

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE
THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C
DRINKING FROM THE SKY

13 January 2019 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 118 - Psalter Week 1

Family and friends are gathering at the local church for the Celebration of the Baptism of the latest - and most precious - arrival. Amy! Invisibly, they stand in two circles, the inner circle being made up of the parents and godparents and then the wider circle of their community. It's snowing, and Granddad is trying to teach the children how to catch the snowflakes that are falling from the sky with their tongues. They think they have to chase them and create a very funny scene. One day they will learn that it is best to be still. But even so, it is never easy to drink from the sky.



For the brief time that John the Baptist and Jesus were together they were a team. John prepares human hearts to welcome the One who is to come by bringing them to forgiveness. His Baptism distances them from their sin and any mistaken notion they might have had that this is who they are. But this is only a first step. Turning away from sin creates the freedom to turn towards God. As John's disciples turn, the only person they can see is Jesus. And Jesus has just come up from the dark river, filled with the Spirit and certain that he is 'The Beloved Son of God'. Now, the heavens are open never to be closed and the Dove, symbol of Love, moves towards Jesus.

In the Gospels the Father only speaks twice. In Mark and Luke it is a direct address "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased". In Matthew the address begins with "This is my Beloved Son...". Where Mark and Luke seek to establish intimacy, Matthew is more concerned with identity. Both are needed.

Back to the family we met at the beginning. The priest arrives with the key which will unlock many gifts for this little one. The rituals will illuminate exactly what these are. What name have you given your child? Her name is spoken with reverence. The reverence that accepts that we know her but that she is also wrapped in mystery. The parents are then asked if they will open what otherwise would have remained closed by being faithful witnesses. They say yes but they hardly know what they mean. Still, they are willing to begin the journey. Support will be needed. That's what Godparents are there for. They will need support, that's what family and friends are for. Now that the inner circle is complete, everyone is invited to make the sign of the cross on Amy's forehead. This is the call to the third eye, the eye of the heart and the soul which looks in two directions. It gazes on the world and on eternity at the same time. With the water of Baptism the eye is awoken from sleep. The priest is reading the Gospel about Jesus challenging his bodyguard not to push the little ones away. He does this by embracing, blessing and laying hands of love upon them. This is how we open the third eye. This is how to babysit a child of God.

So, family, friends and community must renew themselves for this work. This is done by a renunciation of Satan - the accuser and the divider - by refusing the strategies of accusation and division to increase our own power. Instead we commit ourselves to the strategies of the Beloved Son - forgiveness and reconciliation. By freeing ourselves and opening ourselves we have created the right conditions for the water to be poured.

In our beautiful catholic tradition, nothing is ever what it seems. This is the font of the sacramental life of the church. The water, which is not water is poured. Oil, which is not oil, will follow the water and Amy will join the line of priests, prophets and queens who belong to Jesus. A candle, which is not a candle, will be lit. A white garment, which is not a white garment, will enfold her. The Risen One is here, they sing. The Spirit is here, they sing. And they are right.

Back at the house there is a party. Everyone toasts the new baby and asks that she will find true friends and live in a world of justice and peace. They move towards the buffet, and for a moment I am left alone with her. She begins to cry. I offer a finger to her outstretched hand and she grasps and holds it tightly. I wait until her distress, like all distress, passes away. It is a moment to ponder. That our Catholic Faith does not celebrate the individual seeker, the lonely exile. It begins and unfolds in a relationship where the old give the young the gift of the truth. As I ponder what we have just done I remember that the touch of love is a revelation of the spirit. I will continue to bless the little ones because their day is dawning. I will continue to enjoy every Baptism because it helps me understand myself and my own Baptism more.

There is an explosion of laughter from the sitting room and granddad is, as usual, at the centre of it. I hope she will have time to get close to him. I think he will teach her how to drink from the sky.

DID YOU KNOW...?



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



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: TOM LARKIN, RIP whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Thursday 31 January 2019** at 10.30am, followed by a Service at 12.30pm at Easthampstead Park Cemetery. Please pray for Tom and all his family.

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

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 – JANUARY: 13th The Baptism of the Lord; 17th St Anthony of Egypt; 21st St Agnes; 24th St Francis de Sales; 25th The Conversion of St Paul; 26th St Timothy and St Titus; 28th St Thomas Aquinas; 31st St John Bosco.

MASS OFFERINGS: £1836.89. 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,
please complete and return all forms to the parish office.

COLLECTION OF MILK BOTTLE TOPS RAISED £172 TOWARDS THE AIR AMBULANCE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

**SECOND OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY: 19/20th Pax Christi Peace Sunday;
26/27th Collection for the Cathedral**



MYDONATE BT – The world of donating is rapidly changing and becoming easier and more secure, which is why we have signed up to **MyDonateBT**. With **MyDonate** our parish receives more of your donation – as well as the full 25 per cent Gift Aid – it is a no direct fees, zero commission, not-for profit service. We will receive up to 63p more for every £10 given through **MyDonate**. We have a **MyDonate** link on the parish website www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk orange button **"Parish Offerings"** where you can sign up to online donations. We also have donation buttons for **"Bamenda"** and **"CAFOD"**. Give it a go, it is really easy, you can do this on your phone or computer, a great way to donate to our beautiful church and parish.

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
in the hall during term time.

KEEP FIT – Re-opens **Tuesday 15 January 2019**, 2pm-3pm in the hall

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

CHOIR PRACTICE – Every Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome. Instrumentalists also invited to join us.

JOURNEY OF FAITH –Every Thursday, 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the hall, all welcome.

MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: Every last Friday in the month at 12.10pm

TEAS & COFFEES – After all weekend Masses, except after 10.30am on **Sunday 13 January 2019**.

OFS - Next meeting **Saturday 16 February 2019** at 2pm-4pm in the hall.



SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell, 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 David O'Sullivan, 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, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Lilijan Rodenburg, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Una Gilligan, 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 Tarode, Babs White, Tess Johnson, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Doreen Gladwin, Manuela Maria Barros, Gerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Fielding, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D'Souza, Donal Hanley, Pat Meehan, Jacqui Rawstron, Jim and Francis McEvoy, Mary Murray.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....

SERVICE YARD D – PARKING PENALTY NOTICE – The General Manager of the Lexicon apologises to all the parishioners receiving a parking penalty notice on their windscreen after last Sunday's 10.30am Mass. Miscommunication to new staff which has been rectified. Please return your parking penalty notice to the parish office, with your name and phone number on the back. As soon as we have received all the parking penalty notices, the Lexicon will collect them and arrange for them to be cancelled.



20 January 2019

Peace Sunday

Good politics is at the service of peace

Pope Francis

PAX CHRISTIE PEACE SUNDAY – Sunday 20 January 2019 – Message of the Holy Father Pope Francis: “Good politics at the service of peace, ‘Peace be to this house!’”:

In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you” (Lk 10:5-6). Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ's

disciples. That peace is offered to all those men and women who long for peace amid the tragedies and violence that mark human history. The “house” of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination. But it is also our “common home”: the world in which God has placed us and which we are called to care for and cultivate. So let this be my greeting at the beginning of the New Year: “Peace be to this house!”

Please take a Pax Christi Peace Sunday donation envelope this weekend and return it weekend 19th/20 January 2019

EPIPHANY PARTY - For those who have been invited, a reminder that the Epiphany party is on **Sunday 13th January 2019** 12.30 in the church hall. Refreshments cancelled after 10.30am Mass that week only.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY - Cancelled for the 10.30am Mass on **Sunday 13 January 2019**.

PASTORAL CARE - There will be a Pastoral Care meeting in the parish hall from 7pm - 8pm on **Wednesday 16th January** for those who visit the frail elderly and the sick in our parish including Eucharistic Ministers to the housebound. It is an act of kindness not to forget or let go of those who have walked with us in health so if you feel drawn to this ministry of care and compassion you are very welcome to join us. We can provide home visits by Care Team members for whatever reason. It could be in the case of illness, to see a friendly face or just for a chat. To request a visit email pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org or contact the parish office Tel 01344 425729



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Sunday 20 January – Saturday 26 January 2019

Theme for 2019: "Justice and only justice you shall pursue" Deuteronomy 16:18-20

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that “they may be one so that the world may believe” (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



CLOTHESBANK - The next Clothes Bank Giveaway, held quarterly in St Joseph's Church Hall and coordinated by St Mark's Church Binfield, is on **Wednesday 30 January 2019**. The ClothesBank appreciate donations of **good quality** used clothes for adults (men and women) and children of all ages and children's trainers, especially sizes 10 – 2. Some clothes cannot be passed on though: pyjamas, underwear and socks, for example, need to be new. Please leave your donations in the ClothesBank container that will be in the porch at St Joseph's Church at all weekend Masses, **26th/27th January**, but **please not before that weekend**. Help needed with sorting of clothes at St Mark's Binfield on **Monday 28 January**, from 9.30am and with setting up at St Joseph's on **Wednesday 30 January** from 9.15am ready for the Giveaway at 10.15am, finishing at 1pm. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you and your family would benefit from help of this kind, please contact the parish office to receive a ClothesBank voucher. Thank you.



JOURNEY IN FAITH - Thursday evenings from 7.30 – 9 pm in the hall. This is a group for people who would like to deepen their understanding of our faith. Each week we will study and reflect upon the following Sunday's readings and explore aspects of the Catholic faith. Everyone is welcome, especially those who are considering joining the Church. There's no commitment - just come along to see if this is something that could support you on your faith journey. If you have any questions, please speak to Mary McNab or email bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



ABLAZE! (age +13) – Next meeting – **Friday 1 February 2019**, 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the hall.

IGNITE! (age 10-12)- Next meeting – **Friday 8 February 2019**, 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the hall

New to either of the youth groups? Want to make some new friends and have fun? Please registered on our Parish website and

come along. We'll look forward to welcoming you!



FLAME 2019 - Wembley Arena on **Saturday 2 March 2019**. If you are one of the thirty people already signed up to go from our Parish, we are now taking orders for your (complimentary) hoodies. If you haven't already done so, please contact us urgently with your required size at youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR C

Saturday	12 th	6.00pm	Mass	Carol Ing, RIP
Sunday	13 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Senior Citizens of our Parish, RIP
Monday	14 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	15 th	No Mass		
Wednesday	16 th	9.30am	Mass	Family Eusebio Sadiwa
Thursday	17 th	9.30am	Mass	Brass Cleaning Teams of the Parish
Friday	18 th	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	Refreshment Teams of the Parish
Saturday	19 th	10.00am	Mass	Flower Arranging Teams of the Parish

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Saturday	19 th	6.00pm	Mass	Tom and Eileen Larkin, RIP
Sunday	20 th	8.30am	Mass	Peace Sunday
		10.30am	Mass	Christian Unity



Wednesday & 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.

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

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Please make cheques payable to (full name): "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph"

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy

Deacon: Rev Aidan Lynch

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

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