

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE
THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C
BEARING FRUIT

24 March 2019 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 160 - Psalter Week 3

PARISH PRAYER FOR EVANGELISATION: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for gathering us together and calling us to serve as your disciples. You have given us, through your Son Jesus, the mission of evangelising and witnessing your love to the world. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we discern your will for the spiritual renewal of our parish. Give us strength, courage and clear vision as we use our gifts to serve you. We entrust our parish family to the care of St. Joseph, St. Margaret Clitherow, with Mary our Mother. We ask for their intercession and guidance as we strive to bear witness to the Gospel. Amen.*

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Having committed murder, Moses is on the run. He has hidden himself well; a new life with a new wife and a job to pay the bills - or so he thinks. On the 'Mountain of God' where he is looking after sheep, he sees a fire that does not consume, and hears a voice, coming from the heart of the fire, telling him he is on Holy ground. Margaret Clarke takes the view that since all flows from God, all ground is holy. I think she is right! On this piece of Holy Ground, God reminds a barefoot Moses that he still belongs to a community. Moses covers his face but what is it he is afraid to see? The One who speaks or perhaps himself as the man who ran and walked away?

It is interesting that God does not mention his crime. Instead God shares a heartfelt concern for the suffering of His people, His intention to liberate them from their oppressors and to lead them to a better life with Moses at the front! And Moses can't believe what he's hearing. He says to God, "So you want me to go back to the place I've been running from all these years?" "And if I do this, who shall I say sent me?" Jim Finley has a wonderful take on God's answer, "I Am who I Am." He puts it like this, "Tell them reality sent you". It's worth pausing here to consider these words.

As he describes this strange encounter, the author holds the same vision that we, as individuals and as a parish community are growing into. There is no doubt that Moses' vocation; his Contemplative Heart and his mission to liberate and ease the suffering of others, are movements of the same dance. And so the psalmist sings.

In today's Gospel Reading, the group described as 'some of those present' represent a conventional point of view. If you like, Jesus is speaking to humanity in general as they try to make sense of tragedy. It seems that some people from Galilee were visiting Jerusalem and went to offer sacrifices in the Temple. Tragically this involved the killing of animals. For some unknown reason, Pilate sent in some of his troops who murdered the Galileans, mixing their blood with the blood of the 'sacrificed' animals. If the blood of these animals were sin offerings, the Galileans were murdered in the very act of repenting. Could it be that their fate was somehow tied to the magnitude of their sins? Thinking like this is more common than we might like to admit.

But before Jesus corrects them, He pushes their question a little further. What Pilate did was morally evil. So what about physical disasters and the accidental events that destroy people's lives? He reminds them of a recently tumbled tower that killed 18 people. Was it the hand of God that pushed it over? Is all misfortune punishment for sin?

Your life is nothing more than a love story. Between you and God. Every person, every experience, every gift, every loss, every pain is sent on your path, for one reason and one reason only: To bring you back to Him.

The Beloved Son of God is absolutely clear that this is nonsense and admonishes them to stop thinking like that. But, as we know, listening to Jesus can be comforting as well as challenging. Jesus shifts their attention away from the fate of others and asks them to consider the more important question of their own fate. A fate that does not depend on Pilate getting out the wrong side of bed or shoddy workmanship on a building. Fate requires a personal decision. The invitation to become an intentional disciple can only be embraced if we stop looking out and start looking within. Gods will and God's call to a new life on earth are revealed in the heart. Speculating about moral evils and tragedies will only leave us feeling confused and deflated. But bringing God's Will to earth is clear and uplifting. This is the change of mind. This is the repentance that is needed.

Which is why Jesus tells the Parable of a fig tree with no figs. Why does a fruit tree produce no fruit? Fruitless, it is about as much use (in Kingdom terms) as a lamp in a tub or salt that has lost its savour. The tree is not doing what it is supposed to do. A tough and realistic Jesus teaches that we either produce or perish. This makes great sense to me and opens a reflection on how we carry a personal and a community responsibility for each other. Listening to Jesus, we sense an urgency in the situation. We must act as faithful disciples and we must act now! He will create the right conditions for us to flourish and grow. There is soil, manure, a gardener, a shovel and time. But the time is not endless. If we do not change we will perish - not by sudden and tragic events - but because we failed to bring heaven to earth when we had the chance to do so.

All of this is beautifully captured in The Lords' Prayer. As we pray it, we stake our claim to a common humanity who hallows the name of God as Father of All. We work tirelessly to make His Kingdom come on earth - as it is in heaven. I do believe this is what Jesus means when He talks about bearing fruit. He is clearly saddened by those who look in the wrong direction to find answers to the puzzles of human existence. But sadder still that so many are yet to see the Wisdom of making the journey within. So many are yet to kiss the Fathers will. So many are yet to arise, in the face of too much suffering, to enact that will and create a better world.

## DID YOU KNOW...?



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



**NIGHT SHELTER** - This year's Night Shelter has almost finished and we would like to say a **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to the many volunteers, cooks, donations and prayers that have been said by you all. A special thanks goes to Andy the market butcher and Greggs for their generous donation of food every week for the last four months. We have had over 30 guests using our facilities, who have loved our hospitality food & comfy sofas! Well done everyone.



**PASTORAL CARE CONTACT MOBILE NUMBER**- We can provide home visits by Care team members for whatever reason. It could be in the case of illness, to see a friendly face or just for a chat. To request a visit email [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or ring **07394 440 938**



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR – MARCH:** 25<sup>th</sup> The Annunciation of the Lord.  
**APRIL:** 14<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday; 18<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday; 19<sup>th</sup> Good Friday; 20<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday; 21<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday; 29<sup>th</sup> St Catherine of Siena; 30<sup>th</sup> St George.

**MASS OFFERINGS: £1847.50 CAFOD Soup-er Lunch: £380.80**



### 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.

**SECOND OFFERINGS FOR MARCH: 30/31<sup>st</sup> Clergy Assistance Fund**

**THE SHOP WILL BE OPEN SATURDAYS 5.30pm - 7.00pm AND SUNDAYS 9.30am – 10.30am.**

**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** – Every Tuesday, 2pm-3pm in the hall

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

**CHOIR PRACTICE** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm-8.30pm, in the Church, all welcome. Instrumentalists also invited to join us.

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

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

**JOURNEY IN FATH** – 7.30pm-9.00pm in the hall.

**OFS - Saturday 20 April 2019** at 2pm-4pm in the hall.



**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, Ralphs 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

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

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

**SUNDAY MASS PARKING IN SERVICE YARD D** – Please be aware that the Sunday Mass parking concession in Service Yard D for the 8.30am and 10.30am Masses ends at 1200 noon.



### 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

**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.

**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, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Marie Fielding, Marie Hughes, Jenny Bashford, Phyllis D'Souza, Donal Hanley, Pat Meehan, Jacqui Rawstron, Jim and Francis McEvoy, Mary Murray, Jane Rodrigues Thelma Briggs, Hazel Andersen, Margaret Pearce, Bessie Smith.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



## JOINT YOUTH GROUP SOCIAL EVENT – Friday 5 April 2019 - Indoor Climbing - FULLY BOOKED.

New to either of the youth groups? Want to make some new friends and have fun? Get yourself registered on our Parish website and come along. We'll look forward to welcoming you! For further information please contact [youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)



**TEA & COFFEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - Another plea for people prepared to serve tea and coffee's after 10.30 hrs Mass on Sunday. It will take up less than hour of your time every 5 or 6 weeks and is a way to get to know your fellow parishioners, chat and a giggle. If interested please contact the parish office or speak to any of the team in the hall kitchen.



**LENT FAST DAY MEETINGS** - CAFOD Lent family fast day an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters overseas who are in need. Please return your Family Fast Day envelope to the offering at Mass, please give whatever you can or you can donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Fast-Day> Thank you.



**CAFOD SOUP-ER SUNDAY** - Thank you to everyone who came along for soup on 17th March. It was lovely to see so many show solidarity with our brothers and sisters who struggle daily to eat. The lunches raised just under **£380.80** which is amazing as this was happened in just over an hour. Thank you for supporting CAFOD.



**NEW CHAIRMAN** – With joy we welcome **Thomas Donker** as the new SVP Chairman and with absolute gratitude we thank **Chris Brown**, retiring Chairman, for all his great work.



**CLOTHESBANK** - The ClothesBank Giveaway, held quarterly in St Joseph's Church Hall, coordinated by St Mark's Church Binfield, is on **Wednesday 27 March**. This ClothesBank we would appreciate donations of new children's pyjamas, underwear and socks and good quality used clothes for children of all ages and children's trainers, especially sizes 10 – 2. Please contact St Mark's Binfield, tel: 01344 421079 before making your donation. Help needed sorting clothes at St Mark's Binfield on **Mon 25th March**, from 9.30am and setting up at St Joseph's on **Wed 27th March** from around 9.15am ready to start Giveaway at 10.15am, ending at 1pm. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you and your family would benefit from help of this kind, please contact the parish office to receive a ClothesBank voucher. Thank you.

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS** will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ascot on the **Sunday 28 April** at 2.30pm.

All are very welcome!



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

### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Are a 14 stop journey following Christ on the path to Calvary and beyond to the tomb, with prayers and intercessions along the way to focus our hearts. The Stations of the Cross will be led by different parishioners each week:

**Every Thursday evening in Lent (not Holy Thursday) at 7.00pm in the church**

**Every Friday in Lent (not Good Friday) at 11.00am. Exposition 11.30am, Mass 12.10pm.**

**LENTEN BOOKLETS** – A variety of booklets with daily reflections for Lent are now available to purchase in the shop



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

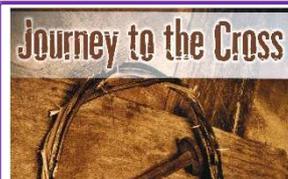
**Thursday 4 April 2019 at 7.30pm : Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS**



**CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH** – **Tuesday 16 April 2019** at 11.00am at the Cathedral. A “mobility impaired” accessible coach for able-bodied and mobility impaired parishioners who wish to attend this Mass. There is 1 place for wheelchair parishioners on a first come first served basis, **closing date 29 March**. Please be at the church by **7.30am** the coach will depart at **8.00am prompt**, returning **4.00pm**, please contact the parish office to be added to the list. **The coach is expensive this year, donations appreciated towards the cost of the coach.**



**MAUNDY THURSDAY : THE EASTER TRIDUUM** – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – **Thursday 18 April 2019** at **7.30pm**. Existing Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word to be recommissioned at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.



**GOD'S FRIDAY : PRAYER WALK** – We have a Bracknell Churches joint event in the town centre on Good Friday. Programme starts at Holy Trinity assembling 10.15am for a prayer walk and stations into the town. If any youngsters want to dress up for the event please come to Holy Trinity Church's Langley Hall at 10.00am. We are aiming to arriving at Union Square at 11.15am

There will then be singing led by choristers and singers from St Josephs, Holy Trinity and Warfield Church, all are welcome to join the singing. This is followed by a live worship band, puppet show and craft activities plus the now traditional giveaway activity until 1.30pm.

If you would like to help organise aspects of the prayer walk (readers, people to carry icons, cross etc, sing) or to sing when we reach Union Square please let Fr Jim know [btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parish.org](mailto:btm-missionpriestjim@bracknell-parish.org) or text 07775356652. If you would like to help in the square with giveaway, crafts, puppets, please sign up via this link, courtesy of Kerith Centre <https://kerith.churchsuite.co.uk/events/uyxx12oq>



**GOOD FRIDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Passion – Friday 19 April 2019, 3.00pm. Day of fasting and abstinence.**



**HOLY SATURDAY : This beautiful Easter Vigil Service is on Saturday 20 April 2019 at 8.00pm**



## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**Sunday 21 April 2019**

**Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am**

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

|           |                  |                |            |                                         |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Saturday  | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass       | Fred Byrne, RIP                         |
| Sunday    | 24 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass       | A Distressed Family                     |
|           |                  | 10.30am        | Mass       | Parish Intentions                       |
| Monday    | 25 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |            |                                         |
| Tuesday   | 26 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |            |                                         |
| Wednesday | 27 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass       | Gregory James Arthur, RIP (Foundation)  |
| Thursday  | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass       | Celia Guidon, RIP                       |
| Friday    | 29 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am        | Exposition |                                         |
|           |                  | 12.10pm        | Mass       | Anointing of the Sick                   |
| Saturday  | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am        | Mass       | First Holy Communion Children & Parents |

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

|          |                  |         |      |                                         |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Parish Intentions                       |
| Sunday   | 31 <sup>st</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Deceased & Injured-Christchurch Tragedy |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Night Shelter Guests and Volunteers     |

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Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer, except when Requiem Mass is celebrated

*Thursday: After Mass Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help,
10.15 am Mother's Prayers;*

Saturday: 9.30am Stations of the Cross during Lent, 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:** stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.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 (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