

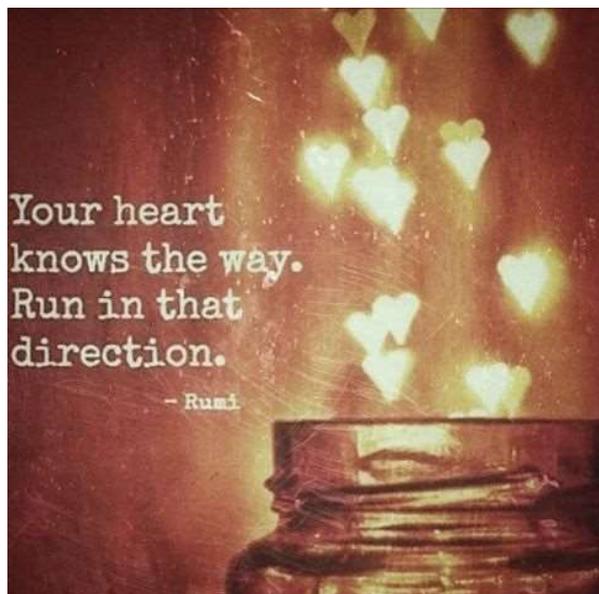
**THE YEAR OF MATTHEW**  
**ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**  
**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A**  
**COMPLETING OUR LIFE**

*28 May 2017 - Psalter Week 3 – Missal Page 271, 272*

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As we listen to Jesus making His last will and testament, it is clear that He does not see His upcoming death as a disaster. Notice how His words, far from being fearful or desperate, deepen His relationship with His 'Abba'. His prayer, includes all those who share His light. To them He bequeaths eternal bliss.

Don't be misled by the phrase, 'He looked up to Heaven'. Heaven is neither up nor down, what matters is that He opens Himself to the Sacred Presence who is present everywhere. For Jesus, praying is a relational response, not an attempt to make contact. Jesus reveals Gods' name and through this revelation allows Divine Life to flow into the world. All who are already responding to God, hear Jesus and gravitate towards Him. As they listen also to Him, He energises them to share His teaching with others. Now their Mission is clear. A new community is coming to birth. His disciples will witness to this most clearly when they are One, as the Father and the Son are One.



I wonder if it is important that we think about our own ending in the world. None of us are here for a long time and embracing this truth can be very liberating. The problem seems to be that in most instances, death chooses us. Even if we have all our 'affairs' in order, death interrupts us. Think of all the things that tie us to this life! Will we ever be ready to let go? But it does not matter. Even if we tell ourselves that the world couldn't possibly go on without us in it, or that it will be too difficult and we won't be able to do it, it happens anyway. Walking around Easthampstead Cemetery provides a great lesson on how easy it is to die. Will we be able to say that we accomplished what we were sent to do?

It might help us to remember that from every social point of view Jesus was a failure. The so called religious authorities did not accept Him, or His message. He was betrayed, denied and abandoned by those who should have known

better. He was executed with terrorists and mocked by soldiers, priests and his own community. If we look at His death in this way, how can He claim that He accomplished anything?

Perhaps, from a social point of view, everyone's death is a failure. Even if we are propped up, pain free, surrounded by our trophies, applauded for our successes, with loved ones around us and leaving an abundant inheritance, we still die incomplete. Why? because who we really are cannot be found here. On a social level, there is no good, never mind a perfect death.

However, if we look through the Sacred Lens and do some radical reworking of how we see life and what counts as success, we might see more clearly. From Jesus we hear that the whole point of you and me is to release Sacred Love into the world. Every person is a beloved child of God. We cannot believe that God is our Father and not believe we are all sisters and brothers. When we activate and begin to frame ourselves in this spiritual identity, the hour of death starts to look very different.

This prayer of Jesus is astonishing because it evaluates life from a consistent Godly perspective. He steadfastly upholds the infinite preciousness of every person. He speaks of a spiritual reality that lies hidden within us but which is harder to see when we are busy playing the game of life. We are not on a mission, we are a mission of Love, meant to stir love in others. When this happens, God is glorified, our work is accomplished, our life complete. Could this possibly be true?

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A

|          |                  |                |      |                    |
|----------|------------------|----------------|------|--------------------|
| Saturday | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass | Venris Dowdie, RIP |
| Sunday   | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass | Mrs Salisbury, RIP |
|          |                  | 10.30am        | Mass | Ancheree Gontier   |
| Monday   | 29 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                    |
| Tuesday  | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Raymond Lynch, RIP |

### THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Feast

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> 11.45am REQUIEM MASS – HONORA (NORA) CRONIN, RIP**

### ST JUSTIN, Martyr

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 9.30am Mass Jurgens Family Living & Deceased (Foundation)

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Exposition**

**11.30am REQUIEM MASS – WILLIAM (Bill) GUILFOYLE, RIP**

### ST CHARLES LWANGA & COMPANIONS, Martyrs

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am Mass Pro-Life

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 6.00pm Mass Derry & Katharine Ferguson

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 8.30am Mass Perfecto Dagdag, RIP  
10.30am Mass Ivor John Bradley, RIP



*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 and Confessions every Saturday at 10.45am or by prior appointment.*

**Parish Office:** Stanley Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA  
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:** "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

**Parish Priest:** Fr Daniel McAvoy

**Parish Secretary:** Elizabeth Fisher **Pastoral Assistant:** Mary McNab

**Safeguarding Representative:** Marion McGuire 07712048695

**PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW CHURCH**

## DID YOU KNOW...?



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** – Please email your newsletter item(s) to the parish office [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) no later than midday on Wednesdays.



**WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY** – Baby Mervin Stephen Awotwe Otuo who is being baptised **on Sunday 28 May 2017** at 12 noon. Please pray for Mervin and his parents Ebenezer and Bella.



**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 - church, hall, offices, meeting rooms and adjoining toilet facilities, are used every day of the week.

The successful applicant(s) will be employee(s) of the Diocese of Portsmouth. The post is for one or maybe two people to share, working from 7.00 am until 9.30 am from Monday to Saturday. This will ensure that we are ready to receive all guests into an excellent and professionally managed environment.

In keeping with current practice, the successful applicant(s) will need to be checked by the disclosure and barring service and receive the appropriate safeguarding, health and safety training.

If you are interested in this position and would like further information, please contact Liz in the parish office to request an application form. You will be expected to provide two references from other recent employers and have an excellent work record.

**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 when reaching across lighted candles wearing loose clothing, etc. It is important to remember that they can be the cause of major fires and serious injuries if not used correctly.



**CHURCH SHOP** – We have a stock of cards and gifts available in the church shop for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The shop is open every Sunday after the 8.30am Mass and just before the 10.30am Mass.



**CAN YOU HELP?** Parishioners in Priestwood and Great Hollands need lifts to 10.30am Sunday Mass. Please contact the parish office if you can offer someone a kind act of a lift to Mass.



**NEW DIOCESAN APP** – The free App is in its initial stage and many new features will be to download for yourself (from your usual Apple and Google stores) [app@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:app@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**SAINSBURY'S FOOD DONATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:** Sainsbury's have supported our parish work for the Night Shelter for the past two years. We are now officially a **Sainsbury's Food Donation Partner** for the front of store in Princess Square. The donations are available to us all year to help those in need, not only in the Night Shelter, but also individuals and families supported by SVP and the Bracknell Life House, etc. We would like to get a team together to help collect the goods donated. If you'd like to help in any way, please contact Liz in the Parish Office.



**PARISH CENSUS** - A reminder to complete the parish census either online on our parish website at [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-census-form.html](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-census-form.html) or using a paper copy which can be found in the porch. Please return paper copies in an envelope to the parish office. There is also a "Parish Database Census Information" sheet to help you and answer some typical queries.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** - Monday 12 June 2017 at 86 Qualitas, Bracknell

**KEEP FIT OVER 50's CLUB** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm to 3.00pm in the Hall.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday, 9.30am-11.30am in the hall during term time. **Closed 30 May 2017**

**YOUTH GROUP** – Every Friday, 7.00pm – 9.00pm Hall, **closed 2 June 2017**.

**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.

**RCIA** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the Hall.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass during term time. **No Soup and Roll on Friday 2 June 2017.**

**LAST WEEK'S MASS OFFERINGS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS:** Total amount £1,557.60. Please make cheques payable to "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph". Gift Aid envelopes and standing order forms available in the porch.

**We pray for the Sick and Housebound of Our Community  
and for those who care for them.**

**Sick and Housebound:**

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Adrian Sweeney, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Jadwiga Butcher, June Cooper, Lilijan Rodenburg, Josephine & Maurice Timms, Andrea Brown, Robert Mulcahy, Mary Carpenter, Mary King,

**Those who are unwell or in hospital:**

Una Mair, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Teresa Bullock, Maria Bishop, Peggy Pendergast, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Serafina Delmundo, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Tom Corridan, Allan James, Nicholas Powell, Peggy O'Sullivan, Caroline Nirmalan, Kathleen Brosnan, Jackie Shaw, Tom Larkin, Blanche Shap, Thelma Briggs, Emma Flavelle. John Richardson

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF: HONORA (NORA) CRONIN** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday 31 May 2017** at 11.45am at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church.

**WILLIAM (BILL) GUILFOYLE** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 2 June 2017** at 11.30am at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church.

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



### BRACKNELL FAITH and BELIEF FORUM'S AGM -

**Tuesday 6th June 2017** 2pm - 3.30pm at Easthampstead Baptist Church, South Hill Road, Bracknell RG12 7NS Everyone is welcome.



### ST MARGARET CLITHEROW AROUND THE WORLD SUMMER FAYRE -

**Saturday 10 June from 12.30-3.00pm.** We look forward to welcoming you on the day!



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - Thank you for your patience whilst we reorganised Children's Liturgy in light of safeguarding and health & safety requirements. We are hoping to resume Children's Liturgy on the weekend of **10/11 June 2017**. All adults and children wishing to attend will have to complete an Annual Family Membership form online via our parish website. Leaflets will be handed out after Mass describing the process for registration and the way in which Children's Liturgy will operate in future. We are also always in need of new helpers - please contact the parish office if you are interested and if you can, come along to a meeting of all Children's Liturgy volunteers on Wednesday 24 May 2017 at 7.30pm in the parish hall.



### LITURGICAL CALENDAR - MAY:

28<sup>th</sup> The Ascension of the Lord; 31<sup>st</sup> The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**JUNE:** 1<sup>st</sup> St Justin, 3<sup>rd</sup> St Charles Lwanga & Companions, 4<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> St Boniface, 11<sup>th</sup> Most Holy Trinity, 13<sup>th</sup> St

Anthony of Padua, 18<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi, 21<sup>st</sup> St Aloysius Gonzaga, 22<sup>nd</sup> Ss John Fisher & Thomas More, 23<sup>rd</sup> The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 24<sup>th</sup> Nativity of St John the Baptist, 28<sup>th</sup> St Irenaeus, 29<sup>th</sup> Ss Peter & Paul.



**THANK YOU** - To everyone who helped to make the Service of Healing and afternoon tea last Sunday such a special afternoon. A particular thank you to Fr Danny and to those who gave lifts, prepared cakes and sandwiches, set up the hall, served tea, tidied up and assisted in any other way. Our thoughts and prayers are also with those who were unable to attend.



### CHOPPED FOR CHARITY - Friday 16 June 2017

Anabel Gosling, a St Margaret Clitherow school pupil, will cut her long blonde hair for charity. She is fundraising for **Little Princess Trust** who make real hair wigs for children with cancer or other illnesses where their treatment causes them to lose their own hair, see <http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>. Her hair will be made into a wig for children and all money raised will go towards the making of wigs. She's really determined to do something good to help those less fortunate than herself and this was her choice. The deed is being done at on. 4.30pm



### SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES MASS -

Please contact the Parish Office if you are celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years and you wish to attend the Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX on **Saturday 24 June 2017** at 11am. You can also email: [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



### MEDITATION AND TALK WITH BROTHER MARTIN SAHAJANANDA - Tuesday 20 June 2017,

7.00pm to 9.30pm for Meditation in the parish hall. Talk and Discussion, Prayer and Praise. Brother Martin Sahajananda leading exponent of 'wisdom Christianity'. A friend and disciple of the late Bede Griffiths OSB and lives at Shantivanam Ashram in India. Explore the teachings of Jesus from the perspective of Indian spirituality, particularly spiritual classic known as the Upanishads. Br Martin has been a Camaldolese Benedictine Monk for over 25 years and passionate to engage with people seeking the open, universal and inclusive meaning of the gospels.



**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** - There will be no Chaplet at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church for May or June. The next Chaplet will be on Sunday 16 July at 2.30pm.



### CAFOD GOLF DAY - Friday 7 July 2017 12.30pm

at Dummer Golf Course, Dummer Village, Basingstoke RG25 2AD. A relaxing day of Golf organised by the Catenian Association in aid of CAFOD's work overseas on, more information and an application form please contact Dave McKenna on 07931 564064 or e mail [dave.rose.mckenna@gmail.com](mailto:dave.rose.mckenna@gmail.com)



**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** - We hope to take a group from our parish to join the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from **Friday 18th - Friday 25th August 2017** and is led by Bishop Philip. For information contact the parish office or

visit <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/>