

**THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK**  
**EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B**

**LOOKING FOR THE ONE YOU DO NOT KNOW**

*17 December 2017 - Psalter Week 3 – Missal Page 87*



One of the best ways to come to know Jesus, is through John, who is a prophet. If you are seriously looking for 'the One True Light', a full awareness of what is real and a genuine illumination into Sacred Things, there is only One who can do this, and His name is Jesus. John, the one who isn't the true light who enlightens everything, cannot produce that much wattage. Even though Jesus called him 'a burning and shining lamp', His greater light makes John a mere reflection - like us. One who prepares others to meet Him.

John is sent by God, but those who have come to interrogate him are from the authorities in Jerusalem. They want to know who he is, but all John will tell them is who he is not. Irrked, they offer to help by supplying identities, but John refuses them. They cannot return to Jerusalem empty handed or with a list of what John is not, so they almost plead for an answer. John answers by hinting again that they are looking in the wrong place. Now, these have been sent by the Pharisees, so they have one last pop at the question. They are curious about John's activity of baptising. That would be okay if he were a prophet or a messiah. But even here, John sidesteps them. If they want to know who he is they will only find the answer in the one who is coming, who stands amongst them unknown. The interview is over. They have to start looking in the right place.

Here is a great little story which explores this theme. The theme is clear.

In the woods surrounding a monastery, a rabbi lived in a small hut. Sometimes, the monks would see the rabbi walking in the woods and would wonder why he was there.

The Abbot was very distressed as the monastery was in terminal decline. He has prayed and pondered over the situation. He had admonished the mood and behaviour of the monks. All to no avail. One day he saw the rabbi walking in the woods and decided to ask his advice. He walked up behind the rabbi. The rabbi turned, and when the abbot and the rabbi looked into each other's eyes, they began to weep. The sorrow of the situation affected them both deeply. The Abbot knew he did not have to explain the decline of the monastery. He just asked, "Can you give me some wise words to help our community thrive again?"

The rabbi said, "One of you is the messiah'. Then he turned and continued to walk in the woods. The Abbot returned to the monastery and the monks asked him, "What did the rabbi say?"

"One of us is the Messiah," the Abbot said the words slowly, almost in disbelief.

The monks began talking to one another. "One of us? Which one? Is it brother John? Or perhaps brother Andrew? Could it even be the Abbot?"

From that day, things started changing at the monastery. The monks began to look for the Messiah in each other and to listen to each other for the Messiahs voice. Soon, new younger monks joined them and people started coming back to the monastery for spiritual leadership.

In 'The Gift' Poems by the Great Sufi Master', the poet Hafiz wrote on the same theme.

How  
Do I  
Listen to others?

As if everyone were my Teacher.

Speaking to me  
Their  
Cherished  
Last  
Words.



## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

Saturday	16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Mass	Mike Chapman, RIP
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	For the people of the Republic of the Congo
		10.30am	Mass	For the people of the Republic of the Congo
Monday	18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Stephen Griffin, RIP
Wednesday	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Mary Shea, RIP
Thursday	21 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Mass	Jimmy Power, RIP
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Exposition	
		<b>12.00noon</b>	<b>REQUIEM MASS</b>	<b>– Jean Anthony Bouchard, RIP</b>
Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Mass	Sarah Davis, RIP

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Mass	Chris Horler, RIP
Sunday	24 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Mass	Brendan O’Kelly, RIP
		10.30am	Mass	Cremin and O’Sullivan Families, RIP

### THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Children’s Mass</b>
		<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Carol Concert</b>
		<b>12.00</b>	<b>Midnight Mass</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Day Mass</b>

*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. Confessions: every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment.*

**PLEASE NOTE: These sessions will not take place between Christmas and New Year.**

**Parish Office:** 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE  
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 (full name):** “PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph”.

**Parish Priest:** Fr Daniel McAvoy

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

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read  
**Safeguarding email:** [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

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

# DID YOU KNOW...?



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – NEW DEADLINE: Midday on Tuesdays**, please email your newsletter item(s) to the parish office [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RESPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:** Jean Anthony David Bouchard, RIP whose requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 22 December 2017** at 12 noon at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church.

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



**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD** – Please collect from the porch your parish Christmas Card which contains Fr Danny's beautiful reflection, Penitential Service times, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Mass times and the Christmas Octave Mass times.



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR** – The Parish Office will be closed from **Friday 22 December 2017** until **Monday 1 January 2018** inclusive.



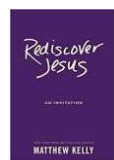
**SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA** - Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell, 01344 425729; Fr Kevin Bidgood, St Francis of Assisi, Ascot 01344 620591; Fr Marcus Brisley Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst & Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, 01252 876820; Fr David O'Sullivan, Corpus Christi, Wokingham 0118 9780348



**CHURCH SHOP** – We have lovely Church Art 2018 Calendars, 2018 diaries and a selection of beautiful Christmas Cards available in the shop along with other items that would make thoughtful Christmas gifts, all very reasonably priced.



**STREET EVANGELISATION IN BRACKNELL** To join us or want to find out more, please contact this link: <http://streevangelization.com/>



**"REDISCOVER JESUS" - HOW TO HAVE THE BEST ADVENT EVER!** - Bishop Philip has sent a Christmas gift of Matthew Kelly's brilliant book **REDISCOVER JESUS** to every parishioner in the diocese, please collect your free copy from the porch. Have you ever had a Christmas where you felt like you were really prepared? Where you walked into Christmas Mass and you felt focused and peaceful and ready? We prepare for everything we consider important in life and Advent is the time we prepare for Christmas. For many people, preparing for Christmas includes shopping, cooking, wrapping presents, hanging decorations, etc. Often these activities are stressful, chaotic and they easily become a distraction from what Christmas is really all about.

**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 - DECEMBER** – 14<sup>th</sup> St John of the Cross; 25<sup>th</sup> The Nativity of the Lord; 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen; 27<sup>th</sup> St John; 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents; 29<sup>th</sup> St Thomas of Canterbury; 31<sup>st</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm to 9.30pm in the **Church Hall**. All are welcome. Resumes **Monday 8 January 2018**

**KEEP FIT CLUB** – Closed, will resume **January 2018**.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am in the hall resumes **9 January 2018**

**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. Last meeting **20 December 2017**, resumes **2 January 2018**

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass **during term time**. Last soup & roll Friday 15 December, resumes **Friday 12 January 2018**.

**YOUTH GROUP** – Closed until further notice.



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1711.57 THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.**

Please make cheques payable to (full name) "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph". **Gift Aid envelopes and bankers/standing order forms available in the porch.**



**CAFOD** is part of the DEC Rohingya crisis appeal. You can donate direct to CAFOD at [cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis](http://cafod.org.uk/RohingyaCrisis) or by calling 08085 858885



**WORLD GIFTS** – Catalogue of special world gifts which our refugee neighbours can continue to feel the warmth of our love including **Emergency Shelter** and **Help a Refugee Child**. Pick up your catalogue from the porch or the hall.



**ADVENT GIVING** - Thank you to everyone who brought in items for the Berkshire Women's Aid Welcome Packs last week and to those who donated Christmas gifts for the mums and children at the 2 Bracknell refugees. "We are so grateful to people in your parish for their kindness". BWA Bracknell

**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, Jadwiga Butcher, Lilijan Rodenburg, Josephine Timms, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Emma Flavell, Angelina Ediale, Maurice TimmsUna Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Blanche Shap, Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Anna Tighe, Mary Phelan, Mary Sol Faulkner, Tony Andrews, Adrian Sweeney, Derek Alexander, Brenda Lynch, Eddie Moore, Margaret Clark.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY** – Baby Harper Lee Dillon who is being baptised on **Sunday 17 December 2017** at 12 noon. Please pray for Harper and her parents Phillip and Melinda.



**ALTAR SERVERS ROTA FOR NATIVITY MASSES** – The Altar Server's Nativity Mass Rota is in the Altar Server's sign-in book in the Sacristy, please sign up for whichever Mass you will be attending or contact the Parish Office for your name to be added to the rota. Also, the new Altar Server's rota for December, January and February is now in the Altar Server's book, please take your copy.



**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT** – Can't decide what to buy as a gift, wandering around the stores undecided? How about making a donation to a loved one's favourite charity as your Christmas gift to them. You can find the favourite charity by internet searching the charity's name and then click on their donation link or button, you will receive an acknowledgement which can be placed in your Christmas card to your loved one. Suggestions for donations are the diocese charities which are CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/> and Bamenda <http://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com>



**TODDLER-TIVITY** – Christmas Celebration for families of under 5's. Christmas story told with puppets, music, carols, ribbons, instruments, Christmas crafts and refreshments on **Monday 18 December 2017**, 9.45am AND 11.00am in the parish hall, cost per family £1. Please see the poster in the porch.



**CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN LEXICON** – **Wednesday 20 December 2017**, 6.00pm – 8.00pm. 'We are the Fair' will be singing carols in the Lexicon, Christmas Tree between Waitrose and Marks & Spencer's. An open invitation for everyone to join in with the carol singing and uplifting start to Christmas.



**PENITENTIAL SERVICE** – For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area is:  
**Thursday 21 December 2017**, 7.00pm at Corpus Christi, Wokingham RG40 2HE



**A GOLDEN CHRISTMAS THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 16 December 2017** at 7.30pm. Exactly fifty years to the evening that New Thames Singers (now Thames Voyces) presented their first concert and the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of performing at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church and they very much hope that the parishioners and their families will join again this year following the 6.00pm Mass. It will have the usual mixture of Christmas readings and well-known carols for choir and audience. The choir's conductor is Nick Austin. Tickets £12/£10 (concession) or free for Under 16's, buy on the door or telephone 0118 9677319. Wine and mince pies will be served at the interval.



**SENIOR CITIZEN'S EPIPHANY PARTY** – **Sunday 14 January 2018** in the hall after 10.30am Mass. Invitations will be sent out in the next few weeks, don't forget to put the date in your new Catholic diary that you bought from the church shop.



**SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS** - Crowthorne and Sandhurst Parish are hosting a training session given by the Diocesan Safeguarding Commission on **Saturday 27 January 2018** from 10am to 12.30pm at the Immaculate Conception Church, 63/67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS. The training is suitable for those who take Holy Communion to the sick in their homes, hospitals or nursing homes. It is also for parishioners whose ministries/volunteer roles within their parishes bring them into contact with vulnerable adults in any way. Please contact the parish office at the Immaculate Conception Church to register your interest, telephone: 01252 876820 Email: [crowsand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:crowsand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – CORPUS CHRISTI, WOKINGHAM** - Pope Francis said: 'This current of grace (the Charismatic Renewal) is for all the Church, not just for some... Share with all in the Church the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.' (June 2017 – Pentecost Mass in Rome). Please join us at Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE for the **Life in the Spirit Seminars, every Wednesday from 7 February to 21 March 2018**, 8.00pm to 9.30pm



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

- Saturday 23 December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent: 6.00pm Mass**
- Sunday 24 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**
  - 8.30am Mass & 10.30am Mass**
  - Sunday 24 December: 5.00pm Children's Mass**
  - Sunday 24 December: 11.30pm Carol Service**
  - Sunday 24 December: 12.00 Midnight Mass**
- Monday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass**
- Tuesday 26 December to Saturday 30 December:**
  - 12.00 noon Mass each day**
  - Saturday 30 December: 6.00pm Mass**
  - Sunday 31 December: 8.30am and 10.30am**
  - Monday 1 January 2018: 12.00 noon Mass**