

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

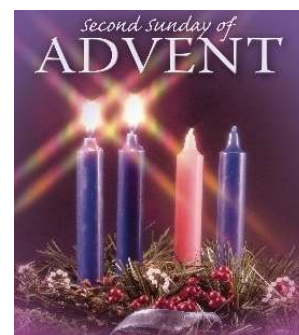
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

8 December 2019 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 85 - Psalter Week 2

Last week we had the launch of the Year of the Word, the first Sunday of Advent. This week we receive a clear message from Matthew in his Gospel, a Gospel inspired in him through God, his own relationship with Jesus and those around him and through the acceptance of the Holy Spirit to guide him.

History buffs can attest to the fact that in those nations led by monarchies or other autocratic figures, each successive king, queen, dictator or despot accedes to the throne with a certain show of power. By flexing their political muscles, a ruler asserts his/her domination over the subjects of the realm, whose loyalty is usually but not always assured. With God, however, the situation is entirely different. No force is exerted, nor is there a display of might; rather we are *invited* to accept God's reign, i.e. allow the saving will of God into our lives and in doing so we walk in the footsteps of Jesus and accept the guiding help of the Holy Spirit.

In today's Gospel John the Baptist explains by word and example precisely how we should go about preparing a welcome for Jesus. Those who came to hear John speak, in the Judean desert near the Jordan, were told, "Reform your lives!". Reform or repentance indicates that welcoming the reign of God requires a conversion. In Hebrew, the word for conversion, or *shubh*, implies that a person has found himself/herself on a wrong path or going in a wrong direction and has made a complete about-face or turnaround. In Greek, the term for conversion is *metanoia*, which means an absolute change of mind and will. Conversion is not simply a *personal* decision to better oneself; rather it is the free response by someone to God's calling. In other words, conversion means offering a welcome to God who will continually come and knock at our door and we must decide the welcome each of us will provide when, how and if we answer that knock.




Another way of understanding conversion is to look at it from the perspective of how we might identify ourselves with Jesus. One of Matthew's objectives in writing his gospel was to help his community to explore and assert their own identity. In doing so, it was hoped that an individual would identify themselves with Jesus through every thought, word, deed and decision and in doing so would be in harmony with God. In other words, the individual would be a disciple of Jesus and welcome God and Jesus into every part of their life, provide good example and be a disciple of Jesus.

This is the challenge for each of us this Advent Season. This Advent (like every Advent) we are not only called on to reflect on our lives and to properly prepare for a celebration of the birth of Jesus but also and more importantly prepare for second arrival of Jesus coming into the world, As Christians we acknowledge through scripture that one day Jesus will be revealed to us again. This is an integral part of our belief and through the Book of Revelation are aware of what that second arrival will mean for the Salvation of the World. So, each of us needs to prepare and to look at our lives – that means how we conduct our lives and to reflect on every thought, word, deed and decision. We need to be honest and open with ourselves and seek answers to questions such as: are we in harmony with God; are we good disciples of Jesus; do we allow the Holy Spirit into our lives; are we prepared, are we ready for Jesus?

Finally, I leave you with the thought and final question to reflect on in that Matthew in the Gospel makes the point that religious heritage will no longer be enough grounds for salvation. What does this mean to us in 2019?

Clearly we are called through the Word of God to ensure that this Christmas is not only a celebration of the Birth of Jesus but is a good and sound reflective period which allows us to decide what we need to change and prepare for the second arrival of Jesus.

DID YOU KNOW...?

 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Midday on Tuesdays**, please email the item text you need to make known to the parish via the newsletter to stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PASTORAL CARE/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION - Our Pastoral Care team and Bereavement Support Group, offers support and home visits to the sick, the housebound, the lonely and the bereaved. We visit you at home with Holy Communion if required. If you, a relative or friend who lives in our parish would like a home visit or to meet for a chat please email pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care) or 07376 790 256 (Bereavement Support).



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.

PARISH REGISTER – Have you registered you and/or your family on the parish register yet? If not, please go to the website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org drop down “Parish Life” and click on “Parish Registration”, this is a secure database and very important for our parish and parishioners especially when applying for any of the Sacraments.



LITURGICAL CALENDAR – December: 7th St Ambrose; 9th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 13th St Lucy; 14th St John of the Cross; 25th The Nativity of the Lord; 26th St Stephen; 27th St John; 28th The Holy Innocents; 29th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



Thank You!!!

MASS OFFERINGS: £1,958.75

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY

Please make cheques payable to (full name) “**PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph**”. “**General Gift Aid**” envelopes and **Banker's/Standing Order** forms available in the porch, please complete and return all forms and general Gift Aid envelopes to the parish office. Registered Charity No. 246871 (Diocese of Portsmouth)

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

BABY & TODDLER GROUP – Last session Tuesdays 10 December, re-open Tuesday 7 January 2020 9:30am-11:30am during term time in the hall.

KEEP FIT – Tuesdays 2pm in the hall.

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

Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”

RCIA – Thursdays 7:30pm-9pm in the hall.

CHOIR PRACTICE – Thursdays 7:30pm-8:30pm in the church. All are welcome.

MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: Every last Friday in the month at 12.10pm Mass, refreshments after Mass in the hall.

Car park reserved for persons with limited mobility.

Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”

TEAS & COFFEES – After all weekend Masses

FRANCISCAN MEETING - Saturday 7 December 2pm-4pm in the hall.



BERKSHIRE CREDIT UNION CONTACT POINTS AND DATES: Come along and have a chat with a trained volunteer at one of the locations points:

Mondays 10am – 12pm: St Paul's Church, The Square, Ralphs Ride, RG12 9LP **AND** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

Tuesdays 10am – 12pm: St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

Wednesdays 2.15pm: 4.15pm: Crown Wood School, Opladen Way, Bracknell RG12 0PE

Thursdays 10am – 12pm: Holy Trinity Church, The Langley Hall, The Ring, Bracknell RG12 1HD **AND 1.30pm – 3.30pm Walk-In Café, Gt Hollands Square.**

Fridays 10am – 12pm: St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, RG12 1BE

Visit Berkshire Credit Union at <https://www.cslberks.org.uk>



SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, Bracknell, RG12 1BE 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 Simon Thomson, 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, Peter Dossett, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, 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 Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Doreen Gladwin, Manuela Maria Barros, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D'Souza, Donal Hanley, Jim and Frances McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Brenda Hook, Simon Brennan, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Pauline McShane, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, David Malcolmson

If you would like to add a name to this list with consent, or if you want a name removed, please contact the Parish Office.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: BETTY WINN, RIP who passed away on Tuesday 26 November 2019. Arrangements for Betty's funeral will be made known as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for Betty and all her family.

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: JACQUIE RAWSTRON, RIP who passed away on Wednesday 4 December 2019. Arrangements for Jacquie's funeral will be made known as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for Jacquie and all her family.

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



YOUTH ALPHA – On-Line Registration OPEN!! Register via the Parish Website

It's so important to take time out to explore some of Life's BIG questions and Youth Alpha will help you to do just that. It's especially for anyone aged 13 -17, whether you are already Confirmed or not. Join us on a 10 week journey of exploration starting **Friday 10 January 2020**, 7pm – 9pm in the Church Hall.

Thinking about Confirmation? Youth Alpha will provide you with a valuable opportunity to refresh your knowledge, consolidate your understanding of where you are on your faith journey and help you to decide whether joining the next Confirmation program is for you...

We have a great team in place, fully committed to making this the best Youth Alpha yet! Register online via the Parish website and come along to our first session on Friday 10th January to see what it's all about for yourself!

Got a question? Talk to anyone of our volunteers after all Masses this weekend or you can email us at youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Youth Alpha!

CHRISTMAS ITEMS – CHURCH SHOP: Come and browse the beautiful range of advent calendars, Christmas cards, and 'Walk with Me' Advent journey booklets, also 2020 calendars and diaries.



TODDLERTIVITY - Calling mums with babies and children up to aged five! **Thursday 12th December**, starting at 2pm in our church, Babies and Bumps favourite presenter Jackie Fearber presents a **TODDLERTIVITY NATIVITY PLAY** puppets, music and singalong. Listen to the beautiful Christmas story. Children are welcome to dress up and join in. Coffee and cake in the parish hall afterwards!

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PENITENTIAL SERVICE

For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area is:
Friday 13 December 2019, 7.30pm at St Francis of Assisi, Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG



ADVENT PRAYER VIGIL Friday 13 December from 8pm-midnight Start with lantern procession into town and back to Church, a talk by Fr Jim Barlow, then

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Refreshments then praise & worship. All are welcome to this celebration of Christ's birth.



SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm

All are invited to a family concert of Festive Favourites and a variety of Christmas music in St Joseph's Church. Tickets on the door: £12 Adults £10 Concessions. Children free.



ADVENT GIVING - During Advent we would like to reach out to those living in the **Life House, Women's Aid Refuges** as well as **Care Homes and Supported Living Homes in Bracknell** by providing wrapped gifts for children and adults for Christmas. Please donate an age appropriate gift for a child, please email pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or tel 07394 440938. Also, we would like to provide items for children and adult Welcome Packs ie children specific toiletries – bubble bath, toothbrushes, toothpaste and/or adult specific toiletries - shampoo, conditioner, shower gels, toothpaste, toothbrushes as well as towels and little treats. Individual items can be brought in and placed in the collection box in the hall weekends of **7/8 December** and **14/15 December** or you can provide a welcome pack for a child or an adult by filling a small bag or box with toiletry items requested. No second-hand clothing or toys.



FRIDAY SOUP & ROLL: We still need more volunteers to make soup. This requires a level 2 food hygiene certificate easily completed online all funded by the parish.

Please email pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care).



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

Monday 23 December: No Mass

Tuesday 24 December: 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Tuesday 24 December: 9.30pm Carol Service

Tuesday 24 December: 10.00pm Mass During the Night

Wednesday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass

Thursday 26 December: 10.00am Mass

Wednesday 1 January 2020: 10.00am Mass

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Saturday	7 th	6.00pm	Mass	Catherine Riordan, (Get Well Mass)
Sunday	8 th	8.30am	Mass	Frank and Marie-Claire Ducasse, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Deceased Families of Hatch and McHugh
Monday	9 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	10 th	No Mass		
Wednesday	11 th	9.30am	Mass	John Coelho, RIP
Thursday	12 th	9.30am	Mass	Sean McAuley, RIP (Foundation)

ST LUCY, Virgin, Martyr

Friday	13 th	11.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12.10pm	Mass	Ciocot Isah Maria-Luisa

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

Saturday	14 th	10.00am	Mass	Baby Ream, RIP
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

Saturday	14 th	6.00pm	Mass	Reuben Aguiar, RIP
Sunday	15 th	8.30am	Mass	Bruna D'Souza, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Deceased Relative & Friends of G & M Block

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**Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer**

**Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help  
10.15 am Mother's Prayers**

**Saturday: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary**

**Confessions: Every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment**

**THESE WILL BE CANCELLED FOR "REQUIEM MASS AND "NO MASS"**

**Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE**

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm**

**Telephone: 01344 425729**

**Email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

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

**Follow us on Facebook**

**Please make cheques payable to (full name): PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy**

**Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch**

**Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher**

**Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab**

**Safeguarding Representatives: Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read**

**Safeguarding email: [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

**PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL**