

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – YEAR A

**THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING - Caring without hesitation, calculation
or ostentation**

26 November 2017 - Psalter Week 2 – Missal Page 158



Saint Matthew paints a great picture of the Judgement at the end of time. His imagination runs riot in a heavenly courtroom, complete with angels. A room filled with suspense. The fact of judgement is a given but the criteria are not yet clear. The Son of Man King begins, as Matthew always likes Him to begin, by dividing the nations in two. Sheep to the right, goats to the left. The goats are nervous now but it is not yet clear what the Son of Man King is looking for in terms of success or failure.

This text is often called, 'The Gospel of the Final Surprise!' but in reality, the criteria has been there since the foundation of the world. Now, the Father of the Son of Man King is blessing those who were good to His Beloved Son. The 'sheep' ministered to Him when he was in need or in trouble. This is the "Open Sesame" into the Kingdom of the Father. The sheep are surprised. What about keeping the rules? Or making great Art? Or visiting the Temple/Church/Synagogue/Mosque? Is all that counts how you treated the Son of Man King? The sheep are confused. They cannot seem to remember seeing the Son of Man King in distress. But He reassures them that he is so connected to all creation that even when they did it for the 'least' they did it to Him.

And it seems there is also a fire which has been prepared since the foundation of the world. The goats warrant this final home because they did not help the Lord in distress. They did nothing. The goats are confused, asking the same question as the sheep. But the Son of Man King is clear that they did not care for the least.

Although the sheep and goats share the same confusion, the sheep clearly just attended to the suffering of people around them without considering their 'status' or their ability to pay them back in money or influence. The goats did not see the Son of Man King, but if they had known it was He, you can be sure they would have helped. This would have been a good deed with a guaranteed payback. 'If we had known it was you, O King, and not some miserable nobody, of course we would have helped. Sheep care without calculation. Goats care only with calculation.



Saint Matthews' Judgement scene is exciting. It suggests that the genuine qualities of those who have been filled with the Spirit of God are first, that they act without hesitation to help someone in need. Secondly, they do so without calculating if there is anything in this for themselves. Lastly, their actions remain hidden. This reminds me of the story of a woman who went with some friends to an Ashram. She described this experience as touching the 'real thing'. Asked what she meant, she said that they stayed about six weeks, at the end of which she had a chance to talk to the famous spiritual teacher who lived there. She told him that everything they had experienced during their stay was remarkable. Without missing a heartbeat, he replied, "Everything you see here is because of the grace of my grandmother". You see, she said, he had no need to promote himself or call any attention to his abilities. He knew they were a gift from elsewhere. When caring just happens, and no one is claiming the credit, we know the Spirit of God is present.

So, if I was a reporter interviewing the sheep lounging around in their newly inherited Kingdom, and asked them how they managed to find themselves such amazing digs, I imagine them saying, "We just cared for every person we met, immediately and without calculation. And it wasn't a big deal". Or so it seemed!

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – YEAR A

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|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday | 25 th | 6.00pm | NO MASS | |
| Sunday | 26 th | 8.30am | Mass | Cyril Ford, RIP |
| | | 10.30am | Mass | Maura Holt |
| Monday | 27 th | No Mass | | |
| Tuesday | 28 th | 9.30am | Mass | Mary Galloghly, RIP |
| Wednesday | 29 th | 9.30am | Mass | Ronald Sterratt, RIP |
| Thursday | 30th | 11.00am | REQUIEM MASS | – Celia Coogan, RIP |

ST EDMUND CAMPION, Priest, Martyr

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------|------------|--------------------|
| Friday | 1 st | 11.00am | Exposition | |
| | | 12.10pm | Mass | Paddy Doherty, RIP |
| Saturday | 2 nd | 10.00am | Mass | Pro-Life |

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------|------|-------------------|
| Saturday | 2 nd | 6.00pm | Mass | Parish Intentions |
| Sunday | 3 rd | 8.30am | Mass | Tony Griffin, RIP |
| | | 10.30am | Mass | Ronny Killerstein |

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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, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary. **Confessions** every Saturday at 10.45am or by 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](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

**Please make cheques payable to:** "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

**Parish Priest:** Fr Daniel McAvoy

**Parish Secretary:** Elizabeth Fisher **Pastoral Assistant:** Mary McNab

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read  
**Safeguarding email:** [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW CHURCH**

# DID YOU KNOW...?



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – NEW DEADLINE: Midday on Tuesdays**, please email your newsletter item(s) to the parish office [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).



### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:

**Celia Josephine Coogan** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday 30 November 2017** at 11.00am at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church.

**John Odell** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 8 December 2017** at 12.00 noon at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church.

*May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*



**SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA** - Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy, 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



**CHURCH SHOP – We have lovely Church Art 2018 Calendars, 2018 diaries and a selection of beautiful Christmas Cards available in the shop along with other items that would make thoughtful Christmas gifts, all very reasonably priced.**



**STREET EVANGELISATION IN BRACKNELL** spreading the Truth of the Church to the world.

To join us or want to find out more, please contact John: [johnrodger1@me.com](mailto:johnrodger1@me.com) or follow this link: <http://streevangelization.com/>

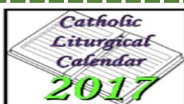


**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION** – Congregation of St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, thank you for so generously giving your 2017 Harvest collection to Bracknell Foodbank. You have helped to feed people in crisis in the local area. Your donation weighed a total of **108 Kilograms**. **Well done to everybody!**



**BRACKNELL HOMELESS NIGHTSHELTER – PART TIME MANAGER** – Required to supervise the shelter overnight for 2 nights per week. This is a paid post for the four months the night shelter it will be open commencing **Saturday 2 December 2017**. To join the team and help the poorest people in our community contact Elaine Chalmers Brown, Director, Pilgrim hearts Trust tel 01344 307040 [pilgrim.hearts@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrim.hearts@gmail.com)

**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.



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR - NOVEMBER** – 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew  
**DECEMBER** – 1<sup>st</sup> St Edmund Campion; 7<sup>th</sup> St Ambrose; 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 13<sup>th</sup> St Lucy; 14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross; 25<sup>th</sup> The Nativity of the Lord; 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen; 27<sup>th</sup> St John; 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents; 29<sup>th</sup> St Thomas of Canterbury; 31<sup>st</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm to 9.30pm in the **Church Hall**. All are welcome.

**KEEP FIT CLUB** – Closed, will resume January 2018.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am in the hall **during term time**. Spaces available.

**PRAYER GROUPS** – Evening Group: 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 7.45pm – 9.30pm Hall. Day Group: 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 10.30am – 11.30am Hall.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass **during term time**.

**YOUTH GROUP** – **Closed until further notice.**



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1486.76 THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.** Please make cheques payable to (full name) "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph". **Gift Aid envelopes and bankers/standing order forms available in the porch.**



**CAFOD** is part of the DEC Rohingya crisis appeal. You can donate direct to CAFOD at [cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis](http://cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis) or by calling **08085 858885**



**WORLD GIFTS** – Catalogue of special world gifts through which our refugee neighbours can continue to feel the warmth of our love including **Emergency Shelter** and **Help a Refugee Child**. Pick up your catalogue from the porch or the hall.



**CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY 2017 – THANK YOU** for your generous support, amount received **£1,109.76**. Edelmira, an El Salvador farmer is able to plant seeds and knowing as they grow she will be able to provide for her family. Edelmira said "With God's help, your support and our efforts, we will be able to improve our crops. I thank you from the bottom of my heart".

**We pray for the Sick and Housebound of our Community and for those who care for them.**

#### Sick and Housebound:

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Jadwiga Butcher, Lilijan Rodenburg, Josephine Timms, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Emma Flavelle, Angelina Ediale, Maurice Timms

#### Those who are unwell or in hospital:

Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Anna Tighe, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Adrian Sweeney, Derek Alexander, Brenda Lynch.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION - ADMISSIONS CAP – Bishop Philip writes:** Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

## national youthsunday

**THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING AND NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY** - Bishop Philip invites young adults (16 - 35) from Portsmouth Diocese to join him at St John's Cathedral on **Sunday 26 November 2017**: The Feast of Christ the King and National Youth Sunday. He will be celebrating the 6pm Mass, after which there will be a social with food and talks from inspiring guest speakers in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. This is a fantastic opportunity for young adults to network, connect to events locally and further afield, and communicate the things that they want to see happening in the Diocese. Ages 16+ £7 Register by contacting your University Catholic Chaplaincy, or emailing [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**'STORY AND SONG'** at Coffee Republic, Bracknell on **Tuesday 28 November 2017**, 8.00pm-10.00pm Chris Trim from 'Vineyard', playing his own compositions and talks about his journey of faith especially for 20-40 year olds and those on edge of church life or unchurched. Tickets available from [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), search 'Story and Song', please see the flyer in the porch.



**BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND - Saturday 2 December 2017** at 11.00am learn a little more about dementia and some of the small ways you can help those living with dementia, help our parish to become Dementia friendly. Come along to a one hour Information session in our Church Hall led by a Dementia Champion. Turn up on the day or sign up at [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)



**BRACKNELL FOREST CATENIANS** - Evening of Christmas carols and readings at The Hilton Hotel, Bracknell on **Tuesday 5 December 2017** 7.00pm for 7.30pm. A 3-course meal with readings and carols throughout the evening. Cost is £25 per person, all are welcome, to book your meal call Richard Taylor on 01344 566956.



**ADVENT CAROLS IN LEXICON – Wednesday 6 December 2017**, 6.00pm – 8.00pm. 'We are the Fair' will be singing carols in the Lexicon, Christmas Tree between Waitrose and Marks & Spencer's. If you are a singer who can read music and would like to be part of this choir please contact Fr Jim Barlow of Holy Trinity Church on [barjimlow@googlemail.com](mailto:barjimlow@googlemail.com). All are welcome to come, join in and enjoy this beautiful event.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN LEXICON – Wednesday 20 December 2017**, 6.00pm – 8.00pm. 'We are the Fair' will be singing carols in the Lexicon, Christmas Tree between Waitrose and Marks & Spencer's. An open invitation for everyone to join in with the carol singing and uplifting start to Christmas.



**JOINT TOWN CENTRE MISSION GIVEAWAY Saturday 9 December 2017**, prayers at The Bull 9.00am, 10.00am -12.00 noon Giveaway.



**TODDLERTIVITY – Monday 11 and Monday 18 December 2017**, 9.45am AND 11.00am in the parish hall. The Nativity with music, puppets and crafts for parents and toddlers.



**PENITENTIAL SERVICES** – For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area are:

**Tuesday 12 December 2017**, 7.30pm at St Francis of Assisi, Ascot SL5 9HG;  
**Thursday 14 December 2017**, 7.30pm at Holy Ghost, Crowthorne RG45 6JG;  
**Thursday 21 December 2017**, 7.00pm at Corpus Christi, Wokingham RG40 2HE



**ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT CAROL SERVICE** - Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Thursday 14th December 2017** at 6.00pm for a Carol Concert outside the Church, town centre. Please come to support our children and join in with the beautiful carols. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after the service.



**A GOLDEN CHRISTMAS THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 16 December 2017** at 7.30pm. Exactly fifty years to the evening that New Thames Singers (now Thames Voyces) presented their first concert, Thames Voyces invite the whole family to join them at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church for a carol concert. It will include the usual mixture of Christmas readings and well-known carols for choir and audience. The choir will be conducted by their current Musical Director, Nick Austin. This is the choir's 3<sup>rd</sup> year of performing at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church and they very much hope that the parishioners will join again this year following the 6.00pm Mass. Tickets £12/£10 (concession) or free for Under 16's, buy on the door or telephone 0118 9677319. Wine and mince pies will be served at the interval.



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

**Saturday 23 December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent : 6.00pm**  
**Sunday 24 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 8.30am & 10.30am**  
**Sunday 24 December – 5.00pm Children's Mass**  
**Sunday 24 December – 11.30pm Carol Service**  
**Sunday 24 December – 12.00 Midnight Mass**  
**Monday 25 December – 10.00am Morning Mass**  
**Tuesday 26 December to Saturday 30 December – 12.00 noon**  
**Saturday 30 December – 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 31 December – 8.30am and 10.30am**  
**Monday 1 January 2018 – 12.00 noon Mass**