

THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK
EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

THE FLOW OF LOVE

6 May 2018 – Mass Book Page 266, Psalter Week 2
Ascension of the Lord, Thursday 10 May 2018, Missal Page 272

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Can love be compared to water? In this sense it can. It is hard to slake our thirst when water arrives in an 'on and off' way at our tap. No one thrives when love is not constant. All the evidence suggests that we are the best we can be when there is a steady supply of love flowing into our lives. This is true on a simply human level. It is equally true when we encounter Sacred Love. There is a love which is uniquely revealed by Jesus. We do not have to search for it as if He hadn't already found us. To this steady stream of love, He adds some simple rules.



Once upon a time there was a king riding in a coach on a rainy day. He sees a poor person dragging themselves through the muddy road and stops and offers them a lift. But the traveller does not have much trust. "What will it cost me?" They ask. "Only that you accept it." The king replies. Simple rule number one then, is knowing how to receive the love that is on offer. And, yes, there is a catch. Once the offer of love has been accepted a chain reaction is started. The one who is loved can only bring that love to joyful completion by passing it on. We might say we can only fully understand what we have received when we give it away.

If we could just grasp this simple truth, that we are links in a love chain from the Father to Jesus, from Jesus to us, from us to each other and back again. There is no need to grab, hold or possess love as if it was scarce. His word on love moves us from anxiety to holy communion. If we understand this, we have understood what Jesus is all about. And if we know what Jesus is about, we know what His Father is about. The world of masters and servants collapses and gives way to communities of effortless friendship. In fact, disciples of Jesus have been chosen for this very purpose.

Can we tell ourselves the story that Jesus tells and that he wants us to tell to others? Can we see ourselves as powerful links in this love chain? Sometimes the greatest stumbling block for this is that the teaching of Jesus cannot get past the voices in our heads. You know the ones I mean. The negative self-talk. The tendency to focus on the times when we were hurt. The antidote to this is to think more positively and focus on those who left us treasured memories of love in our hearts.

James Mackey, in his '*Jesus the Man and the Myth*' suggests a way forward. **"In the end, the only way to give people the experience .... of being themselves, Grace and treasure is to treat them as treasure and be gracious to them. The sun may indeed rise in the evil and the good, and the same rain refresh the just and the unjust. But the lesson will likely be lost on me unless the warmth of another person envelops me, unless some other human person refreshes the weariness of my defeated days. I will simply not feel my own life, my own self, as Grace or gift of God, unless someone values me."** (p.107)

Mackey's insight is that every personal experience of authentic love opens a window on our understanding of God's infinite love. So we can become sacramental carriers of such love. It does not matter how we enter the love chain. It only matters that we enter in.

# 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)

*May their souls 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: TIM ROBERTS, RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Tuesday 22 May 2018** at **11.00am**, followed by a burial at Easthampstead Park Cemetery at 1.00pm. Please pray for Tim's beloved wife and family: **Dominica, Charlie, Benedicta, Albertine, Felicity and family.**

*(We respectfully request that the church car park is used only for the mourners attending Tim's Requiem Mass)*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: Hilda Flynn, RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Wednesday 9 May 2018** at 11.00am, followed by a burial at 12.45am at Larges Lane Cemetery. Please pray for Hilda and all her family.



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.

**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 with your details and which ministry you would like to join.**



**PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES** - St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School have two vacancies for Parent Governors. If you are a parent of the school and would like to apply or would like more information about this role, please contact Joanna Hardy 01344 424030, thank you.



**BOOKING 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 6-8 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 - MAY** – 10<sup>th</sup> The Ascension of the Lord; 12<sup>th</sup> Ss Nereus & Achilleus and St Pancras; 14<sup>th</sup> St Matthias; 17<sup>th</sup> St Dunstan; 18<sup>th</sup> St John I; 19<sup>th</sup> Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth; 20<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday; 21<sup>st</sup> St Christopher Magallanes & Companions; 22<sup>nd</sup> St Rita of Cascia; 25<sup>th</sup> St Bede the Venerable; 26<sup>th</sup> St Philip Meri; 27<sup>th</sup> The Most Holy Trinity; 31<sup>st</sup> The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**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. No Toddler Group on Tuesday 22 May 2018

**KEEP FIT** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the hall. No Keep Fit on Tuesday 22 May 2018

**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, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome.

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

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



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1,886.59 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 - MAY: 12/13 Catholic Communications Network**

**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 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, Tess Johnson, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Eileen Ing.

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**ASCENSION OF THE LORD – THURSDAY 10 MAY 2018 – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**, this is one of the few Holy Days that is not transferred to Sunday.

**Mass Times: 12.00noon and 7.30pm**



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** – Please pray for the children and their families as they complete the preparations for their First Holy Communion day which are on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018**



**PASTORAL CARE** – There will be Pastoral Care meeting on **Wednesday 16 May 2018**, 7.30pm - 8.30pm in the hall. Please come along if you feel drawn to walk alongside those in our midst who are sick, housebound, lonely, frail or in need and to look at ways to offer love and support?



**SERVICE OF HEALING** – In the Church on **Sunday 20 May 2018** at 3.00pm, followed by afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome. If you or someone you know would like a lift or if you are able to offer someone a lift, please contact the parish office 01344 425729 or email:

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



**PULSE CATHOLIC FAMILY RETREATS – TWO DAYS TO MEET THE LORD - PULSE** is a charity which has been organising Catholic retreats for families run by families since 2014. The proposal is two days retreat, for all the family! While parents live their retreat about deepening of the prayer, through teachings and practice, their children are taken care of by volunteers and other parents (all DBS checked) who supervise the entire retreat. A bespoke school of prayer for children has been developed as well, where they get closer to Jesus, through various activities adapted to each age. For more information and registration, please view the website: [www.pulse-retreats.com/adults](http://www.pulse-retreats.com/adults)

**When: 18 to 20 May 2018 Where: Ascot Priory SL5 8RT**

**Led by: Father Matt Blake, Carmelite**



**PARISH QUIZ NIGHT – Back by popular demand** on **Saturday 9 June 2018** - how good is your trivia? £1 entry per person, great prizes. Licenced bar from 7:00pm.

Quizzing starts at 7:30pm. Free buffet. A great, fun evening and a chance to make new friends.



**DIOCESAN DAY FOR READERS – SATURDAY**

**16 JUNE 2018** - 9.30am to 3.00 pm, starting with Mass. This is for everyone involved in reading at Mass, an opportunity to meet, share, be formed, and pray together. Lunch and refreshments provided St Bede's Catholic Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9DX. For more details, and to register: [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/readers](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/readers). Please see the poster on the porch noticeboard.



**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE AS A DEACON IN HIS CHURCH?** - Oscott Seminary have introduced a preparatory year for men discerning a call to the Permanent Diaconate. This Propaedeutic year consists of three sessions (Friday-Saturday) commencing on **9<sup>th</sup> /10<sup>th</sup> November 2018**. The other dates for the coming academic year are **25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> January 2019** and **8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> March 2019**.

Its aim is to help candidates better understand the reality of a vocation to Holy Orders and to discern whether this is what God is calling them to. There will be Parish based pastoral elements, spiritual formation and intellectual input given through teaching, seminars and discussions.

Wives of prospective candidates will be supported during these days and are encouraged to attend. Attendance at these days does not commit an individual to beginning the formation program but is part of the overall selection process. For further information email Fr Peter Hart [pghart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pghart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**SIGNIFICANT WEDDING MASS** - Are you celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or anniversary over 60 years? Bishop Philip has invited you to a celebration Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on **Saturday 30 June 2018**. A wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please visit the Cathedral website and complete the on-line form, <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries> Or send an email to [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** – Bishop Philip invites our young people to join him and 20 students and FOCUS missionaries from the USA on a pilgrimage retreat to Lourdes from **12 to 16 July 2018**. Costs £550; full-board and flights from Southampton. For more information please contact Father P J Smith at [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**ABLAZE IN THE TRUTH : FANNING THE FLAME SUMMER CAMP 2018** - From **20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018**, the Fanning the Flame Catholic Mission will be running the Summer camp for 10-25 year olds in the New Forest. Last summer was a great week with everyone enjoying the many events: Fellowship, Football, Spiritual Direction, Horse Riding, Workshops, Games, Drama, Mass, Adoration, Confession, etc. A great crowd of youngsters from all over the Diocese. The weather was good enough for an outdoor Mass.

Wherever you are in your Catholic faith, come and be refreshed and renewed in God's love for you!

Please see the poster on the porch noticeboard. For more information and booking forms visit the Fanning the Flame [website](http://www.ffcm1995@gmail.com) or e-mail: [ffcm1995@gmail.com](mailto:ffcm1995@gmail.com)

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

|                  |                       |                |                                        |                     |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday         | 5 <sup>th</sup>       | 6.00pm         | Mass                                   | Parish Intentions   |
| Sunday           | 6 <sup>th</sup>       | 8.30am         | Mass                                   | Richard Mackey, RIP |
|                  |                       | 10.30am        | Mass                                   | Mia Brennan         |
| Monday           | 7 <sup>th</sup>       | <b>No Mass</b> |                                        |                     |
| Tuesday          | 8 <sup>th</sup>       | 9.30am         | Mass                                   | Barbara Simpson     |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>9<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>11.00am</b> | <b>REQUIEM MASS – Hilda Flynn, RIP</b> |                     |

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Holy Day of Obligation

|          |                  |           |                           |                       |
|----------|------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Thursday | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 12.00noon | Mass                      | Eileen and John Ing   |
|          |                  | 7.30pm    | Mass                      | Mary Rushby           |
| Friday   | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am   | Exposition                |                       |
|          |                  | 12.10pm   | Mass                      | Clergy of the Diocese |
| Saturday | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 12.00noon | First Holy Communion Mass |                       |

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

|          |                  |         |                           |                                          |
|----------|------------------|---------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass                      | Robert Buchanan, RIP                     |
| Sunday   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass                      | Parish Intentions                        |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass                      | First Holy Communion Children & Families |
|          |                  | 1.00pm  | First Holy Communion Mass |                                          |

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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. **NO 10.00am MASS or CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY 12 MAY 2018**

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