

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

LEADING WITH THE HEART

4 December 2016 - Psalter Week 2 – Missal Page 85



John appears out of nowhere. He suddenly appears in the desert - a clean place - and lures the heart to the place where God can speak.

The 'meta-noia' he screams for, is about changing our mind and also our behaviour. We let things go to make a space for something wonderful and new. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, but only those who 'repent' will be able to see it.

John dresses to evoke powerful memories of Elijah - a man of great integrity. He eats locusts to evoke memories of the plague on the hard-hearted Pharaoh of Egypt. He demands a softening of the heart. He eats wild honey, evoking the truth that Gods judgement, harsh though it may be, only brings human fulfilment.

John works with water for repentance. Jesus works with fire for spirit. Both are needed but one is greater. Water cleans and waits. Fire enlightens and inspires.

In the poem, 'The Man Who Was a Lamp', John Shea expresses beautifully the relationship between water and fire..

I can denounce a king, but I cannot enthrone one.
I can strip an idol of its power, but I cannot reveal
the true God.

I can wash the soul in sand, but I cannot dress it in
white.

I can devour locusts and turn them into honey, but I
cannot lace His sandal.

I can condemn the sin, but I cannot bear it away.



The path to the desert and the path to the heart are one. What begins as the wisdom to flee the wrath that is coming, bears fruit in the mind that does not presume that we are exempt from honest self appraisal.

In Rabbi Heschels' wonderful, 'A Passion for Truth', he tells a little Parable for those who can't tell the difference between what is real and what isn't.

One day Kotzer and Reb came to a bridge where several women began throwing stones at them. "Have no fear!" Said Kotzer. "They are not real women, nor are their stones real. They are mere phantoms". Reb was silent for a moment, then asked, "Might we not be phantoms too?" "No." Kotzer answered, "as long as we have at some time had the genuine urge to repent".

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	3 rd	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Paul Baker, RIP
Sunday	4 th	8.30am	Mass	Camba Family, Thanksgiving
		10.30am	Mass	Sarah Davis, RIP
Monday	5 th	NO MASS		

ST NICHOLAS, Bishop

Tuesday	6 th	9.30am	Mass	Peggy McNeill RIP
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ST AMBROSE, Bishop

Wednesday	7 th	9.30am	Communion Service	
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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Solemnity

Thursday	8 th	10.00am	Mass	Eileen Collins, thanksgiving
Friday	9 th	11.00am	Exposition (until 12.00noon)	
		12.10pm	Mass	Sean McAuley, RIP (Foundation)
Saturday	10 th	10.00am	Mass	Mrs McAvoy, RIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	10 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Mike Chapman, RIP
Sunday	11 th	8.30am	Mass	Jose Coelho, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Peter Meehan, RIP



Tuesday to Wednesday: 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** 10.15 am Mother's Prayers;
Saturday: 9.30am Rosary and Confessions every Saturday at 10.45am or on request

Parish Office: Stanley Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA
Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

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

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy

Safeguarding Representative: Marion McGuire 07712048695

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

DID YOU KNOW...?



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Please email your newsletter item to the parish office, stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk no later than midday on Wednesdays,

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD – Don't forget your parish Christmas card which has all the Mass and Service times over the Advent and Christmastide journey, one card per family.

BEWARE: LIGHTING CANDLES – Adults must accompany all children at the candle trays when lighting candles. Please ensure your children are not playing around the candle trays, in the sand or with the lighted candles. Care must be taken when reaching across lighted candles wearing loose clothing, etc.

KEEP
CALM
AND
VOLUNTEER

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We are in desperate need of volunteers to help with Children's Liturgy to satisfy Safeguarding adult/children ratios in the hall during Sunday Masses. If we cannot get enough helpers we will be unable to run Children's Liturgy in the future. If you feel able to help with this important ministry, please contact the parish office 01344 425729 or

stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A CATHOLIC REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED FOR BRACKNELL FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) GROUP. If you: Are you interested in young people and their education? Are you open to sharing your faith with other people? Are you interested in what others believe? Could you act as a bridge between the Church and the schools in your area? For further information or to express an interest please speak to Fr Danny or contact the parish office.

RCIA : WELCOME - During the Vigil Mass for the first Sunday of Advent we welcomed into our community Christopher Apana, Denise Knight, Claudio Machado and Mitch Wing. This was their first rite as they journey towards their full Communion with the Church to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil. Please remember them and their sponsors as they continue their journey in the months ahead.



TOILETRIES NEEDED - Berkshire Women's Aid runs 9 Refuges across Bracknell, Wokingham and Reading for women who have been subjected to domestic violence and their children.

Welcome Packs are provided in each room for new families arriving. The packs include shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, single bedding, nappies. NEW children's vests pants and socks and nighties and pants. There will be a box in the porch for donations next weekend.

THANK YOU!



LAST WEEK'S OFFERING – Total amount £1705.16. Please make cheques payable to "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

To our Bamenda representatives, Chris White and Trevor Keeling, who spoke so movingly here and at St Francis, Ascot. Including some late offerings, we have a final total from our parish of wonderful £1,600. Thank you to so very much.

**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, Adrian Sweeney, Thelma Briggs, Johanna Lenz, Bridget Tanner, Ena Stanton, Peggy O'Sullivan, Peggy Malone, Winnie Justice, Inge Walker, and Yvonne Gantzer, Jadwiga Butcher, June Cooper, Lilijan Rodenburg, Marjorie Brown.

Those who are unwell or in hospital: Bill Guilfoyle, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Una Mair, Freda Edgington, Esther Brophy, Anne Hardy, Nora Cronin, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Teresa Bullock, Maria Bishop, Peggy Pendergast, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Serafina Delmundo, Veronica Jastrzebski, David McCann, Brian Mecklenburg, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Shaun Howard, Francis Robinson, Tom Corridan

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY – Baby Evie Maunders who is being baptised on **Sunday 4 December 2016** at 12 noon. Please pray for Evie and her parents, Roy and Leesa.



YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS RE-LAUNCH - To all young persons aged 12-17 years, St Joseph's Parish Youth Group invitation to all-inclusive fun-filled experience in Parish Hall every Friday 7:00pm to 9:30 pm. Please see the flyers in the porch.

THE YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEER AND SPONSORS APPEAL - A youth community needs ongoing activities to support youth initiatives and thrives on adult presence for safeguarding purposes, expertise and know-how. We appeal to adults who can contribute to contact the parish office or bkmaimo23@gmail.com. We aim for a model where volunteers do a little bit some of the time in an area of interest as opposed to an isolated few doing everything all the time.



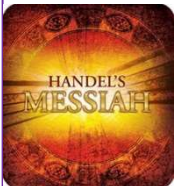
BRACKNELL FOREST CATENIANS FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENING – **Tuesday 6 December 2016** at The Hilton Hotel, Bracknell. We meet at 7.00pm for 7.30pm dinner. The cost of the 3-course meal is £24 per person. All are very welcome, to book please contact Richard Taylor on [01344 566956](tel:01344566956), we need to ensure your meal prepared and ready for you!



CHRISTMAS BELLS - Thames Voyces Chamber Choir invite you to an evening of Christmas carols and readings on **Saturday 10 December 2016** at 7.30pm (after 6.00pm Mass, no teas and coffees). Interval drinks and mince pies. Tickets £12 or £10 (concessions) U16's free, available on the door or our website www.thamesvoyces.org.uk



ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT CAROL SERVICE - Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Wednesday 14th December 2016** at 6.00pm for a Carol Concert outside the Church, town centre. Please come and support our children. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after the service.



BRACKNELL CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT - On **Saturday 17 December 2016**, performing Handel's Messiah in St Joseph's Church, at 7.30pm. **No 6.00pm Vigil Mass on 17 December 2016**. Tickets £15, under 18s free, includes glass of wine and mince pie, available on the door or reserve via Fiona Hardman tel: [07922662740](tel:07922662740) or fionahardman@gmail.com For more information please visit our website www.bracknellchoral.org.uk

PENITENTIAL SERVICES – Will be held at Corpus Christi Church, 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE on **Wednesday 14 December 2016** at 7.30pm and at Immaculate Conception Church, 63-67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS on **Thursday 15 December 2016** at 7.30pm.



SENIOR CITIZENS EPIPHANY PARTY – **Sunday 8 January 2017** in the Parish Hall. Festivities will begin at 12.30pm, more details to follow. Volunteers will be needed to transport guests to and from the party.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – Monday evening **12th December 2016** at 86 Qualitas, Bracknell.

KEEP FIT OVER 50's CLUB – Tuesdays in the hall 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

TODDLER GROUP – Tuesdays in the hall 9.30am - 11.30am during term time.

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

RCIA – Thursdays 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the Hall.

SOUP & ROLL – After 12.10pm Mass Fridays during term time.