

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE
THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C
THE ART OF CONVERSION

16 December 2018 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 87 - Psalter Week 3

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Integrity arises when the inner light - which never fails - is matched by how we behave on the outside. People come to John the Baptist with the question, "What must we do?" Without the inner illumination which comes first they might decide that they will hang up their second coat in the wardrobe and store that extra loaf in the freezer. Without inner wisdom they might begin to argue with John as to why they should offer warmth and nourishment to someone who has not worked for it.

The tax collectors have done well by tipping the scales in their own favour. Will they take a cut in their bonuses? Will there be consequences if they opt for honesty? Soldiers don't teach embroidery classes. They throw their weight around. If they were to limit their use of force to what is necessary for peace and sacrifice the extra revenue that comes from intimidation what will become of them? The point being that when we try to change the way we work on the outside, we have to work from the inside to sustain it. What looks like a simple call to justice from John has become a journey of self-discovery!

Change does not come easy. There will be mountains to climb and obstacles which need to be removed, but this will not happen unless they can be clearly seen. None better than John for this task. But only for this task. John knows he is not the Messiah. He has many things to learn from the 'One who is to come'. Just like the rest of us! Watch carefully. John correctly envisions a 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit and of Fire.' But he does not fully understand the vision. He thinks it bodes judgement and destruction. The Holy Spirit, a howling wind that separates wheat from chaff, that is flicked in the air and devoured by fire. John is presenting the classical good versus evil, reward versus punishment paradigm.

But when the Beloved Son does appear the Holy Spirit comes as connection. The Spirit draws people into God's Heart and works with them to produce the 'good works' that give glory to God. The Spirit comes as inspiration and direction. The Spirit is the Advocate and the Paraclete, who encourages, empowers and strengthens us for all that is good. The Spirit enables us to share our resources and gifts with others and not oppress them. It is a fire that burns with passion. It is a fire that does not go out. It is the same fire which sent Moses back to his community with freedom in his hands.

So, in this third week of Advent I wanted to ask, when was the last time you asked yourself the question? The question being, "What is the next thing I must do to grow as a more committed, more compassionate and more faithful disciple of Jesus. Take Compassion as an example. Let's say we made it the heartbeat of our morning prayer for this third week of Advent. Let's say we decided to read something about compassion each day to develop our understanding of what it really is. Let's say we decide to act with compassion whenever the opportunity presents itself. We pray, we ponder, we act.



I love this, all too human example from, 'A Hidden Wholeness' by Parker Palmer, (San Francisco: Joseph-Bass, 2004, 155-156.

*At Pendle Hill, the Quaker community where I lived and worked for eleven years, our lives were so intertwined that people could quickly become attached to each other and just as quickly become alienated. But alienated is a mild word to describe my relation to one woman who lived there. She was, in my mind, the devil's spawn, sent directly from the pits of hell to destroy all that is green and good about life on earth.*

*The people at Pendle Hill gather every morning in a 'meeting for worship', forty-five minutes of community silence, occasionally broken by words spoken spontaneously from the heart. One morning, I arrived late for worship and the only seat available was next to her. Agitated, I came close to turning around and walking out. But I managed somehow to sit down, close my eyes, and start to meditate, slowly forgetting that I was sitting next to a creature from the dark side.*

*About half an hour later, head still bowed, I opened my eyes and found myself staring at the upturned hand this woman had rested on her knee. There, spotlighted by a shaft of sunlight, I saw the faint but steady throb of an artery in her wrist, the elemental beat of her very human heart. In that moment, I know beyond words that here was a person just like me, with strengths and weaknesses, hopes and disappointments, joys and despairs. In that moment, my sense of who she was, and of who I was to her, underwent some sort of transformation. I never became close to this woman. In truth, I never stopped feeling wary of her. But I could no longer demonise her as I had until that silent, sunlit moment.*

We pray, we ponder, we act. When good things begin to happen, we give thanks for the Spirit and the Fire at work in us. When we think we have done it on our own we reject any such nonsense. Rather, we continue to commit ourselves to the work with gratitude in our hearts. Because, as John Sobrino so rightly said, the process, the art of conversion never ends. We just have to keep chiselling at our own statue.

# 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](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**FR DANNY'S WEEKLY REFLECTION – FACEBOOK:** Fr Danny offers a weekly reflection on Advent and the new church year on the St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Bracknell facebook page. We invite you to watch the videos which brings the newsletter reflection to life with profound depth.



**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR** – The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday 17 December** and from **Monday 24 December 2018** to **Wednesday 2 January 2019** inclusive. **We wish all our parishioners and visitors many blessings for Christmas and 2019.**

**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:** 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; 30<sup>th</sup> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.



**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING** – Mass on **Friday 28 December** will **NOT** be an Anointing of the Sick Mass

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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** – Closed until January 2019.

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

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

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Every day, 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.

**TEAS & COFFEES** – After all weekend Masses.

**MASS OFFERINGS: £2409.80. 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.



**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](http://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.

## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD** – Please collect a Parish Christmas Card from the porch. As well as a beautiful reflection from Fr Danny, all the Mass times at listed for Advent, the Nativity and the Christmas Octave. There are three sizes of the same card to best suit everyone.



Gifts that make a difference

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS** – The true spirit of Christmas Giving. Give a gift that will change a life. Each CAFOD World gift has been chosen for the real and lasting difference it makes to families living in developing countries. Catalogues are available at church or you can buy online at [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)



**CHURCH SHOP** – Open December: **Saturday 15th/ Sunday 16th and Sunday 23rd**. Advent Calendars, Christmas Cards, 2019 Calendars and Diaries now available



**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](mailto:bracknellpa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**ADVENT GIVING** - Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts for the Women's Refuges, The Life House, Supported Living House and Care Homes. Thank you, too, to those who contributed to Welcome packs. So amazing to see such wonderful acts of Advent kindness. Thank you.

*"The call of Advent is a call to live wide awake so that we can be alert to God working in us and in our world to bring about the Kingdom. Awareness is another way of talking about being awake. Work today to be aware of the needs of people around you."* Philip Berrigan and Elizabeth McAlister. PAX CHRISTI



**A FAMILY CAROL CONCERT. THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 15 December** at 7.30pm. Thames Voyces invite everyone to join them at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church. 4<sup>th</sup> year performing at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church and they hope the parishioners will join again this year following the 6.00pm Mass. Tickets £12/£10 (concession) or free for Under 16s. Wine and mince pies will be served at the interval.



**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** – **Monday 17 December 2018 at 7.30pm**. Penitential Service for the parishes of the Pastoral Area at St Francis Church, Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG.



**ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE** - Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Tuesday 18 December 2018** at 6.00pm for a Carol Concert outside the Church, Princess Square Piazza. Please come and support our children. Mulled wine and mince pies in the hall after the service.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS - SEND ONE TO ALL!** Save the planet and donate the money you save to CAFOD by writing just one Christmas Card addressed to all your fellow parishioners this year. All cards will be added to a special display in the porch for everyone to enjoy.



**ABLAZE! (age +13) & IGNITE! (age 10-12)- GRAVITY FORCE - JOINT SOCIAL EVENT** - Join us for some bouncing fun on **Friday, 11 January 2019**. Make sure you get your consent forms and payment into the office before the deadline date of **Wednesday 19 December 2018**. For more information, please contact: [Youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:Youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)  
New to either of the youth groups? Get yourself registered on our Parish website!



### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE

Mass times are as follows:

**Saturday 22 December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
6.00pm Mass  
**Sunday 23 December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:**  
8.30am Mass & 10.30am Mass  
**Monday 24 December: 5.00pm Children's Mass**  
**Monday 24 December: 10.30pm Carol Service**  
**Monday 24 December: 11.00pm Midnight Mass**  
**Tuesday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass**  
**Wednesday 26 December to Saturday 29 December:**  
10.00am Mass each day  
**Saturday 29 December: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday 30 December: 8.30am and 10.30am**  
**No Mass on Monday 31 December**  
**Tuesday 1 January 2019: 10.00am Mass**

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

|           |                  |                |            |                                          |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|------------|------------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass       | Nina Parker, RIP                         |
| Sunday    | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass       | Homeless Persons During This Season      |
|           |                  | 10.30am        | Mass       | Parish Intentions                        |
| Monday    | 17 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |            |                                          |
| Tuesday   | 18 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |            |                                          |
| Wednesday | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass       | First Holy Communion Children & Families |
| Thursday  | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass       | Elizabeth Bailey                         |
| Friday    | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 11.00am        | Exposition |                                          |
|           |                  | 12.10pm        | Mass       | Breeda Worsford, RIP                     |
| Saturday  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.00am        | Mass       | Elle Eusebio                             |

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

|          |                  |         |      |                   |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|-------------------|
| Saturday | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Breda Murray, RIP |
| Sunday   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Parish Intentions |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Sarah Davis, RIP  |

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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, 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