

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

ME AS I AM BEFORE YOU AS YOU ARE

4 March 2018 – Mass Book Page 154, Psalter Week 3

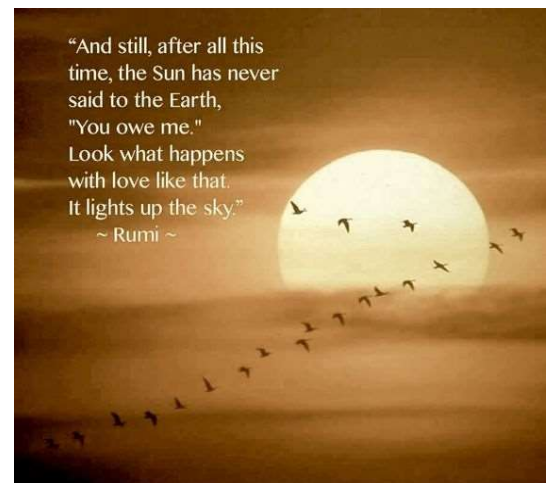


To some people, the Gospel story for the Third Sunday of Lent, unfolds in the Temple in Jerusalem. But Jesus has another name for this building. He calls it, 'My Father's House' (v14). We can see the problem. If the building is a Temple, there is business to be done and deals to be struck. Here, worship is a commercial venture. Exchange is the name of the game. Worshippers give God something and God gives them something. The basic exchange is flexible enough for all the versions of, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." And if you can offer an animal without blemish, you go to the front of the queue. The mindset of the marketplace so fills the Temple that it has become a place for making deals with God.

Jesus' Father is not a deal maker. He does no exchange favours or forgiveness for sacrifices. The Father is Free and the flow of Love from His Heart cannot be bought, bartered, bargained for or gained with a bribe. Hard cash and animals are useless to those who know they are in the Fathers House. So, you set the animals free and you chase out the cash converters. They may be needed in the Temple but they are not needed in 'My Father's House' (v.16). What is more, when Jesus entered into a conversation with a woman who came to draw water at a well, He tells her that the building itself isn't necessary. (Jn 4:23-24) Worship can unfold right where we are. We don't have to move towards anything. Anyone who asks for the gift of the Holy Spirit and is moved by the Spirit is worshipping The Father! Since Jesus is the fullness of Grace and Truth from whom all receive the Spirit, (Jn 1:14,16) His presence stirs up a sense of the Sacred. Jesus may be doing more than a clearance of the Temple, He may be replacing it!

This isn't going to be well received by the Temple Authorities. What Jesus has done is dangerous. His zeal will consume Him and it will provoke conflict. He will be consumed by the anger of others who profit from Temple commerce. They arrive on time and they know that His cleansing actions and words can belong only to the Messiah. So they ask for a sign of authenticity, a miracle or two might do. But what He offers only baffles them. They take literally what is offered symbolically. They cannot see the spiritual revelation. So Jesus says, 'Destroy this Temple - His Body - the dwelling place of God - and by the power and presence of God he will rise again because of His communion with His Father. Their malice and violence will only reveal more of the Fathers face. But the sign they seek is a sign they cannot read.

So let's go back to our favourite pastime - deal making. It isn't hard to see how an activity that is so embedded in our lives could be carried into our spiritual lives. How do we get what we want from God and how does God get what He wants from us? We think we have to bargain with the Father to get what we want. This is more than a little theological error. It is a huge obstacle to any real spiritual development. And it can turn ugly when so called religious 'elitists' set themselves up as brokers of the deal. Jesus rejects this approach. "Beware of the scribes who ... devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers" (Mk 12:38). These intermediaries are being paid to pray to God for poor widows. It is an unscrupulous manipulation by callous people. But the sad truth is that it is easier to destroy the Temple than to eradicate the deal making God.



In the film, "A House of Sand and Fog", the son of an Islamic man is shot. His distraught father instinctively begins to pray for him. He says to God, "If you let my son live, I will lay in the park, put bird seed in my eyes, and let the birds eat out my eyes". The deal emerges from the depth of his suffering and wells up to the heart that he shares with all people. Stress, hurt and tragedy bring it out of hiding. For most of us it is hard to move beyond the deal making default. Or perhaps the Father of Jesus who is often not at home with images of buying and selling, is at home when we are grateful for the gift of life and serve life in any way we can. We can receive and give, and when both make us truly happy, we can be said to be at play in God's Temple. In fact, we have been admitted to the 'Holy of Holies' (Heb 9:3). Here, our 'sacrifice' mingles with the divine 'sacrifice' which makes life holy by pouring Himself out. The challenge and the gift is not in making a good deal, but in getting beyond deals and into

TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

Saturday	3 rd	5.00pm	Sacrament of Confession – Bishop Philip
		6.00pm	Mass Parish Intentions
Sunday	4 th	8.30am	Mass Little Sisters of the Poor in the Diocese
		10.30am	Mass Michael McGowan, RIP
		3.00pm	Holy Hour for Vocations – Bishop Philip
Monday	5 th	No Mass	
Tuesday	6 th	11.00am	Exposition
		12.10pm	Mass Doreen Read, RIP
Wednesday	7 th	11.00am	Exposition
		12.10pm	Communion Service
Thursday	8 th	11.00am	Exposition
		12.10pm	Mass Peggy Malone, RIP
Friday	9 th	11.00am	Stations of the Cross
		11.30am	Exposition
		12.10pm	Mass Maurice Timms, RIP
Saturday	10 th	10.00am	Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

Saturday	10 th	6.00pm	Mass Vocations to the Priesthood
Sunday	11 th	8.30am	Mass Parish Intentions
		10.30am	Mass Peter & John Considine, RIP

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**Tuesday to Thursday During Lent:** 11.00am Exposition; **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.

**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 (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.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk)

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



**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

# 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 REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF: Maurice Timms who died on Wednesday 28 February 2018, please also pray for his beloved wife Jo and all his family.**

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



**LENT** : Live Lent and let your light shine! “Give” rather than “Give Up”. Give the gift of your time by joining one of the below ministries which are so important for the life of our church and parishioners. We need **YOU**.

**WELCOMING MINISTRY** – Warm and friendly greeting to our parishioners and visitors before the weekend Mass that you attend. A chance to meet other parishioners and help those in need with their visit to Mass.

**OFFERING COLLECTIONS** – During the Mass and 2<sup>nd</sup> offerings at the end of Mass, teams are needed for each of the weekend Masses.

**CONFIRMATION CATECHIST, MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTRIES** – Support and guiding those going forward to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

**SOUP & ROLL FRIDAYS – YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY REQUIRED** – Can you spare a couple of hours on a Friday mid-morning, either setting up/ cooking/serving or clearing away. Great fun and camaraderie with our parishioners and the school children who join us after Mass. No experience needed other than a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate an easy online course, the cost reimbursed by the parish. Please contact the parish office for further details or to volunteer.

**FLOWER ARRANGING TEAMS** - We would love to welcome anyone who would like to join the team! No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to make our church look beautiful. If you think you would like to help with arranging flowers in church.

**Please contact the Parish Office with your details and which ministry you would like to join.**

**“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS”**

## RESERVATIONS

**BOOKING OF PARISH HALL AND PARISH ROOMS** – If you wish to use the church hall or parish rooms bookings must be made with the Parish Office at least 6-8 weeks before requested date. Please note the regular events below before booking.

**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 - MARCH** – 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick; 19<sup>th</sup> St Joseph; 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday; 29<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday; 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday; 31<sup>st</sup> Holy Saturday.



**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR – CORPUS CHRISTI, WOKINGHAM** - 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**

**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.

**TODDLER GROUP** – Every Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am in the hall during term time.

**KEEP FIT** – Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the hall.

**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.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after Mass during term time in the hall.

**FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY** - Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 2pm in the Hall.



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1750.85** **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.**

**SECOND OFFERINGS - MARCH: 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> Clergy Assistance Fund; 30<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday) For the Holy Places**

**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, Robert Mulcahy, Eddie Moore, Peggy Pendergast, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Emma Flavelle, Angelina Ediale, Josephine Timms, Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Evie & Ruby Shallon, 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, Margaret Clark, Shaun Howard, Denise Rinzivillo, Sally Tarode, Babs White, Tim Roberts, Tess Johnson, Dorcas Innes-Grant.



# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**A WARM WELCOME** – To Bishop Philip and the Bishop's Secretary, Fr Philip Carroll, who are visiting our parish this weekend **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Bishop Philip will be celebrating all Masses this weekend, including Sacrament of Confession at 5pm on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** and Holy Hour for Vocations at 3pm on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Bishop Philip will be in the hall after all Masses to meet our parishioners, especially the youth of our parish.



**'ROMERO – HEARTBEAT OF EL SALVADOR'** Friday 9 March 2018 at 7pm —Rise Theatre performing at Holme Grange School, RG40 3AL. Free ticket admission - contact Corpus Christi 0118 978 0348



**DEATH CAFÉ** – Comes to Crowthorne at Beatons Tearooms & Bookshop on **Wednesday 14 March 2018, at 7.00pm**. A group of people relaxing and discussing awareness of death, dying and making the most of life.



**ENGAGED COUPLE'S BREAKFAST** - Are you getting married 2018 - either a church in our diocese or a church elsewhere or abroad? If you are: **CONGRATULATIONS!** Bishop Philip invites all engaged couples to an Engaged Couples Breakfast on **Saturday 17 March 2018 at 9.15 am (prompt) to 11.45am** in the Cathedral Centre, Catholic Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, PO1 3HG. After breakfast, a chance to meet Bishop Philip. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend this very special event.



**VACANCY FOR FOUNDATION GOVERNOR** – At **ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL** for a practicing, committed Catholic for this very important ministry. Please see the vacancy details on the porch noticeboard. Closing date **Monday 19 March 2018**. Application forms available from [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/schools/governance.php](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/schools/governance.php)



**YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** – Bishop Philip invites our young people to join him and 20 students and FOCUS missionaries from the USA on a pilgrimage retreat to Lourdes from **12 to 16 July 2018**. Costs £550; full-board and flights from Southampton. For more information please contact Father P J Smith at [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



## BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM



**REFRAME - CATHOLIC VOICES**. Lenten Talks every **Wednesday** during Lent in the hall **7pm-8pm**.

**Talk 3: 'Mercy and the migrant crisis'** – Gloria Ferenando, A nurse from Zimbabwe with focus on tuberculosis research; involved with Catholic groups Soul Food and The Dominican Rosary Shrine in Haverstock Hill.

**Talk 4: 'How the Church works for a fairer world'** – Georgia Clarke, a young Catholic studying Theology at Oxford University.



**JOURNEY INTO A CONTEMPLATIVE HEART – "FALLING INTO SILENCE" A MASTER CLASS BY DR JAMES FINLEY** A series of 6 beautiful contemplative reflections by Dr James Finley, every **Thursday** in the hall, **7.30pm to 8.30pm**. Dr James Finley is a brilliant master of the contemplative life, a wonderful opportunity to 'rest and reflect in God and the Holy Spirit', preparing for the holy season of Easter.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – Every Friday in Lent (not Good Friday) at **11.00am**, with Fr Danny and inspiration from Pax Christi, William Vanstone, Taize and Bishop Philip. Exposition at **11.30am, Mass at 12.10pm**.



**PENITENTIAL SERVICES** – For the South Berkshire Pastoral Area are:

**Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : The Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS

**Thursday 15 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church, Bracknell

**Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : Corpus Christi, Wokingham RG40 2HE

**Thursday 22 March 2018 at 7.30pm** : St Francis of Assisi, Ascot SL5 9HG



**CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH** – **Tuesday 27 March 2018** at 11.00am at the Cathedral. We have a "mobility impaired" accessible coach (better than the bus) for able-bodied and mobility impaired parishioners who wish to attend this most beautiful Mass. Please be at the church by **7.45am** as the coach will depart from St Joseph's Church at **8.00am**, returning approx **4.00pm**, please contact the parish office to be included on the coach list. **The coach is expensive this year, we would really appreciate a donation towards the cost of the coach.** Please note, the Parish Office will be closed on **27 March 2018**, no Exposition or 12.10pm Mass that day.



**MAUNDY THURSDAY : THE EASTER TRIDUUM** – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – **Thursday 29 March 2018 at 7.30pm**. All Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word are to be formerly Commissioned during this Mass and will receive their Faculty, please contact the parish office to confirm your attendance at this Mass so we can prepare your Faculty in advance.



**GOOD FRIDAY:** Celebration of the Lord's Passion – **Friday 30 March 2018, 3.00pm**. Day of fasting and abstinence.



**HOLY SATURDAY** : This beautiful Easter Vigil Service is on **Saturday 31 March 2018 at 7.30pm**



**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
**Sunday 1 April 2018**

Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am