

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK
EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

14 January 2018 – Mass Book Page 127, Psalter Week 2

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Every reading for this weekend explores something about our experience of the Sacred and the Holy. It suggests that it doesn't matter so much that we tell ourselves that we are searching for God; because the moment we say the words it is clear that God has already found us. And, having found us, He talks to us of the Spirit and the Truth that is universally available (Jn.4,21,24). The Spirit shakes the house in which we live and puts Justice, Mercy, Peace, Love and Compassion at the top of our agenda. God is present to us always but speaks most clearly to us in the voice of the poor and of those who are suffering. The High Altar, symbol of the rock which is the Beloved Son of God, and the rock that is Peter, becomes the mirror in which we see ourselves passionately committed together to building a new humanity and a new community where Peace reigns over all.

Eknath Easwari was travelling from Delhi to Simla. The train stopped at the historic battlefield of the Bhagavad Gita. The train filled with excitement as the passengers talked about the great battle which took place on the ground on which they were now standing. But Eknath stayed in his seat for he knew that the real battlefield was right inside each passenger on the train. (The End of Sorrow, the Bhagavad Gita for Daily Living, vol 1, Nilgirie Press, 1975)

What if the Gate of Heaven, the house of God is inside each of us? What if this is the only place from which true Peace can come?

Thomas Merton put it so beautifully,

At the centre of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure Glory of God in us. It is, so to speak, His name written in us, as our poverty, as our indigence, as our dependence as daughters and sons. It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely. I have no programme for seeing this. It is only given. But the Gate of Heaven is everywhere. (Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander, p.142, Garden City, N.Y. Doubleday, 1966)

By contrast, have a look at some of the poetry on the Pax Christi website which explores the other side of Peace and why it is so important that it takes centre stage in our journey as disciples of Jesus.

**LIONS AND DONKEYS**

And after all the carnage,  
after all the millions of dead  
and the billions of bullets  
had been expended,  
do you know the greatest moral failing of them all?  
Beyond all the bayonettings, shootings, gassings, pulverisings,  
something far more deadly in effect took place  
in a railway coach at Compiègne  
and in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles:  
the Humiliation of the Vanquished  
and the Vengeance of the Victors,  
grinding Germany into the dirt  
and the Jews into the Camps  
and the World back into War.  
All for want of imagination and forgiveness,  
reconciliation and friendship  
and a Christ-like love of enemy.



## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|          |                  |                |      |                                       |
|----------|------------------|----------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass | Pax Christie, Day of Prayer for Peace |
| Sunday   | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass | Emily McLellan, RIP                   |
|          |                  | 10.30am        | Mass | Parish Intentions                     |
| Monday   | 15 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                                       |
| Tuesday  | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Sick and Housebound of the Parish     |

### ST ANTHONY OF EGYPT, Abbot

|           |                  |         |            |                              |
|-----------|------------------|---------|------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am  | Mass       | Religious Minorities of Asia |
| Thursday  | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am  | Mass       | Christian Unity              |
| Friday    | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am | Exposition |                              |
|           |                  | 12.10am | Mass       | Baby Natalia Grace MacDonald |
| Saturday  | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass       | Pro-Life                     |

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|          |                  |         |      |                                  |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|----------------------------------|
| Saturday | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Parish Intentions                |
| Sunday   | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Members of Ascot & Bracknell SVP |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Michael Robinson, RIP            |

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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.uk

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.uk

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW CHURCH



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

DID YOU KNOW...?



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



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS – Why not make your New Year's resolution to be a volunteer for the important ministries serving the parish and Jesus:

Welcoming Ministry – Warm and friendly greeting to our parishioners and visitors before the weekend Mass that you attend, handing out Mass Books and Hymn Books, newsletters and/or flyers, ensuring enough Eucharistic Ministers and Readers are available for the Mass using the rota, answering any queries parishioners/visitors may have. After Mass, collecting the Mass Books and Hymn Books and stacking onto the book trolley.

Offering Collections – Collect the baskets from the small table at the front of the Church (after Hail Mary), pass the baskets along the pews and chairs, empty all baskets into one and take to the altar with the bread and wine procession. For second offerings, before end of Mass, collect 2 baskets and stand in the porch by the door.

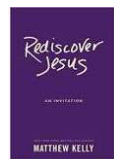
Confirmation Catechist, Marriage Preparation Ministries – Support and guiding those going forward to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

“Serve the Lord with Gladness”



PARISH DIY SOS – Are you a qualified building trades person who would volunteer to give some time to help with a building project for a local family with a disabled child? The materials have all been bought but now the task is finding skilled and experienced people willing to gift their time to complete the build which will enormously enhance and improve the life of this disabled child. If you are interested in gifting your services, please contact the Parish Office email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Also, if you know anyone who might want to gift their time and skills please pass this information to them.

CAN YOU HELP? - Are you willing to provide transport for parishioners to parish events during the year? If so, please contact the parish office for further details.



“REDISCOVER JESUS” - Bishop Philip has sent a Christmas gift of Matthew Kelly's brilliant book **REDISCOVER JESUS** to every parishioner in the diocese, please collect your free copy from the porch. Have you ever had a Christmas where you felt like you were really prepared? Where you walked into Christmas Mass and you felt focused and peaceful and ready? We prepare for everything we consider important in life and Advent is the time we prepare for Christmas. For many people, preparing for Christmas includes shopping, cooking, wrapping presents, hanging decorations, etc. Often these activities are stressful, chaotic and they easily become a distraction from what Christmas is really all about.

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 - JANUARY – 17th St Anthony of Egypt, 19th St Wulstan, 20th St Fabian & St Sebastian, 22nd St Vincent, 24th St Francis de Sales, 25th The Conversation of St Paul, 26th St Timothy & St Titus, 27th St Angela Merici, 31st St John Bosco.

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

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

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

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



MASS OFFERINGS: £1602.80 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.**

SECOND OFFERING FOR THE DESPERATE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: £1700.00. Many thanks

SECOND OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY: 14th Pax Christi Peace Sunday; 20th/21st The Cathedral; 27th/28th Racial Justice



CAFOD is part of the DEC Rohingya crisis appeal. You can donate direct to CAFOD at cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis or by calling 08085 858885



SVP – Turning Concern into Action – Are you lonely, hungry, cold, homeless? Know somebody who is? Please contact our parish SVP Group on 07731 862 349.

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

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

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY – Baby Peter Oheneba Wireko who is being baptised on **Saturday 13 January 2018** at 12.30pm. Please pray for Peter and his parents Fritz and Rebecca.



PEACE SUNDAY - 14 JANUARY 2018: "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". Pax Christi second offering envelopes will be available in the porch at all Masses this weekend **6th/7th January 2018**. Please take a Pax Christi envelope this weekend and return it next weekend **13th/14th January 2018**.



YOUTH ALPHA - Are you in Year 9 or above and free on Friday evenings to come and hang out with other young people to share food and explore life's **BIG** questions? Then invite a friend (or two!) and get down to our Youth Alpha launch party on **Friday 26th January 2018** 6:30pm-8:30pm in the church hall. No pressure. No charge. Register now on the parish website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk



CAFOD, The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development - Are currently looking for volunteers to help them in their work. They are many ways to get involved such as in local schools, in your Parish, or raising issues with your MP. To find out more about our work please come to one of our **Lent Fast Day** briefings by Thom Flint who is CAFOD's Film and Photography Content Producer about his recent visit to Zimbabwe which is the focus country for Lent. Briefing dates and venues are: **Saturday 27 January 2018**, 10am to 12pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Fordingbridge, or **Tuesday 30 January 2018**, 7:15pm to 9:15pm at Sacred Heart Church Fareham, or **Saturday 3 February 2018**, 10:30am to 1pm at St Bede's Church Basingstoke, or **Thursday 8 February 2018**, 7:15pm to 9pm at English Martyrs Church Reading. For more information and to book your place please call Jo Lewry on 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk



PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE - There will be a Prayer and Pastoral Care meeting on **Wednesday 17 January 2018** from 7pm - 8pm. Everyone is welcome to come and pray for those in our parish community who are in need of our love and support and to explore ways of reaching out to them.



SAFEGUARDING TRAINING COURSES 2018:

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT - **Saturday 20 January 2018**, 10am to 12.30pm at Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon, 1 Radley Road, Abingdon OX14 3PL. Trainer – Val Croughan

COMBINED REFRESHER TRAINING COURSE - **Saturday 20 January 2018**, 1.30pm to 4.00pm at Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon Church, 1 Radley Road, Abingdon OX14 3PL. Trainer Val Croughan

CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS - **Saturday 20 January 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at St Edwards, 44 Alma Road, Windsor SL4 3HJ. Trainer Sue Smy.

VULNERABLE ADULTS - **Saturday 27 January 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at the Immaculate Conception Church, 63/67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS.

CHILD PROTECTION AWARENESS - **Saturday 24 March 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at St Edmund Campion, 40A Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PY. Trainer Jo Hopkins.

VULNERABLE ADULTS - **Saturday 24 March 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at St Edmund Campion, 40A Altwood Road, Maidenhead SL6 4PY. Trainer Jo Hopkins.

To book a place on any of these courses, please email or call Soraya Ciccarone, PA to Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator & Diocesan Financial Secretary soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 023 92 836511 (Direct Dial) / 023 92 816396 / 023 92 836511



CLOTHESBANK - The next ClothesBank Giving event, every quarter in our Church Hall and coordinated by St Mark's Church Binfield, will be 10.15am - 1pm on **Wednesday 31 January 2018**. Donations of good quality used clothes for children of all ages and trainers, especially sizes 10 – 2, are requested. Some clothes: pyjamas, underwear and socks for example need to be new. Packs of new children's socks or underwear that would be great. Please leave your donations in the ClothesBank container in the church porch weekends **20th/21st** and **27th/28th January**. Help needed from 9.30am on **Monday 29 January 2018** at St Marks sorting the clothing and from 9am-1pm on **Wednesday 31 January 2018** in our Church Hall. If you feel able to donate your time or interested in knowing more about the ClothesBank, please contact the Parish Office or Gisele at St Mark's Binfield.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – CORPUS CHRISTI, WOKINGHAM - Please join us at Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE for the **Life in the Spirit Seminars, every Wednesday from 7 February to 21 March 2018, 8.00pm to 9.30pm**



SYNAGOGUE VISIT - Bracknell Forest Faith and Belief Forum is organising a visit to the Jewish Synagogue in Maidenhead: Grenfell Lodge, Ray Park Road, Maidenhead SL6 8QX) on **Tuesday 7 February 2018** from 7pm - 8.30pm. Visitors of all faiths or none are very welcome. Please contact the parish office as soon as possible to register your interest or to arrange a lift.



ENGAGED COUPLE'S BREAKFAST - Are you getting married in 2018 - either a church in our diocese or a church elsewhere or abroad? If you are: **CONGRATULATIONS!** Bishop Philip has invited you and all engaged couples to an Engaged Couples Breakfast on **Saturday 17 March 2018** at 9.15 am (prompt) to 11.45am in the Cathedral Centre, Catholic Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, PO1 3HG. After breakfast a chance to meet Bishop Philip. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend this very special event.