

**THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE**  
**THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C**  
**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

*9 December 2018 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 84 - Psalter Week 2*

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If we are sending a letter, we would normally put our address, telephone number and the date at the top of the first page. By doing this we identify the time and place we live in, in case the person receiving the letter wants to reply. But if we were in a place where someone, say, a doctor, was worried about our connection to reality itself, they might ask us the name of the current monarch, prime minister, Archbishop of Canterbury, and all that.

The clever opening of the third chapter of St. Luke's Gospel does a version of this. Luke names the Roman Overlords,- Tiberius Caesar and Pontus Pilate, the Jewish Kings - Herod, Philip and Lysanias, and those who have authority in the Temple - Annas and Caiaphas. We know John's time and place by placing him alongside the so-called leaders of his day. But looked at from another angle, St. Luke is making a scathing judgment on these leaders. For although each, in their own way, claim to be mediators of sacred things, the Word of God sidesteps the lot of them and makes its way to a priests' son, who is also a prophet, and who lives in the desert. John's desert is a place of utter simplicity, purity and purification. And it is with a pure and a wise heart he avoids those who seek power and territory.

When John emerges from the desert, he has God on his mind and a very clear call to repentance or 'metanoia'. His baptism which, on the surface, 'washes sins away' or 'drowns one life to begin another', is really a journey into the strange landscape of the human heart. John has only one agenda, one mission - and it is the forgiveness of sins. But the sins which have been forgiven (repentance) must also be let go (metanoia) by the mind which wants to hang onto them.

John enters the human heart like a construction worker building a motorway. If there is a valley, it will be filled. If there is an obstacle, say a mountain, in the way, it will be flattened. If the road is too windy, it will be made straight. If it is too rough, it will be made smooth. Whatever is needed to make the Advent of God's Mercy arrive, will be done.



To grasp what John is doing we need to look for a moment at the Baptism of Jesus. In John's presence, Jesus goes down into the water and He prays. The heavens open and the Spirit descends. The Father speaks, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." (Lk 3,22). This is the goal of forgiveness and metanoia. Unless we know we are forgiven, and unless our mind can move in joy to letting go of those sins, we will be blind and deaf to the gift of the Spirit. John's motorway is only there to let God get close enough, through Jesus, to fill us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why is this so important? My own experience of sin is that it's like superglue. We can all easily remember the story of the sins that were committed against us. It is much easier to remember the wrongs done to us than the blessings we have received through others. Soon we learn to sin back and wound others. And most of us, if we are honest, tell the story of our lives in terms of blows received and blows given. It is a 'tale of sin' which powerfully shapes our self-understanding. Worse still, as we nurture this version of ourselves, we elevate sin to a status it does not deserve. Little by little we are convinced that this is what is real.

The call to repentance is really an invitation to humbly acknowledge that this is part of our story. We have been wronged and we have wronged others. To avoid this kind of honest examination is a grave mistake. But we must not let our experience of sin define us. If we think that our sins cannot be forgiven, or that we cannot forgive the hurt that has been done to us, we will not blossom into Compassionate, Loving, Justice making and Respectful persons. Our experience of sin will stand like a huge roadblock which prevents The Beloved Son of God running to meet us and who has come to tell us that we are the Light of the World and the Salt of the earth. His words will not get past the armour of our hardened hearts. This is why John's work must be done first so that we can let go of sin and put on the mind of Christ.

In this second week of Advent, there is a clear invitation to come home to ourselves. This door can only open when we allow God to forgive us and then let the sin go. It would be a great tragedy of God offered us forgiveness and we couldn't let go of the sin!

In the Kingdom of God, we are all beloved daughters and sons of the Most High. God is well pleased with us. But we have to risk John's Baptism to clear the pathway for the full experience of the Spirit to arise in our hearts, and set us free!

# DID YOU KNOW...?

 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – MIDDAY ON TUESDAYS**, please email any items you need to make known to the parish via the newsletter to [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR** – The Parish Office will be closed from **Monday 24 December 2018** to **Wednesday 2 January 2019** inclusive. *We wish all our parishioners and visitors many blessings for Christmas and 2019.*

**FR DANNY'S WEEKLY REFLECTION – FACEBOOK:** Fr Danny offers a weekly reflection on Advent and the new church year on the St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Bracknell facebook page. We invite you to watch the videos which brings the newsletter reflection to life with profound depth.



**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.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Do you have a **wardrobe, a double bed or a chest of drawers** in good condition that you no longer need? Would you be willing to donate it to the SVP? If so, contact the SVP on 07731862349. Thank you.



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

**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 – DECEMBER:** 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; 30<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.



**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING** – Mass on Friday 28 December will **NOT** be an Anointing of the Sick Mass

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm-9:30pm. Please contact the parish office for venue details.

**BABY & TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday 9.30am – 11.30am in the hall during term time.

**KEEP FIT** – Closed until January 2019.

**OFS** - Next meeting **Saturday 16 February 2019** at 2pm-4pm in the hall.

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

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Every day, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome. Instrumentalists also invited to join us.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the hall, all welcome.

**TEAS & COFFEES** – After all weekend Masses.



**MASS OFFERINGS: £2409.80. 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](http://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"**. Give it a go, it is really easy, you can do this on your phone or computer, a great way to donate to our beautiful church and parish.



## SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

**Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy**, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell, Tel: 01344 425729

**Fr Kevin Bidgood**, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot, SL5 9HG Tel: 01344 620591

**Fr Marcus Brisley** Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS and Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, RG45 6JG, Tel: 01252 876820

**Fr David O'Sullivan**, Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE Tel: 0118 9780348

**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, Lilijan Rodenburg, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, 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, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D'Souza, Donal Hanley, Pat Meehan, Jacqui Rawstron, Tom Larkin, Jim and Francis McEvoy.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**CHURCH SHOP** – Open December: **Sunday 9th, Saturday 15th/Sunday 16th and Sunday 23rd.** Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards, 2019 Calendars and Diaries now available



**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS** – The true spirit of Christmas Giving. Give a gift that will change a life. Each CAFOD World gift has been chosen for the real and lasting difference it makes to families living in developing countries. Catalogues are available at church or you can buy online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)



**JOURNEY IN FAITH** - Thursday evenings from 7.30 – 9 pm in the hall. This is a group for people who would like to deepen their understanding of our faith. Each week we will study and reflect upon the following Sunday's readings and explore aspects of the Catholic faith. Everyone is welcome, especially those who are considering joining the Church. There's no commitment - just come along to see if this is something that could support you on your faith journey. If you have any questions, please speak to Mary McNab or email [bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**ADVENT GIVING** - During Advent we want to reach out to those living in the Life House and Women's Aid Refuges in Bracknell as well as in Care Homes and Supported Living. Thank you to those who volunteered last weekend to buy and wrap gifts. Please remember to attach the gift label to identify who the gift is for and return to the Church by **Thursday 13 December**. Also, this Advent we want to provide as many items as possible for Welcome Packs. These can be brought in individually and placed in the collection box in the porch weekend **15/16 December** or you can make up a welcome pack and fill a small bag or box with items needed eg shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes (adults/children), towels along with a little treat. Thank you.



**NEW GROUP: SOCIAL MEETUP** - For adults 30+. Meet regularly to get to know others in a relaxed and informal setting on **Thursday 13 December 2018** at the Market Inn, Station Road, Bracknell, RG12 1HY - food at 6pm and Karaoke from 7pm onwards! Please contact Lorraine by emailing [bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**ADVENT EVENT** - St Joseph's School 'Advent Event' **Saturday 15 December**, 10.30am – 1.00pm a chance to make a candle decoration, buy nearly new toys, create crafts, refreshments and more. Don't miss the chance to meet the shepherds and feed the farm animals in the stable! Entry is free.



**A FAMILY CAROL CONCERT. THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 15 December** at 7.30pm. Thames Voyces invite everyone to join them at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church. 4<sup>th</sup> year performing at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church and they hope the parishioners will join again this year following the 6.00pm Mass. Tickets £12/£10 (concession) or free for Under 16s. Wine and mince pies will be served at the interval.



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** – **Monday 17 December 2018 at 7.30pm.** Penitential Service for the parishes of the Pastoral Area at St Francis Church, Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG.



**ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE** - Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Wednesday 18 December 2018** at 6.00pm for a Carol Concert outside the Church, Princess Square Piazza. Please come and support our children. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after the service.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS - SEND ONE TO ALL!** Save the planet and donate the money you save to CAFOD by writing just one Christmas Card addressed to all your fellow parishioners this year. All cards will be added to a special display in the porch for everyone to enjoy.



**ABLAZE! (age +13) & IGNITE! (age 10-12)- GRAVITY FORCE - JOINT SOCIAL EVENT** - Join us for some bouncing fun on **Friday, 11 January 2019**. Make sure you get your consent forms and payment into the office before the deadline date of **Wednesday 19 December 2018**. For more information, please contact: [Youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:Youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

**Saturday 22 December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 23 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
**8.30am Mass & 10.30am Mass**  
**Monday 24 December: 5.00pm Children's Mass**  
**Monday 24 December: 10.30pm Carol Service**  
**Monday 24 December: 11.00pm Midnight Mass**  
**Tuesday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass**  
**Wednesday 26 December to Saturday 29 December:**  
**10.00am Mass each day**  
**Saturday 29 December: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 30 December: 8.30am and 10.30am**  
**No Mass on Monday 31 December**  
**Tuesday 1 January 2019: 10.00am Mass**

## **TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS**

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C**

|           |                  |                |      |                                     |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 6.00pm         | Mass | Georgia Conn, RIP & Deceased Family |
| Sunday    | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 8.30am         | Mass | Parish Intentions                   |
|           |                  | 10.30am        | Mass | Peter Meehan, RIP                   |
| Monday    | 10 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                                     |
| Tuesday   | 11 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                                     |
| Wednesday | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Jose Coelho, RIP                    |

### **ST LUCY, Virgin, Martyr**

|          |                  |        |      |                                        |
|----------|------------------|--------|------|----------------------------------------|
| Thursday | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am | Mass | Lonely and Isolated during this Season |
|----------|------------------|--------|------|----------------------------------------|

### **ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Religious, Doctor of the Church**

|          |                  |         |            |                               |
|----------|------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Friday   | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am | Exposition |                               |
|          |                  | 12.10pm | Mass       | Helen Breen O'Grady           |
| Saturday | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass       | Life House and Women's Refuge |

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C**

|          |                  |         |      |                                     |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Nina Parker, RIP                    |
| Sunday   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Homeless Persons during this Season |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Parish Intentions                   |

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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 prior appointment.

**Parish Office:** 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE, Office Hours: Monday – Friday  
9.30am-2.30pm

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

**Website:** www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org

**Please make cheques payable to (full name):** "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph"

**Parish Priest:** Fr Daniel McAvoy

**Deacon:** Rev Aidan Lynch

**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**