

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

COMPASSION: LIGHTING THE PATHWAYS OF THE GOSPEL

11 February 2018 – Mass Book Page 137, Psalter Week 2



The fate of the leper is clear. Not only does he have a terrible affliction of the body, he is now excluded from the life of the community. The Leper is a powerful symbol of those who are beyond help or hope. But this one has heard about Jesus and His power to heal the sick. More importantly, Jesus has a reputation for including those who have been excluded. This reputation empowers the leper to come forward, even if he is still unsure if Jesus wants to heal him. Jesus' Compassion for all who are isolated moves Him to reach out and touch the leper. Healing him and welcoming him back to his community, with one gentle touch, are movements of the same dance.

The leper gets what he asked for but Jesus does not. Jesus asks him to show himself to the priest and make the ritual offering for his healing - all signs that he has been restored to community. Mark does not tell us if he does this but he certainly ignores the request to keep his mouth shut. He tells everyone everything and, as a result, Jesus is now the one who is isolated. This is the price he pays for being Compassionate. There is always a price!

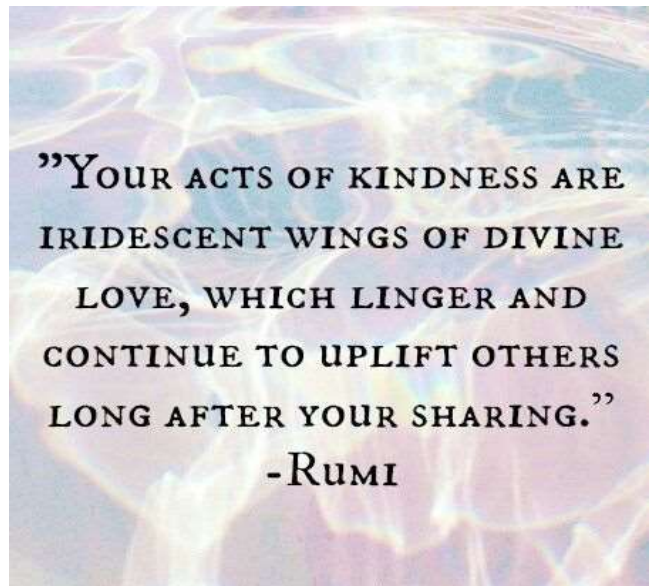
Listen to this poem, 'A Prayer to the Pain of Jesus'.

When crutches were thrown away
Did Jesus limp after the running crippled?
Did His eyes dim when Bartimaeus saw?
Did life ebb in Him when it flowed in Lazarus?
When lepers leapt in new flesh
Did scales appear on the back of His hand?

The Gospels say Jesus felt power go out from Him
but neglect to say whether, at that moment, pain came in.

Did the Son of God take on ungrown legs and dead eyes
in the terrifying knowledge
that pain does not go away,
only moves on?

(The Hour of the Unexpected. John Shea 1992)



The art of Compassion is experiencing ourselves to be the same as the person who is before us and accepting the cost of making a relationship with them. When this awareness of sameness and connection replaces separation, Compassion arises. It is the certainty that we share the same world that drives us towards action. We do not recoil, we reach out. Compassion is the engine that drives us forward in the same way that it made Jesus touch the leper and make him clean. It is also the unwavering certainty that sits behind the words of Jesus when the leper asks if Jesus wants to heal him, "Of course, I want to..."

Poem number two, 'Why aren't We Screaming Drunks?' By Hafiz.

The sun once glimpsed God's true nature and has never been the same.
Thus that radiant sphere constantly pours its energy upon this earth,
As He does from behind the veil.

With a wonderful God like that, why isn't everyone a screaming drunk?

Hafiz's guess is this.

Any thought that you are better or less
Than another person
Quickly
Breaks the wine
Glass.

(The Gift:Poems by the great Sufi Mystic. 1999)

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Saturday	10 th	6.00pm	Mass	World Day of Prayer for Sick & Carers
Sunday	11 th	8.30am	Mass	Bill Docherty, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Jean Marc and Ted Bouchereau, RIP
Monday	12 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	13 th	9.30am	Mass	Isa and Michael Hollywood, RIP

ASH WEDNESDAY – Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Wednesday	14 th	12.00noon	Mass	
		7.30pm	Mass	
Thursday	15 th	9.30am	Communion Service	
Friday	16 th	11.00am	Stations of the Cross	
		11.30am	Exposition	
		12.10am	Mass	Theresa Mercieca, RIP
Saturday	17 th	10.00am	Mass	Alec Roberts, RIP

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

Saturday	17 th	6.00pm	Mass	The Poor and Hungry of the World
Sunday	18 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	Friends & Family - Cathy Ann Johnson

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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**  
**Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm**

**Telephone: 01344 425729 Email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

**Website: [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)**  
**Safeguarding telephone number: [07712 048695](tel:07712048695)**

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

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:

Mike Daniell, RIP whose funeral service is on **Tuesday 20 February 2018**, 12.45pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.  
Patrick Francis Messitt, RIP whose funeral service is on **Thursday 22 February 2018**, 12.45pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.  
*May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



**LENT** : Live Lent and let your light shine. “Give” rather than “Give Up”. Give the gift of your time by joining one of the below ministries which are so important for the life of our church and parishioners. We need YOU.

**WELCOMING MINISTRY** – Warm and friendly greeting to our parishioners and visitors before the weekend Mass that you attend. A chance to meet other parishioners and help those in need with their visit to Mass.

**OFFERING COLLECTIONS** – During the Mass and 2<sup>nd</sup> offerings at the end of Mass, teams are needed for each of the weekend Masses.

**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.

**SOUP & ROLL FRIDAYS – YOU HELP IS URGENTLY REQUIRED** – Can you spare a couple of hours on a Friday mid-morning, either setting up/ cooking/serving or clearing away. Great fun and camaraderie with our parishioners and the school children who join us after Mass. No experience needed other than a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate an easy online course, the cost reimbursed by the parish. Please contact the parish office for further details or to volunteer.

**FLOWER ARRANGING TEAMS** - We would love to welcome anyone who would like to join the team! No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to make our church look beautiful. If you think you would like to help with arranging flowers in church, please contact the Parish Office

**“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS”**



**PARISH DIY SOS** – Are you a qualified building trades person willing to gift time and experience to help with a building project for a local family with a disabled child? The materials provided but skilled and experienced people needed. Please contact the Parish Office email: [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

## RESERVATIONS

**BOOKING OF PARISH HALL AND PARISH ROOMS** – If you wish to use the church hall or parish rooms bookings must be made with the parish office at least 6 to 8 weeks before requested date. Please note the regular events below when making reservations.

**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 - FEBRUARY** – 5<sup>th</sup> St Agatha, 6<sup>th</sup> St Paul Miki & Companions, 8<sup>th</sup> St Josephine Bakhita, 10<sup>th</sup> St Scholastica, **14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday**, 22<sup>nd</sup> The Chair of St Peter.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**KEEP FIT** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the hall during term time.

**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.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Every Thursday, during term time, all welcome.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass during term time in the hall.

**YOUTH ALPHA** – Every Friday 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the hall.

**FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY** - Every 3rd Saturday 2pm in the Hall.



**MASS OFFERINGS: £2002.27** **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.**

**SECOND OFFERINGS - FEBRUARY: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Lenten Fast Day (return donation envelopes 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>)**

**PARISH VACANCY** - A vacancy has arisen for an experienced hygiene technician in our parish. Developments in pastoral care and outreach in the parish now mean that all parts of our site. The successful applicant(s) will be employee(s) of the Diocese of Portsmouth. The post is for one or two people to share, from 7.00 am to 9.30 am from Monday to Saturday. In keeping with current practice, the successful applicant(s) will need to be DBS checked. Please contact parish office for more information or to request an application form.

**WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE – Friday 2 March 2018 at 10.30am in the Methodist Church, Dukes Ride, Crowthorne, RG45 6LT followed by refreshments. Please join us, men and children welcome too.**

**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, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Denise Rinzivillo, Sally Tarode. Babs White.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....

**URGENT!** Please respond before **Monday 12 February 2018** to the government's consultation on Relationships Education in primary schools and Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) in secondary schools See <https://www.spuc.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/respond-to-sex-education-consultation>. Also, if you have any experience of pro-life vigils at abortion providers, please respond by **Monday 19 February 2018** to the government survey on this important issue. See <https://www.spuc.org.uk/bufferzonesreview>



**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Everyone is welcome to our choir practice every Thursday in the Church from **7.30pm to 8.30pm** with our wonderful organist John Weeks. Just come along, you will be warmly welcomed.  
*“To sing is praying twice”*



**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? Join us every **Friday 6:30pm-8:30pm** in the church hall. Bring a friend or two. No pressure. No charge. Register now on the parish website [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)



**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**



## BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM

**WEEKDAY MASSES DURING LENT** – Weekday Masses on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** will be at **12.00 noon** instead of **9.30am**, to enable all to come to our weekday celebration of Lent.



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES** – **Wednesday 14 February 2018**, the times of Masses are **12.00 noon** and **7.30pm**.  
**A day of fasting and abstinence.**



**JOURNEY INTO A CONTEMPLATIVE HEART – “FALLING INTO SILENCE” A MASTER CLASS BY DR JAMES FINLEY** – A series of 6 reflections by Dr James Finley, commencing on **Thursday 15 February to Thursday 22 March 2018, 7.30pm to 8.30pm** in the hall. Dr Finley is a brilliant master of the contemplative life, a beautiful opportunity to ‘rest in God’ and prepare for the holy season of Easter.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – Every Friday in Lent commencing **Friday 16 February 2018** (not Good Friday) at **11.00am**, with Fr Danny and inspiration from Pax Christi, William Vanstone, Taize and Bishop Philip. Exposition follows at **11.30am**.



**REFRAME** - Catholic Voices. Talks every Wednesday during Lent from **7pm-8pm** in the hall commencing **Wednesday 21 February 2018**. Talks include ‘How to defend the faith without raising your voice’, ‘Pope Francis’ vision for the Church’, ‘Mercy and the migrant crisis’, ‘Catholic schools building the common good’ and ‘Catholic voice in 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain’.



**CAFOD's FAMILY FAST DAY** - Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On **Friday 23 February 2018 FAMILY FAST DAY** can you give up a meal or eat simply and put what is saved in the CAFOD Family Fast Day envelope. Your donation will make the double the difference, for every pound donated the UK Government will also donate a pound up to total of £5 million so twice the number of lives can be transformed. Please give generously and help us raise £5 million. CAFOD donation envelopes available in the porch weekend **10th/11th February** to be returned weekend **24th/25th February 2018**



**PENITENTIAL SERVICES** – For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area are:

**Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : The Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS  
**Thursday 15 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell  
**Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : Corpus Christi, Wokingham RG40 2HE  
**Thursday 22 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : St Francis of Assisi, Ascot SL5 9HG



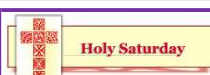
**CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH** – **Tuesday 27 March 2018** at 11.00am at the Cathedral. We have a “mobility impaired” accessible coach for able-bodied and mobility impaired parishioners who wish to attend this most beautiful Mass. We have only a few places for the coach departing from St Joseph's Church at **8.00am**, returning approx **4.00pm**, please contact the parish office. **Please note, the Parish Office will be closed on 27 March 2018.**  
**There will be no 9.30am Mass that day.**



**MAUNDY THURSDAY : THE EASTER TRIDUUM** – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – **Thursday 29 March 2018 at 7.30pm**. All Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word are invited to renew at this Mass their commitment to serve.



**GOOD FRIDAY : Celebration of the Lord's Passion** – At **3.00pm** on **Friday 30 March 2018**.



**HOLY SATURDAY : This beautiful Easter Vigil Service on Saturday 31 March 2018 at 7.30pm**



## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**Sunday 1 April 2018**  
 Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - We have many membership cards waiting to be collected, if you've registered online please collect your cards from the porch before Mass. We welcome children from the age of 3 until they start their First Holy Communion journey in Year 3. Thank you.



**‘ROMERO – HEARTBEAT OF EL SALVADOR’** is a new play by RISE Theatre on **Friday 9 March 2018 at 7pm** — Rise Theatre performing at Holme Grange School, Heathlands Rd, Wokingham RG40 3AL. A challenging and moving production on the life and legacy of this great man of justice, Blessed Oscar Romero and the people of El Salvador. Suitable for adults and children 11+. Admission by ticket only - for your **Free Ticket** please contact Corpus Christi Parish Office on 0118 978 0348 or email [wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). For further details, please see the poster on the porch noticeboard.