINGS: £1838.38. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.**

Please make cheques payable to (full name) “PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”. Gift Aid envelopes and banker’s/standing order forms available in the porch, please complete and return to the parish office.



MYDONATE BT – The world of donating is rapidly changing and becoming easier and more secure, which is why we have signed up to **MyDonateBT**. With **MyDonate** our parish receives more of your donation – as well as the full 25 per cent Gift Aid – it is a no direct fees, zero commission, not-for profit service. We will receive up to 63p more for every £10 given through **MyDonate**. We have a **MyDonate** link on the parish website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk orange button “**Parish Offerings**” where you can sign up to online donations. We also have donation buttons for “**Bamenda**” and “**CAFOD**”. It is a quick and easy way to donate to our beautiful church and parish.

We pray for those in our parish community who are sick, housebound or in hospital and for those who care for them.

Eileen Ing, Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Lilijan Rodenburg, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Barbara Simpson, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Derek Alexander, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Sally Tarode, Babs White, Tess Johnson, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Doreen Gladwin, Manuela Maria Barros, Gerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Fielding, Bernadette Hunt

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



WE WELCOME INTO OUR COMMUNITY: Richard Kaiser Kalkbrenner and his family that they will be surrounded by God's love.



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – A Holy Day of Obligation on Wednesday 15 August 2018. Masses at 12.00 noon and 7.00pm.



CAR PARK NEW WINDOW STICKERS – The new purple window stickers are available from the parish office, please call in during office open times to collect your sticker, the pink stickers are now invalid. Please understand that you can be challenged if you park without displaying your 2018/2019 sticker.



DIVINE MERCY RETREAT: Saturday 18 August 2018, 11:00 am - 4:30 pm. The Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the Retreat at St John's RC Cathedral Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, PO1 3HG. Everyone is welcome, please see the itinerary on the porch noticeboard and leaflet in the porch.



DEATH CAFE CROWTHORNE - Monday 20 August 2018 7pm - 8.30pm. Beatons Tearooms & Bookshop, 241 High Street Crowthorne, deathcafecrowthorne@gmail.com. People sitting, relaxing drinking tea/coffee/water. eating cake and talking about death and dying. To make it easier to communicate about death in the community and awareness of death and dying, making the most out of life!!



CONFIRMATION JOURNEY - In Baptism, we are all given to God. In Confirmation we begin His work. Are you ready? If you are in Year 9 or above and are interested in joining the Confirmation Journey, **please complete your application by Wednesday 22 August 2018 via the website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/confirmation2019.html** There will then be an Introduction to the Confirmation Journey for candidates on **Wednesday 29 August 2018** at 7.30pm in the parish hall.



TEA & COFFEE TEAM - Volunteers are needed for Saturday evening Fairtrade teas and coffees after 6.00pm Mass. Monthly volunteer rota. If we had one or two more volunteers the rota would be every 5 or 6 weeks. It's a great opportunity to get to know others in the parish. If you are interested, please have a chat to one of the volunteers in the hall after Mass to find out more or contact the parish office.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019 - If you and your child feel ready to begin the journey towards First Holy Communion, please register your interest online via at bracknellcatholicchurch.org/fhc2019 by **Friday 14 September 2018**. The first meeting for parents will take place on **Wednesday 19 September 2018**.

PRO-LIFE GROUP – Please join the informal parish Pro-life Group, no meetings or subscription. Please complete the Pro-life Cards which are in the porch and return to the parish office or join by emailing your details to the Parish Office.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Child Protection Training on Saturday 22 September 2018, 10.00am to 12.30pm at Our Lady & St Dominic, High View Road, Farnborough GU14 7PT
Trainer – Maureen Wiltshire

Vulnerable Adults Training on Saturday 22 September 2018, 1.30pm to 4.00pm at Our Lady & St Dominic Church, High View Road, Farnborough GU14 7PT
Trainer – Maureen Wiltshire

If you wish to attend, please register with:

Soraya Ciccarone, PA to Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Diocesan Financial Secretary, Tel: (Direct Dial) 023 92 836511/023 92 816396/023 92 825430, Email: soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE E-NEWS- Keep up to date with what's happening in the diocese via our weekly diocesan E-news. Portsmouth Diocese E-news is usually published on Tuesday each week and contains the latest news from the Bishop as well as details of forthcoming events, photos of past events and videos of interest. A beautiful reflection on preparing for the Assumption; the weekly Wednesday Webinar on the Sunday's Gospel; information on forthcoming Science-or-Religion Symposium and Catholic Medical Association Conference. Sign up now to get it straight to your inbox: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews

SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA



Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvooy, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell, 01344 425729;
Fr Kevin Bidgood, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot 01344 620591;
Fr Marcus Brisley Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst & Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, 01252 876820;
Fr David O'Sullivan, Corpus Christi, Wokingham 0118 9780348