

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

OPENING TO HOLINESS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

15 December 2019 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 85 - Psalter Week 3

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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 Adam's 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.

# DID YOU KNOW...?

 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Midday on Tuesdays**, please email the item text you need to make known to the parish via the newsletter to [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PASTORAL CARE/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION** - Our Pastoral Care team and Bereavement Support Group, offers support and home visits to the sick, the housebound, the lonely and the bereaved. We visit you at home with Holy Communion if required. If you, a relative or friend who lives in our parish would like a home visit or to meet for a chat please email [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care) or 07376 790 256 (Bereavement Support).



**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY (The SVP)** - Provides practical help and support whenever possible for those who need it. Are you lonely? Are you in need of help of any kind? or do you know someone who is? If so, contact the SVP on 07731862349 to arrange a visit. All calls are completely confidential.

**PARISH REGISTER – Have you registered you and/or your family on the parish register yet? If not, please go to the website [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org) drop down “Parish Life” and click on “Parish Registration”, this is a secure database and very important for our parish and parishioners especially when applying for any of the Sacraments.**



**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> The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**



Thank You!!!

**MASS OFFERINGS: £1,781.96**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY**

Please make cheques payable to (full name) “**PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph**”. “**General Gift Aid**” envelopes and **Banker's/Standing Order** forms available in the porch, please complete and return all forms and general Gift Aid envelopes to the parish office. Registered Charity No. 246871 (Diocese of Portsmouth)

**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** – Closed until Tuesday 7 January 2020 9:30am-11:30am during term time in the hall.

**KEEP FIT** – Closed until Tuesday 7 January 2020 2pm in the hall.

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

*Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”*

**RCIA** – Thursdays 7:30pm-9pm in the hall.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Thursdays 7:30pm-8:30pm in the church. All are welcome.

**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING:** Every last Friday in the month at 12.10pm Mass, refreshments after Mass in the hall.

**Car park reserved for persons with limited mobility.**

*Cancelled for “Requiem Mass” and “No Mass”*

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



**BERKSHIRE CREDIT UNION CONTACT POINTS AND DATES:** Come along and have a chat with a trained volunteer at one of the locations points:

**Mondays 10am – 12pm:** St Paul's Church, The Square, Ralphps Ride, RG12 9LP **AND** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

**Tuesdays 10am – 12pm:** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1BE

**Wednesdays 2.15pm: 4.15pm:** Crown Wood School, Opladen Way, Bracknell RG12 0PE

**Thursdays 10am – 12pm:** Holy Trinity Church, The Langley Hall, The Ring, Bracknell RG12 1HD **AND 1.30pm – 3.30pm Walk-In Café, Gt Hollands Square.**

**Fridays 10am – 12pm:** St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, 39 Braccan Walk, RG12 1BE

Visit Berkshire Credit Union at <https://www.cslberks.org.uk>



## SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

**Co-ordinating Pastor: Fr Danny McAvoy**, St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow, Bracknell, RG12 1BE 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 Simon Thomson**, 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, Peter Dossett, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Joyce Newland, Bridie Maughan, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, 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 Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Doreen Gladwin, Manuela Maria Barros, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D'Souza, Donal Hanley, Jim and Frances McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Brenda Hook, Simon Brennan, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, David Malcolmson.

If you would like to add a name to this list with consent, or if you want a name removed, please contact the Parish Office.

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: BETTY WINN, RIP** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Friday 3 January 2020** at 10.00am, then 1200noon at Easthampstead Crematorium. Please pray for Betty and all her family.

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: JACQUIE RAWSTRON, RIP** whose Funeral Service will be on **Monday 16 December 2019** at 9.30am at Easthampstead Crematorium. Please pray for Jacquie and all her family.

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: PAULINE McSHANE, RIP** who passed away on Monday 9 December 2019. Arrangements for Pauline's funeral will be made known as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for Pauline and all her family.

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



### YOUTH ALPHA – On-Line Registration OPEN!! Register via the Parish Website

It's so important to take time out to explore some of Life's BIG questions and Youth Alpha will help you to do just that. It's especially for anyone aged 13 -17, whether you are already Confirmed or not. Join us on a 10 week journey of exploration starting **Friday 10 January 2020**, 7pm – 9pm in the Church Hall.

**Thinking about Confirmation?** Youth Alpha will provide you with a valuable opportunity to refresh your knowledge, consolidate your understanding of where you are on your faith journey and help you to decide whether joining the next Confirmation program is for you...

We have a great team in place, fully committed to making this the best Youth Alpha yet! Register online via the Parish website and come along to our first session on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January to see what it's all about for yourself!

Got a question? Talk to anyone of our volunteers after all Masses this weekend or you can email us at [youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org).

Looking forward to welcoming you to Youth Alpha!

**CHRISTMAS ITEMS – CHURCH SHOP:** Come and browse the beautiful range of advent calendars, Christmas cards, and 'Walk with Me' Advent journey booklets, also 2020 calendars and diaries.



**SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm**

All are invited to a family concert of Festive Favourites and a variety of Christmas music in St Joseph's Church. Tickets on the door: £12 Adults £10 Concessions. Children free



**ST JOSEPH & ST MARGARET CLITHEROW JOINT SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE** - Our two primary schools will be gathering on **Tuesday 17 December 2019** 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.



**ADVENT GIVING** - Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts for the Women's Refuges, The Life House, Supported Living Homes and Care Homes. These will be delivered in the coming week. Thank you, too, to those who contributed to Welcome packs. So amazing to see such beautiful 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**

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED** - The parish is looking for volunteers to count the offerings after the 10:30 Mass on Sundays. This is an important role and if you are happy working with numbers and are willing to commit 1-2 hours for this task every 4 or 5 weeks please contact the parish office.



### **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD and OCTAVE**

Mass times are as follows:

**Monday 23 December: No Mass**

**Tuesday 24 December: 5.00pm Vigil Mass**

**Tuesday 24 December: 9.30pm Carol Service**

**Tuesday 24 December: 10.00pm Mass During the Night**

**Wednesday 25 December: 10.00am Morning Mass**

**Thursday 26 December: 10.00am Mass**

**Friday 27 December: 10.00am Mass**

**Saturday 28 December: 10am and 6.00pm Mass**

**Sunday 29 December: 8.30am and 10.30am**

**No Mass Monday 30 and Tuesday 31 December**

**Wednesday 1 January 2020: 10.00am Mass**

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

|           |                  |                |                                     |                                             |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass                                | Reuben Aguiar, RIP                          |
| Sunday    | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass                                | Bruna D'Souza, RIP                          |
|           |                  | 10.30am        | Mass                                | Deceased Relative & Friends of G & M Block  |
| Monday    | 16 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |                                     |                                             |
| Tuesday   | 17 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |                                     |                                             |
| Wednesday | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass                                | Vivien Stezaker, RIP                        |
| Thursday  | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass                                | John O'Sullivan, RIP                        |
| Friday    | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am        | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |                                             |
|           |                  | 12.10pm        | Mass                                | John, Josephine & Michael Breen O'Grady RIP |
| Saturday  | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 10.00am        | Mass                                | Pauline McShane, RIP                        |

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR A

|          |                  |         |      |                                         |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Madge McDonald, RIP                     |
| Sunday   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | George and Stella Lansley, RIP          |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | John Baptist Robinson, RIP (Foundation) |

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Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer

Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help

10.15 am Mother's Prayers

Saturday: 1st Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary

Confessions: Every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment

THESE WILL BE CANCELLED FOR "REQUIEM MASS AND "NO MASS"

Parish Office: 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1BE

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm

Telephone: 01344 425729

Email: stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: bracknellcatholicchurch.org

Follow us on Facebook

Please make cheques payable to (full name): PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH

Parish Priest: Fr. Daniel McAvoy

Deacon: Rev. Aidan Lynch

Parish Secretary: Elizabeth Fisher

Pastoral Assistant: Mary McNab

Safeguarding Representatives: Sarah Birch, Marion McGuire, Paula Read

Safeguarding email: safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH and ST MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL