

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A:

FOLLOWING OUR HEARTS DESIRE

22 January 2017 - Psalter Week 3 – Missal Page 127



It was all going wrong. John has been arrested by Herod and swaps desert for dungeon. His wilderness voice must find a way through the prison bars. Authority figures do what they like to do best - silence what threatens them. But notice what Jesus does. He moves immediately right into the heart of Herod's domain, steadily into the teeth of resistance. This is a dangerous move. But it was always so for those who carry light into darkness, life into death. What will happen to Jesus now?

Notice again Matthews insight. Underneath the machinations of human monsters, prophecies are unfolding. As Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah he is no fool, playing into the hands of evil men. He is moving according to Gods plan, proclaiming a message that cannot be locked up or silenced. The torch has passed from John to Jesus. The voice that cried in the desert now zings down the town streets, into residential areas and into the houses of Gods' children. The Kingdom of Heaven is closer than you think. If you are sitting in darkness and the shadows of death, God is arriving as the remedy. As Light and Life! Problem: God is now but people are not!



So, Jesus needs help to uncover the hidden heaven. He needs people to fish for people. But first they must let go of one way of seeing the world and embrace another. If they are going to swim in the spiritual sea where all people swim, they must come to see the deeper and wider dimensions of life. They see hints of this in Jesus and move to follow Him. He will teach them that people are not fish and that they will 'catch' people only by appealing to the deepest desire of their hearts.

Jesus is not hiding from Herod. He is teaching, proclaiming and healing through all Herod's territory. He is on a mission. Johns' imprisonment is not going to stop Him and people are fascinated by him.

Here we must pause to remember all the people who have fascinated us in our life. Can you remember those you admired and wanted to imitate? Every day, people are leaning into life and coaxing it towards redemption. These are people who make the world a better place. When we catch them 'at it' we are fascinated and want to know more. When we see someone thinking, speaking or acting in a way that we are not yet able to but we wish we could - we apprentice ourselves to them. Isn't a disciple just a fascinated person who desires to know and do what they see in another? We gravitate towards them and learn something new. We have probably been doing this all our lives

I heard a story once about a drug rehabilitation centre. One day, an ex-resident turned up in the reception area with a cricket bat, shouting and screaming and banging his bat on the furniture. Everyone dived for cover. But the manager came out of her office, walked right up to the guy, put her arms around him and gave him a big long hug. His violence transfigured into sobs. She held him in that strange embrace for a while then led him to a chair and waited for the police to arrive. He never let go of the bat.

I want to know what makes this woman tick! And I have a hunch that she knows exactly what drove Christ back into Galilee.

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	21 st	6.00om	Vigil Mass	Patrick Halloran, RIP
Sunday	22 nd	8.30am	Mass	Marie-Claire Ducasse, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Teresa Bullock
Monday	23 rd	No Mass		

ST FRANCIS de SALES, Bishop, Doctor

Tuesday 24th 10.00am REQUIEM MASS – Breeda Worsford, RIP

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

Wednesday	25 th	9.30am	Mass	May Hartley, RIP
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Ss TIMOTHY AND TITUS, Bishops

Thursday	26 th	9.30am	Mass	
Friday	27 th	11.00am	Exposition (until 12.00noon)	
		12.10pm	Mass	Holocaust Memorial Day

ST THOMAS AQUINAS, Priest, Doctor

Saturday	28 th	10.00am	Mass	Rick Hagger, RIP
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday	28 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Michael Robinson, RIP
Sunday	29 th	8.30am	Mass	Jurgens Family Living & Deceased (Foundation)
		10.30am	Mass	Molly and Christie Campbell, RIP



Tuesday to Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer; **Thursday:** 10.15 am Mother's Prayers;
Saturday: 9.30am Rosary, 1st Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life 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(s) to the parish office stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk no later than midday on Wednesdays.



“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – VOLUNTEER FOR OUR PARISH - We need volunteers to become involved in the life of our Parish by joining some of our ministries, groups and activities: Children's Liturgy, Youth Group, Hospitality/Welcoming, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Altar (Sacristans), Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation teams, Offering Counters and Verifiers, Pastoral Care, Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar Servers, Fairtrade Teas & Coffees, Brass Polishing, Church gardens and grounds, etc. Please contact the parish office to volunteer or to discuss any of these important ministries.

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.



COMFY CHAIRS – There are 4 comfy chairs at the front pews for those who need to be nearer to the altar to receive Holy Communion or who need a more comfortable seat. Don't be shy, the chairs are for you to best support you at Mass.



BECOME A DEMENTIA FRIEND - On **Tuesday 24 January 2017** from 2pm – 3pm A Dementia Friends session at the Council Chamber, 4th Floor, Easthampstead House, Town Square Bracknell RG12 1AQ. To book a place contact Tim Lowe tjm.lowe@sipp.co.uk or 07739097359. Dementia Friends gives an understanding of dementia and the small things that you can do to make a difference. Did you know that the Bracknell Forest Dementia Action Alliance (DAA), which our Church is a member of, recently won the award for 'Best Dementia Research and Support Group UK'? We are looking for people in our parish willing to become Dementia Friends Champions. Please contact the parish office if this is of interest to you.



LAST WEEK'S MASS OFFERINGS – Total amount £1,619.26, Pax Christi Peace Sunday envelopes £270.00 **THANK YOU**. Please make cheques payable to “PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU very much to everyone who helped to make the Senior Citizens Epiphany Party such a huge success: Cooks, Waiters/Waitresses, transport of our guests, musicians, clearing up and those who spent time with our guests giving them a most wonderful day.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET – 3rd Sunday each month 2.30pm in the Church, starting **Sunday 23 January 2017**.

GOSPEL CHALLENGE - Monday 23 January 2017 at 57 Wellington Road, Crowthorne

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

TODDLER GROUP – Every Tuesday, 9.30am to 11.30am in the Hall during term time. **No Toddler Group on Tuesday 24 January.**

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

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

SOUP & ROLL – Every Friday after 12.10pm Mass, during term time.

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, 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, 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, Francis Robinson, Tom Corridan, Allan James, Nicholas Powell

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY – **Baby Jakub Cizmarik** who is being baptised at 12 noon and **Baby Darius Bouchereau** who is being baptised at 1.00pm on **Sunday 22 January 2017**. Please pray for Jakub, Darius and their families.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: Breeda Worsford who died on Wednesday 28 December 2016, Breeda's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's on **Tuesday 24 January 2017** at 10.00am. May her soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



FLAME – CATHOLIC YOUTH EVENT - Saturday 11th March 2017 at The SSE Arena, Wembley, 12 noon – 5.30pm. For young people aged 14-21 years (Yr10+) accompanied by parish Youth Leaders. Tickets £22 pp. Booking forms available from the back of the church or see the website www.cymfed.org.uk/flame2. Closing date **Wednesday 1st February 2017**.



BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS - We are looking for volunteers to join our Baptism Preparation team. If you have a heart for this most beautiful and rewarding ministry and would like to find out more about what is involved and training, please contact the Parish Office.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK - Saturday 11 February 2017 we will celebrate the Mass at 10am with the anointing of the sick. Refreshments available after Mass. Everyone is welcome. Parishioners who need transport and those offering transport can you please contact the parish office.



CHILDREN'S
Liturgy of the Word

Thank you for your patience while we reorganise Children's Liturgy, the aim is to ensure we are both meeting child safeguarding requirements and health and safety regulations relating to the hall capacity.

We hope to be able to resume this valued ministry in the very near future, however, this is dependent on having sufficient volunteers in place. Did you know that Diocesan guidelines require us to have 1 adult, checked/trained on safeguarding, in place for every 6 children aged 5-7 years and 1 adult to every 3 children aged under 5 years. Therefore, if we want to have 30 unaccompanied 6-7 years olds attend Children's Liturgy, we need at least 5 volunteer adults present!

A big thank you to all the volunteers that have already come forward and are in the process of completing the volunteer application process. However, we still welcome more volunteers to help ease the burden and allow us to cater for more children to attend. Note: Being a volunteer does not mean you are committing to lead the sessions - we very much also need people who could come along as general helpers and would, thereby, provide the adult presence required to meet the important safeguarding requirements. Please contact the parish office if you wish to volunteer.

We are currently in the process of redesigning the registration process to make this an on-line system, as well as ensuring we have a robust process in place to more closely monitor and control attendance numbers. Look out for more details about this coming soon.



Have you ever left a meeting where your head is so full of ideas it feels like it's whirring at 100mph? Well that is how I felt after I came home from attending my first Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility meeting. This is a group that meets to discuss a whole range of issues that are effecting people in Bracknell from homelessness and poverty to disability, abuse, dementia, autism and the challenges of being a single parent. The mission of the group is to stimulate a real passion for social justice within the parish and the town. Passion, energy and commitment was certainly present. Over the coming months we hope to share more of our plans and aspirations with you. If you would like to know more or maybe even get involved please contact the parish office for details.



INVITATION FROM BISHOP PHILIP TO ALL ENGAGED COUPLES: Saturday 11 February 2017 at 0915 in the Cathedral Centre for a Valentine's Day Breakfast with Bishop Philip for those getting married in 2017. Concluding at 11.45am with a short service of blessing in the Cathedral. Please contact Kirsten McGuire on 023 9282 0894 or email: kmcquire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS': Saturday 4 February 2017 at St Bede's Primary School, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX 10.00am -1.30pm. Talk on our Lenten focus plus updates on campaigns. To book a place please call 01252 329385