

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

GROWING IN WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

23 February 2020 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 139 - Psalter Week 3

Moses did not easily come to the Wisdom and understanding he is so sure of in today's first reading. He had to work hard at it. Even so, it is only a small step in the right direction! For while he invites the community to holiness of life, expressed in the refusal to hate, to be two faced or to be imprisoned by the need for revenge, he is still upholding club rules, which have yet to find their way to the world outside the community.

Over time, we begin to see hints that this teaching will be replaced by something better. And today's Gospel text from St Matthew is a fine example of this. So far, we have learned that balance demands an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. This teaching was a major step towards controlling violence. Previously, the Law of Lamech prevailed, 'I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.' (Genesis 4,23) There was no equality in inflicted damage. But under the eye for an eye dictum, retribution was carefully measured.



The teaching of Jesus supersedes this now and disciples need to be careful that we don't go back to the older ways of Moses or Lamech! We are better supported in this regard when appreciate how clever the teaching of Jesus really is. He gives three examples of how to be creative when faced with violence in His own day. These clever actions are designed to change the balance of power from the violent in favour of the non-violent. Walter Wink, in his "Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination", writes, 'Turn your cheek, thus indicating to the one who backhands you that their attempt to shame you into servility has failed. Strip naked and parade out of court, thus taking the momentum out of the law and the whole debt economy and flipping them. Walk a second mile, surprising the occupation troops with a sudden challenge to their control.' p.185

There is an adventure in the teaching of Jesus and we don't need to be afraid that if we apply the same creativity to our own situation that we will be more vulnerable. The danger for the afraid is that we might talk ourselves out of following this light, or water it down so much as to make it worthless.

The Parable of the Snake is helpful here. The snake hears the stunning teaching of Jesus from a wandering preacher and immediately adopts a life of total non-violence. He will bite no one. When the local children realise that he won't bite, they begin to make fun of him and beat him with sticks every day. The snake is near death when the preacher returns and asks how he is doing. The snake tells the preacher of his heroic actions, expecting to be praised. But the preacher says, " I told you not to bite. I didn't say you couldn't rattle and hiss!"

We are always praising heroic Christians who have laid down their life for their faith. Perhaps it will prove wiser, over time, to praise clever Christians who are able to find new ways to bring non-violence and universal loving into stubborn hearts and stubborn systems. These amazing women and men hold these values with an inner strength. They combine them with experience and their knowledge of science and art. They show us how unseen paths open beneath our feet and how to surprise the worldly wise to new ways of living.

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

CORONAVIRUS - TAKING RESPONSIBILITY : Until further notice for all Masses, the “Blood of Christ” Chalice and the **HANDSHAKE** “Sign of Peace” is suspended, the prayer will still be offered. Our priority is the health and safety of all parishioners and visitors. Thank you for helping us to act responsibly during this outbreak.



PASTORAL CARE/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT CONTACT MOBILE NUMBER - 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 – February: 22nd The Chair of St Peter, 26th **ASH WEDNESDAY**.
March: 17th St Patrick; 19th St Joseph; 25th The Annunciation of the Lord.



Thank You!!!

MASS OFFERINGS: £2151.77

SECOND OFFERINGS - MARCH: CAFOD Lenten 7th/ 8th; Clergy Assistance Fund 21st / 22nd

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:** Every Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am during term time in the hall.

***KEEP FIT:** Every Tuesday 2pm during term time in the hall.

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

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

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

***Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”**

***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.**

***SOUP & ROLL FRIDAYS:** Every Friday after 12.10pm Mass

***Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”**

YOUTH GROUP: ALPHA (13-17y.o) **Friday 28 February** 7pm-9pm Hall; **IGNITE** (10-12y.o) **Friday 13 March** 7pm-9pm Hall.

TEAS & COFFEES: After all weekend Masses

FRANCISCAN MEETING: Saturday 22 February, Holy Ghost Church, Crowthorne 2.00pm-4.00pm. All welcome.

OFS: Every third Saturday in the month 2pm-4pm, 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: 11.30am – 1.30pm: St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE **AND By Appointment:** St Paul’s Church, The Square, Ralphs Ride, RG12 9LP

Tuesdays: 12noon – 2.00pm: St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

For more information, please contact Reception 01189-585803 or email reception.cslberks.org.uk Monday-Friday 10am to 2pm

Wednesdays: By appointment Crown Wood School, Opladen Way, Bracknell RG12 0PE

Thursdays: By appointment Holy Trinity Church, The Langley Hall, The Ring, Bracknell RG12 1HD **AND 1.30pm – 3.30pm** The Look-In Café, Gt Hollands Square, RG12 8UX

Fridays: 12noon – 2.00pm St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, RG12 1BE

Last Friday of the Month: 9.00am to 3.00pm Market, Princess Square, Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE



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

Canon 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, 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, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Terry and Mary Brennan

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: EDGAR FRANCIS WHITE, RIP
Edgar's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Friday 28 February 2020 at 11.00am** followed by a Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 1.00pm
Please pray for Edgar and all his family.

May his 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: MARJORIE ANNIE ZAKARY, RIP
Marjorie's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Friday 6 March 2020 at 11.30am** followed by a Service at Easthampstead Park Cemetery at 1.30pm
Please pray for Marjorie 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: PAULINE McSHANE, RIP
Arrangements will be made known as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for Pauline and all her family.
May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

CAR PARK – FUNERAL GATE: We politely ask you not to park in the spaces at the town centre side of the car park after 12noon the day before a Requiem Mass at the Church. This is to enable us to lock the funeral gate to secure the area for the hearse and family mourners' cars to turn and park at the church for the Requiem Mass. Thank you.



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Are a 14 stop journey following Christ on the path to Calvary and beyond to the tomb, with prayers and intercessions along the way to focus our hearts. The Stations of the Cross will be led by different parishioners each week:

Every Thursday evening in Lent (not Holy Thursday) at 7.00pm in the church, commencing 27 February.
Every Friday in Lent (not Good Friday) at 11.00am. Exposition 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm starting Friday 13 March
(Friday Stations will be cancelled for Requiem Mass)



just one world

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY 6th MARCH

The Lent CAFOD's family fast day is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. Please consider eating a simple meal and put what you save in the CAFOD collection envelope. Through CAFOD's global Church family your support helps those living in poverty overseas so many thanks for your donation. There will be CAFOD talks at all Masses weekend **Saturday 29 February** and **Sunday 1 March**.

ASH WEDNESDAY – 26 February 2020: Times of Masses 1200 noon and 7.30pm

CatholicVoices

We would like to invite you to a series of talks and discussion, hosted by Catholic Voices. These are all in our church hall on the following Wednesday evenings, starting at 7pm for about an hour and a half. Please sign-up for the Catholic Voices talks on the website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/cvtalks Please see posters in the porch and hall for information.

11th March: Defending the Unborn: The Church and Abortion
8th July: Gender, Sexuality, and Same-Sex Partnerships
22nd July: Love, Marriage, and Contraception

2nd Sept: Women in the Church
23rd Sept: What's Wrong with Assisted Suicide/ Euthanasia?
4th Nov: Never Again: Legacy Clerical Sexual Abuse in Church

We will be discussing some controversial issues at each of these. For example, on 11th March, whether it is ever possible to reconcile the Catholic faith with being pro-choice; the evidence that praying outside abortion clinics is ethical and effective and why the church does not support contraception when this increases the risk of unwanted pregnancy and abortion.

Please note that these talks are not suitable for anyone under the age of 16 years and, if you are under 18 years, you will need to be accompanied by an adult.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

OFFERING COUNTERS: Volunteers to count the offerings after the 10:30 Mass on Sundays, if you are willing to commit 1-2 hours every 4 or 5 weeks please contact the parish office with your details.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP: Volunteers also needed for the Baby & Toddler Group, in the hall every Tuesday, term time, 9.00am to 12.00am, Please contact the parish office with your details



BEHOLD 2020 - THE REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY - On the feast of Corpus Christi 1381, King Richard II dedicated England to Mary in a ceremony at Westminster Cathedral. England received the title 'Mary's Dowry' meaning England was set aside as a gift for Our Lady under her guidance and protection. On **29 March 2020** at midday, England will be rededicated to Mary in our parish as well as cathedrals, churches, schools and homes throughout the whole country. As King Richard II once gave England as a gift to Our Lady, so we are asked to give ourselves to Mary. To prepare for the Rededication, you are invited to pray a simple daily prayer routine for 33 days beginning on **21 February** and ending on the Feast of the Annunciation on **25 March**. Collect your free "33 Days to Morning Glory" booklet from the porch.



SINGING FOR JOY

We are a parish singing group sharing the love of Christ, through song, to the local Care Homes, all welcome to join us at the following venues and dates:

CLEMENT HOUSE: RG12 2GH: Sundays 23 February and 19 April at 2.15pm
BRACKNELL CARE HOME: RG12 7DN: Wednesdays 26 February, 11 March and 1 April at 1.45pm
ASTBURY MANOR: RG12 7AU: Sunday 8 March at 2.15pm
EDMUNDS COURT: RG12 2HP: 25 March at 2.15pm



CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH – Tuesday 7 April 2020 at 11.00am at the Cathedral. Seats available on the coach, please contact the parish office on 01344 425729 or email stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. **No charge but donations are very welcome as the coach is expensive, please make your donation to the parish office by 31 March.** Please be at St Josephs by 7.30am to leave at 8.00am prompt, arriving back at St Joseph's 4pm.

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	22 nd	6.00pm	Mass	John & Dymphna Slade 60 th Wedd. Anniv. Renewal of Vows
Sunday	23 rd	8.30am	Mass	Wielgosz Family
		10.30am	Mass	Jean-Marc Bouchereau, RIP
Monday	24 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	25 th	No Mass		

ASH WEDNESDAY – Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Wednesday	26 th	12.00noon	Mass	Thomas and Bridget Casey, RIP
		7.30pm	Mass	Ida Chiappetta, RIP
Thursday	27 th	9.30am	Mass	Francis Xavier Casmir, RIP
Friday	28th	11.00am	REQUIEM MASS – Edgar Francis White, RIP	
Saturday	29 th	10.00am	Mass	Aldo Chiappetta, RIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

Saturday	29 th	6.00pm	Mass	Manuela Pinto Ribeiro Barros, RIP
Sunday	1 st	8.30am	Mass	Frank & Marie-Claire Ducasse, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Pauline McShane, RIP

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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**