

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

OPENING TO HOLINESS

11 December 2016 - Psalter Week 3 – Missal Page 88



From his prison cell, John sends a messenger to ask Jesus if He is the One who is to come, or must John wait for another. It's an important question for John as he is about to, not just die, but to be executed. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus doesn't answer the question but points to His works. All who are longing must look at these works and answer the question for themselves. It is more important to grasp the meaning of the works of Jesus than to adorn Him with a title. Titles, as the Gospels make clear, are open to misunderstanding, works are not.

These works of Jesus are works of restoration. Something that was missing was found. Something that was wounded is healed. Sight, mobility, hearing, life and dignity are returned to those who did not have them. Jesus is undoing the effects of Adams fall. He is restoring people's relationship with God. John must see that this is the way that God answers the deepest desires of the heart. And he does.

Now that John is sorted, Jesus turns his attention to the crowd and asks a three-tiered question about John. This is a time-tested strategy of a spiritual master, to help us be clear about why we went into the desert in the first place. Our longing, is to hear once again the clear voice of a Prophet. Our desire is to see a man of God who cannot be bullied or pushed around, who confronts the abuses of those who worship their own power. John calls for repentance and the promise that follows rings the heart like a bell.

John points to Jesus. And if we ponder carefully the works of Jesus, we will see that He is the answer to the deepest desire of our hearts. John clears the path but it is Jesus who walks it. As He does He says, 'Come, Follow Me.' As we follow Him on the pathway to holiness our sight is restored.



Asher Lev once said that the seeing of God is not like the seeing of people. People see only between the blink of an eye. We do not know what the world is like when we blink. We see our world in fragments. But the master of the universe, sees the world whole and unbroken. That world is good. Our seeing is broken. Can we make ours like the seeing of God? Is it possible?

When Jesus answers John's question by pointing to the blind seeing, He is moving us beyond fragments and pieces. Giving us the ability to see without blinking. Thus, He opens our hearts to the possibility of holiness for this is what the heart longs for. And when we ask the question John put to Jesus, we realise that The One Who Is To Come, has arrived.

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	10 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Mike Chapman, RIP
Sunday	11 th	8.30am	Mass	Jose Coelho, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Peter Meehan, RIP
Monday	12 th	NO MASS		

ST LUCY, Virgin and Martyr

Tuesday	13 th	9.30am	Mass	Rita Robinson
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ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday	14 th	9.30am	Mass	Ray and Pam Savage, Thanksgiving
Thursday	15 th	9.30am	Mass	Sean Robinson, RIP
Friday	16 th	11.00am	Exposition (until 12.00noon)	
		12.10pm	Mass	Peter Sweeney, RIP
Saturday	17 th	9.00am	Mass	Paul Baker, RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday	17 th	6.00pm	NO MASS – Bracknell Choral Concert at 7.30pm	
Sunday	18 th	8.30am	Mass	Marjorie Wilson, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Maire Mair, RIP



Tuesday to Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** 10.15 am Mother's Prayers;
Saturday: 9.30am Rosary and Confessions every Saturday at 10.45am or on request

Parish Office: Stanley Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1HA
Monday – Friday 9.30am-2.30pm

Telephone: 01344 425729 **Email:** stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Daniel McAvoy

Safeguarding Representative: Marion McGuire 07712048695

ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

DID YOU KNOW...?



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Please email your newsletter item to the parish office, stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk no later than midday on Wednesdays,

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD – Don't forget your parish Christmas card which has all the Mass and Service times over the Advent and Christmastide journey, one card per family.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – From **Friday 23 December 2016** to **Monday 2 January 2017** inclusive, the office re-opens on **Tuesday 3 January 2017**. We wish you a very happy Christmas and many blessings for 2017.



BISHOP'S PASTORAL MESSAGE 'MISERICORDIA ET MISERA' – To mark the end of the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has issued a short Apostolic Letter called 'Misericordia et Misera'. This is not to be read out at Mass but to be studied at home. Copies in the porch and available on the diocesan website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

BEWARE: LIGHTING CANDLES – Adults must accompany all children at the candle trays when lighting candles. Please ensure your children are not playing 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.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We are in need of volunteers to help with Children's Liturgy to satisfy Safeguarding adult/children ratios in the hall during Sunday Masses. If we cannot get enough helpers we will be unable to run Children's Liturgy in the future. If you feel able to help with this important ministry, please contact the parish office 01344 425729 or stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A CATHOLIC REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED FOR BRACKNELL FOREST STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) GROUP. If you: Are you interested in young people and their education? Are you open to sharing your faith with other people? Are you interested in what others believe? Could you act as a bridge between the Church and the schools in your area? For further information or to express an interest please speak to Fr Danny or contact the parish office.



THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (SVP) is seeking a cot, mattress and bedding for a new baby. If you can help, please call 07731 862 349. Thank you.



TOILETRIES NEEDED - Berkshire Women's Aid are extremely grateful for the fantastic response to their plea for toiletries, etc. They now have all they need, therefore, this request is now closed.



LAST WEEK'S OFFERING – Total amount £1538.67. Please make cheques payable to "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

To Rita, Fr Danny's sister, for all her hard work around the Church, her lovely smile and kind words to everyone. She is a fantastic support for Fr Danny and Liz.

**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, Thelma Briggs, Johanna Lenz, Bridget Tanner, Ena Stanton, Peggy O'Sullivan, Peggy Malone, Winnie Justice, Inge Walker, and Yvonne Gantzer, Jadwiga Butcher, June Cooper, Lilijan Rodenburg, Marjorie Brown Josephine & Maurice Timms.

Those who are unwell or in hospital: Bill Guilfoyle, Geoff Hallett, Una Gilligan, Una Mair, Freda Edgington, Esther Brophy, Anne Hardy, Nora Cronin, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Teresa Bullock, Maria Bishop, Peggy Pendergast, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Serafina Delmundo, Veronica Jastrzebski, David McCann, Brian Mecklenburg, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Shaun Howard, Francis Robinson, Tom Corridan

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS RE-LAUNCH

- To all young persons aged 12-17 years, St Joseph's Parish Youth

Group invitation to all-inclusive fun-filled experience in Parish Hall every Friday 7:00pm to 9:30 pm. Please see the flyers in the porch.

THE YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEER AND SPONSORS APPEAL

- A youth community needs ongoing activities to support youth initiatives and thrives on adult presence for safeguarding purposes, expertise and know-how. We appeal to adults who can contribute to contact the parish office or bkmaimo23@gmail.com. We aim for a model where volunteers do a little bit some of the time in an area of interest as opposed to an isolated few doing everything all the time.



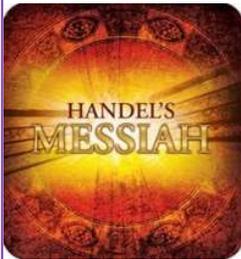
CHRISTMAS BELLS

- Thames Voyces Chamber Choir invite you to an evening of Christmas carols and readings on **Saturday 10 December 2016** at 7.30pm (after 6.00pm Mass, no teas and coffees). Interval drinks and mince pies. Tickets £12 or £10 (concessions) U16's free, available on the door or our website www.thamesvoyces.org.uk



ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT CAROL SERVICE

- Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Wednesday 14th December 2016** at 6.00pm for a Carol Concert outside the Church, town centre. Please come and support our children. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after the service.



BRACKNELL CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT - On **Saturday 17 December 2016**, performing Handel's Messiah in St Joseph's Church, at 7.30pm. **Saturday 17 December Morning Mass at 9.00am, no 6.00pm Vigil Mass.** There is 5.30pm Mass at St Francis in Ascot. Tickets £15, under 18s free, includes glass of wine and mince pie, available on the door or reserve via Fiona Hardman on 07922662740 or fionahardman@gmail.com For more information please visit our website www.bracknellchoral.org.uk

PENITENTIAL SERVICES – Will be held at Corpus Christi Church, 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE on **Wednesday 14 December 2016** at 7.30pm and at Immaculate Conception Church, 63-67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS on **Thursday 15 December 2016** at 7.30pm.



PASTORAL CARE – A meeting for those interested in forming a Pastoral Care group on **Wednesday 18 January 2017** from 7pm – 8pm in the hall, beginning with time of reflection in the Church. Are you interested in putting your faith into action? Would you be willing to visit or help those who are unwell or in difficulty in a practical way? Do you live with a disability or do you care for someone who does? Would you feel able to

share your expertise with others? If you are unable to attend the meeting but interested in being involved please contact the parish office.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE – Monday evening **12th December 2016** at 86 Qualitas, Bracknell.

KEEP FIT OVER 50's CLUB – Tuesdays in the hall 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

TODDLER GROUP – Tuesdays in the hall 9.30am - 11.30am during term time.

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

RCIA – Thursdays 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the Hall.

SOUP & ROLL – After 12.10pm Mass Fridays during term time.