

**THE YEAR OF MATTHEW**  
**ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A:**  
**'GIVING HONEST TESTIMONY'**

**15 January 2017 - Psalter Week 2 – Missal Page 125**



John the Baptist doesn't just see Jesus, he sees into the heart and mission of Jesus. His invitation to 'Behold' means something worth looking at is before us. John calls Jesus the 'Lamb of God' and so do we. Yet, the sin that He takes away cannot just be seen as the individual transgressions we might make. What is taken away is the experience of being isolated from God. Jesus frees the temple animals, because they are no longer needed. The disciples go with Him at the time when animals were sacrificed in the Temple and find everything they need in Him. What is needed is to have communion with the Beloved Son of God.



John also admits to what he does not know. He has to grow in his understanding and relationship with Jesus. John is granted a sacred communication that Jesus and the Spirit are inseparable. He has to work at this insight to make it bear fruit. Coming to see the truth of Jesus takes time, patience and a genuine desire to come and see what He is revealing. We see a pattern develop. John sees Jesus, witnesses to Him and creates new disciples. Two new disciples see Jesus, witness to Him and create more disciples. It seems that we have to find out the truth about Jesus for ourselves but others who have already discovered it can show us the way.

This weekend, Bishop Philip will be asking a question in his pastoral letter about our relationship with Jesus and how we share this with others. We don't do this by having yes or no, right or wrong answers but by sharing the adventure we have been enjoying. It means we have to be honest about how our faith in Him has changed and developed. This kind of uncompromising honesty means that our sense of the adventure might be complex.

I came across a story about three people who arrived at the door of a spiritual teacher. She asked all of them the same question. "Did you come to me because of others or because of yourself?" The first answered that they had been sent by others. They were dismissed. The second answered that they came of their own accord. They were dismissed. The third stammered that they had heard of the teacher from others and yet, they also felt that they had come on their own - part curious, part frustrated, part searching and a whole lot of other reasons and motives which were hard to describe. The spiritual teacher said, "You'll do." The honest, complex person was accepted.

I don't know all of the reasons I am drawn to Jesus and struggle to follow Him. But in my own mind, hallmarks of genuine testimony begin to take shape. Honest self-examination, complexity and humility. If my testimony is meant to attract others to Jesus, I worry sometimes that after hearing or seeing me they might look elsewhere. But I also see that I must not over worry on this point. If I try to package Jesus, I lose the only truth that sustains me. You might agree that giving testimony is tricky ground. But what's the alternative?

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup>	6.00om	Vigil Mass	Susan Beasley, RIP
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Dr John and Anne-Marie Bowler-Reed, RIP (Foundation)
		10.30am	Mass	Francis and Bridget Robinson
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		

### ST ANTHONY OF EGYPT, Abbot

Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Michael and Isa Hollywood, RIP
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Doris and Tommy Robinson, RIP
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Thanksgiving to Parishioners

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am REQUIEM MASS – Esther Margaret Brophy, RIP**

### ST AGNES, Virgin, Martyr

Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Mass	Nicholas Powell
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### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Patrick Halloran, RIP
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Marie-Claire Ducasse, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Teresa Bullock



**Tuesday to Thursday:** 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** 10.15 am Mother's Prayers;  
**Saturday:** 9.30am Rosary, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life 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:** stj@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(s) to the parish office [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) no later than midday on Wednesdays.



*“Serve the Lord with Gladness”*

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEER FOR OUR PARISH** - We need volunteers to become involved in the life of our Parish by joining some of our ministries, groups and activities: Children's Liturgy, Youth Group, Hospitality/Welcoming, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Altar (Sacristans), Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation teams, Offering Counters and Verifiers, Pastoral Care, Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, Fairtrade Teas & Coffees, Brass Polishing, Church gardens and grounds, etc. Please contact the parish office to volunteer or to discuss any of these opportunities.

**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.



**COMFY CHAIRS** – There are 4 comfy chairs at the front pews for those who need to be nearer to the altar to receive Holy Communion or who need a more comfortable seat. Don't be shy, the chairs are for you to best support you at Mass.



The current list of shortages: longlife milk (1 litre), longlife fruit juice (1 litre), sponge puddings (tinned or twin packs), tinned fruit. Please note, we will no longer include sugar in our packs. We always take toiletries and personal care items too.



**MASS OFFERINGS** – Weekending **31 December 2016-1 January 2017** and **7-8 January 2017** total amount £2072.96, **thank you**. Please make cheques payable to “PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”.



*Fr Danny and Rita thank you all for your amazing generosity this Christmas and for all your prayers and good wishes, we truly have a beautiful community in our parish.*

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month 2.30pm in the Church, starting **Sunday 23 January 2017**.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** - Monday 23 January 2017 at 57 Wellington Road, Crowthorne

**KEEP FIT OVER 50's CLUB** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm to 3.00pm in the Hall.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday, 9.30am to 11.30am in the Hall during term time. **No Toddler Group on Tuesday 24 January.**

**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.

**RCIA** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the Hall.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after 12.10pm Mass, during term time. No soup & roll on 20.01.2017.

**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 Josephine & Maurice Timms.

**Those who are unwell or in hospital:** Bill Guilfoyle, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Una Mair, Freda Edgington, 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, Francis Robinson, Tom Corridan, Allan James, Nicholas Powell

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY – Baby Lily Elsie Newman** who is being baptised at 12 noon and **Baby Christopher Clark** who is being baptised at 1.00pm on **Sunday 15 January 2017**. Please pray for Lily, Christopher and their families.



of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:** Breda Worsford who died on Wednesday 28 December 2016, Breda's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's on **Tuesday 24 January 2017** at 10.00am. Esther Margaret Brophy who died on Sunday 1 January 2017, Esther's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's on **Friday 20 January 2017** at 10.30am. May their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy



**SECOND OFFERING – PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY 15 JANUARY 2017** – “The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, we work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.”

Please collect a Pax Christi envelope as you leave and return it next week at the offerings at Mass.



**BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS** - We are looking for volunteers to join our Baptism Preparation team. If you have a heart for this most beautiful and rewarding ministry and would like to find out more about what is involved and training, please contact the Parish Office.



**SENIOR CITIZENS EPIPHANY PARTY- Sunday 15th January 2017** from 12.30pm. There will be NO REFRESHMENTS after the 10.30am mass on Sunday 15th January.



**PASTORAL CARE** – A meeting for those interested in forming a Pastoral Care group on **Wednesday 18 January 2017** from 7pm – 8pm in the hall, beginning with reflection in the Church. Are you interested in putting your faith into action? Would you be willing to visit or help those who unwell or in difficulty in a practical way? Do you live with a disability or do you care for someone who

does? Would you feel able to share your expertise with others? If you are unable to attend the meeting but interested in being involved, please contact the parish office.



**BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND** - On **Tuesday 24 January 2017** from 2pm – 3pm A Dementia Friends session at the Council Chamber, 4th Floor, Easthampstead House, Town Square Bracknell RG12 1AQ.

To book a place contact Tim Lowe [tim.lowe@sipp.co.uk](mailto:tim.lowe@sipp.co.uk) or 07739097359. Dementia Friends gives people an understanding of dementia and the small things that you can do to make a difference. Did you know that the Bracknell Forest Dementia Action Alliance (DAA), which our Church is a member of, recently won the award for 'Best Dementia Research and Support Group UK'? We are looking for people in our parish willing to become Dementia Friends Champions. Please contact the parish office if this is of interest to you.



**INVITATION FROM BISHOP PHILIP TO ALL ENGAGED COUPLES:**

**Saturday 11 February 2017** at 0915 in the Cathedral Centre for a Valentine's Day Breakfast with Bishop Philip for those getting married in 2017. Concluding at 11.45am with a short service of blessing in the Cathedral. Please contact Kirsten McGuire on 023 9282 0894 or email: [kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS':**

**Saturday 4 February 2017** at St Bede's Primary School, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX 10.00am - 1.30pm. Talk on our Lenten focus plus updates on campaigns. To book a place please call 01252 329385