

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE
THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C
THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS

6 January 2019 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 114/115 - Psalter Week 2

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus is evidence enough that He was welcomed and loved by some, hated and rejected by others. As a rule of thumb, those with 'power' are among those who can't let Him in. He is rejected by the so called religious and political leaders. But one of the big surprises which visited the new community Jesus began was His acceptance by people who were not Jews. For sure, it happened in little ways during His ministry, but later there was a huge influx of new sisters and brothers from the Mediterranean. This could not be explained except to say that the hand of God was clearly at work here.

In The Lord's Prayer, we pray that it will be 'on earth as it is in Heaven'. When Heaven and earth come together it is a sign that God is near. This, of course, is what happens in the story of the Feast of the Epiphany. Heaven, in the form of a star, and earth, in the form of a child, align with each other. The reader is left with no doubt that Jesus has His origins in God.

The rejection of the Beloved Son is pure evil. News of His long-awaited arrival has frightened Herod and the religious establishment. The Advent of God is a threat to their positions and their power. They have corrupted the faith they were supposed to protect and their corruption is to be exposed. Herod, rather stupidly, sets out to play chess with God but he is no match for Him. The resulting violation of children, an all too familiar pattern from those who prefer the love of power over the power of love.



In contrast, the Wise Ones Rejoice! When the star aligns itself with the babe in the manger, Heaven and earth are One. The Wise Ones are not just happy, they are overwhelmed with joy. They have found the One for whom their hearts have longed. Their gifts reveal their inner understanding of His Origins and His Destiny. What Herod rejects, the Wise Ones Adore. The Divinity of Christ is revealed to the Gentiles.

The Beloved Son of God is THE Christmas Present. Gift giving is, if you like, the way the invisible becomes visible. The way the hidden heart is made known, the way Spirit risks itself by taking form. So, the giving and receiving of gifts could be described as spiritual activity of the highest order. It is the heart's desire to express itself in such a way that the heart of the giver, and the heart of the one who receives the gift becomes one. When a gift embodies the flow of love, it does not matter what it is, or how much it costs. It is perfect because of what it has achieved.

Can you remember a time when you received a gift at Christmas and it was very special just because of the One who gave it? Who was that and what was the gift? Notice that the gift might not sit within the 'cheap-expensive' continuum. Like the bread and wine, it cannot be rated in this way. A great example of this is the story of the Little Drummer, who is poor. He offers the gift of 'playing his drum', which draws a smile from the Beloved Son. In cash terms it is worthless. In the school of love, it is priceless.

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

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: 1st Mary, The Holy Mother of God; 2nd Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen; 3rd The Most Holy Name of Jesus; 6th The Epiphany of the Lord; 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.



Anointing of the Sick

MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING – Every Friday at 12.10pm.



MASS OFFERINGS: £1849.43. 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.

SECOND OFFERINGS FOR JANUARY: 19/20th 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.



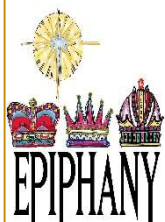
SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

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, Tom Larkin, Jim and Francis McEvoy, Mary Murray.

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



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**.



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) & IGNITE! (age 10-12)- GRAVITY FORCE - New to either of the youth groups? We have great activities within the parish and outside the parish. Get yourself registered on our Parish website or contact Youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org for more information.



FLAME 2019 - Preparations are underway and excitement is building for the biggest gathering of Catholic Youth in the country, taking place at Wembley Arena on **Saturday 2 March 2019**. For the latest info, check out the Flame Facebook page at CYMFed Flame Congress! If you are one of the thirty people already signed up to go from our Parish, we are now taking clothing orders for your (complimentary) hoodies. Please contact us with your required size at youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org, **before Monday 7 January 2019**

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – 2nd & 4th Mondays 7.45pm-9:30pm. Please contact the parish office for venue details.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP – Re-opens **Tuesday 8 January 2019**

KEEP FIT –Closed until January 2019.

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

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

CHOIR PRACTICE – Commences **Thursday 10 January 2019** and every Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome. Instrumentalists also invited to join us.

JOURNEY OF FAITH – Commences **Thursday 10 January 2019** and every Thursday, 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the hall, all welcome.

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

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – YEAR C

Saturday	5 th	6.00pm	Mass	Dr John & Anne-Marie Bowler Reed, RIP (Foundation)
Sunday	6 th	8.30am	Mass	Patrick and Anne Grattan, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Anna Maria Johnson, RIP
Monday	7 th	No Mass		
Tuesday	8 th	No Mass		
Wednesday	9 th	9.30am	Mass	Mark Flower, RIP
Thursday	10 th	9.30am	Mass	Kenneth Muscat, RIP
Friday	11 th	11.00am	Exposition	
		12.10pm	Mass	Bridie and Patrick Doherty, RIP
Saturday	12 th	10.00am	Mass	Ethnic Communities in our Parish

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR C

Saturday	12 th	6.00pm	Mass	Carol Ing, RIP
Sunday	13 th	8.30am	Mass	Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass	Senior Citizens of our Parish



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:** stj@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