

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

DISAPPEARING INTO THE FULLNESS OF JOY: THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

15 March 2020 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 158 - Psalter Week 3

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Good teachers and good spiritual teachers highly value the experience of their disciples. They will often return to these experiences as they journey together, as a way of making things clearer. Good spiritual teachers often invite their disciples to begin to recognise patterns in their experience. Or, to put it another way, to map the sequence of their growth in understanding.

For example, St Paul, in his letter to the infant church in Rome (Romans 5,3-5) proposes a sequence that begins with suffering. Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us because the Love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. Mother Theresa of Albania often handed out a business card with this information: The fruit of SILENCE is prayer. The fruit of PRAYER is faith. The fruit of FAITH is love. The fruit of LOVE is Service. The fruit of SERVICE is Peace.

Sometimes the patterns of our experience and what these have taught us can be easily grasped. When this happens, their wisdom is clear. At other times, the patterns of our experience and what these have taught us is less clear. It is harder to 'get it' or to put Wisdom into action.

This week's Parable of the Woman at The Well is one of these patterns. It might go like this:

- the one who hears the voice of the bridegroom greatly rejoices
- bringing the bridegroom children
- that one disappears into the fullness of joy.



Notice this great woman's journey as she develops her understanding of Jesus which takes her past his Jewishness, past his prophetic status, past his role as messiah, finally arriving at the realisation that He is the 'I Am' or God made visible. When she grasps this, she is filled with the love she has always been looking for. Her joy is complete. She has found the Bridegroom.

The first joy is found in hearing the voice of the bridegroom, the wedding and the wedding night. Now it matures into a fuller joy when the marriage becomes fruitful with children. The first joy becomes the impetus for mission. She moves out, attracting people to the voice she has heard. She presents these 'children' to her true husband, so that they too might experience the gift of God.

Now she moves into deep waters. If the experience is true, she must not claim permanent status as a messenger. Her 'children' tell her that she is no longer needed. Now that they have seen for themselves, no other intermediary is required. If she is mature enough, she will be happy that, like the Baptist, He must increase while they decrease. But they aren't having to be dragged from centre stage. Their leaving is gracious and, as they decrease, their joy increases!

So, what is going on here? When we see clearly the gift of God, there is a 'knowing' that enables us to grasp more fully the work of the Holy Spirit. Strangely the gift arrives as 'living water' which can never be grasped. Nor can we ever use it to promote ourselves or our ego. Whoever tries to seize the Spirit watches it move elsewhere. By disappearing, we have permanent access to the fountain. I think this is what the woman at the well realised. I hope that one day we will too.

# 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)



**NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL** : The weekly Parish Newsletter is emailed every Friday to all those who have requested their email address to be added to the newsletter confidential group email list. If you wish to receive the newsletter before the weekend, just send your email address to the parish office [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) by Wednesday of any week and you will be added to the confidential group email list. This will also help reduce number of newsletters printed, saving money on paper and toner and reduce the quantity we recycle and you recycle.



**PASTORAL CARE/BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT CONTACT MOBILE NUMBER** - 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 – March:** 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick; 19<sup>th</sup> St Joseph; 25<sup>th</sup> Annunciation of the Lord.  
**APRIL:** 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday; 9<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday; 10<sup>th</sup> Good Friday; 11<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday; 12<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday; 21<sup>st</sup> St Anselm; 23<sup>rd</sup> St George; 25<sup>th</sup> St Mark; 28<sup>th</sup> St Louis Grignon de Montfort; 29<sup>th</sup> St Catherine of Siena.

**MASS OFFERINGS: £1998.77**

**SECOND OFFERINGS - MARCH: Clergy Assistance Fund 21<sup>st</sup> / 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**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)



**Thank You!!!**

**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: Postponed until further notice.**

**\*KEEP FIT: Postponed until further notice.**

**\*PRAYER GROUPS: Postponed until further notice**

**RCIA: Postponed until further notice.**

**CHOIR PRACTICE: Postponed until further notice.**

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

**\*MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: Postponed until further notice.**

**\*SOUP & ROLL FRIDAYS: Postponed until further notice.**

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

**YOUTH GROUP: ALPHA** (13-17y.o) Retreat Weekend **28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March**; Please return Consent Forms to parish office asap.

**TEAS & COFFEES: Postponed until further notice.**

**OFS: Postponed until further notice.**



## BERKSHIRE CREDIT UNION CONTACT POINTS

**DUE TO THE ESCALATING CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL PANDEMIC, ALL CONTACT POINTS ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**



## 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

**Canon 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, 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, Terry and Mary Brennan, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Steve Walton

**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: PAULINE McSHANE, RIP**  
Pauline's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church on **Thursday 19 March 2020 at 12.30pm** followed by a Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 2.30pm, refreshments in the church hall after the Crematorium.  
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.*

**CAR PARK – FUNERAL GATE:** We politely ask you not to park in the spaces at the town centre side of the car park the day before a Requiem Mass at the Church. This is to enable us to lock the funeral gate to secure the area for the hearse and family mourners' cars to turn and park at the church for the Requiem Mass. Thank you.

**CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 - TAKING RESPONSIBILITY : ALL WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY MASSES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** Please note the status for the parish groups, etc, in the diary box. If you need to contact the Parish Office or Fr Danny we would appreciate that you telephone, leave a message on the answerphone if necessary or email the Parish office instead of coming to the Presbytery door so that we can significantly reduce risk of contamination. All calls and emails will be replied to as soon as possible.



## ALTERNATIVE WEEKEND MASS TIMES IN THE SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE : Saturday 6.30pm; Sunday 9.00am and 11.00am

Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, RG45 6JG : Sunday 11.00am

Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS : Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.00am

St Francis, Ascot, SL5 9HG: Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.00am

Live Stream Portsmouth Cathedral Mass: <https://portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/live-mass.php>

## VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

**BABY & TODDER GROUP:** Volunteers to help every Tuesday, term time, 9.00am to 12.00pm in the hall, please contact the parish office with your details

**OFFERING COUNTERS:** Volunteers to count the offerings after 10:30 Mass on Sundays, a rota basis, please only contact the parish office with your details.

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST & OF THE WORD:** We are desperately in need of Ministers of the Word for the **Saturday 6pm Mass** and Ministers of the Eucharist for the **Sunday 10.30am Mass**. Full training will be given. These are beautiful Ministries, please contact the parish office with your details.

## POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

**CATHOLICISM SERIES ~THE GIFT SEMINARS ~ SINGING FOR JOY AT THE BRACKNELL CARE HOMES**



**DEMENTIA PRAYER WEEK 12-19 March 2020** National Dementia Prayer Week organised by the Pastoral Care Project invites everyone to pray for and with those who live with dementia and their families who care for them.

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## PRAYER FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

*Father of all goodness, your Son brought healing of mind and body to show that your Kingdom is here. In our hour of need, we look to you, we seek to understand your purpose. Through Joseph, the faithful and honourable husband of Mary, you show us care and compassion in adversity, you give us a model of generosity and care. We pray for those whose lives we share and who live with the knowledge of weakness, whose memory now fades, whose enjoyment of life's story is changing. Make us aware of the needs of others, of the dignity of life at every stage, of the collective memory that we own. Bless those who care for the sick, who share the journey. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, in Your good time. We ask this through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen. Fr Timothy Menezes the Pastoral Care Project ©*



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

### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT – **Cancelled until further notice**



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

Thursday 26 March at 7.30pm : Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS

Friday 27 March at 7.30pm : St Francis, Ascot SL5 9HG

Thursday 2 April at 7.30pm : Corpus Christi, Wokingham, RG40 2HE



**CHRISM MASS, CATHEDRAL PORTSMOUTH – Tuesday 7 April 2020.** It is with great sadness that we have had to take the decision to **CANCEL** the coach booking taking parishioners to the Chrism Mass in Portsmouth. Thank you for your support and, if you have made a donation for the coach, we will arrange refund of your donation please contact the parish office on 01344 425729 or email [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).



**MAUNDY THURSDAY : THE EASTER TRIDUUM** – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – **Thursday 9 April 2020 at 7.30pm.** New Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word will be Faculty commissioned at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.



**GOOD FRIDAY: Celebration of the Lord's Passion** Friday 10 April 2020, 3.00pm. Day of fasting and abstinence.

**Town Centre Prayer Walk from Holy Trinity 11am, The Passion Play in Union Square at 12 noon**



**HOLY SATURDAY :** Easter Vigil Service on **Saturday 11 April 2020 8.00pm** **DURING LENT, Please pray for** Atkins Mucherahowa, Gifty Nketia and Stephanie Storer being received into full communion Easter Vigil Holy Saturday.



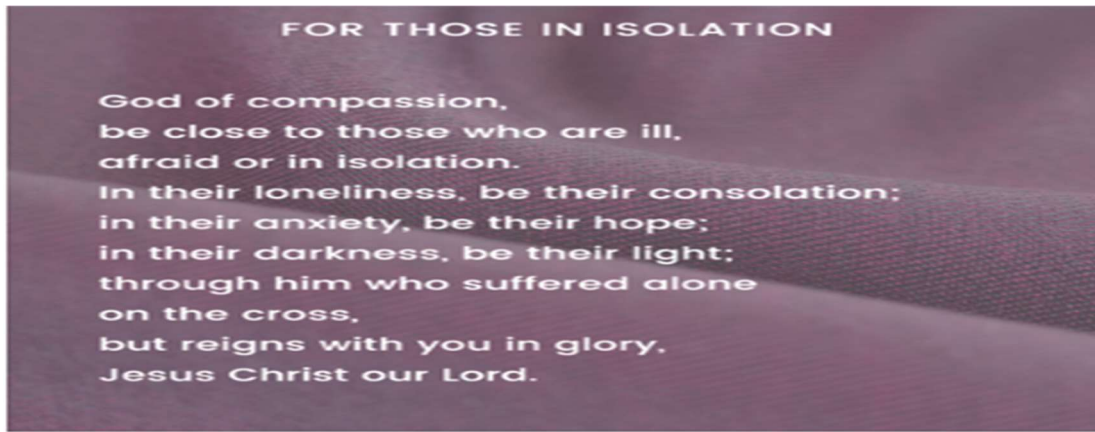
## EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Sunday 12 April 2020

Mass at 8.30am and 10.30am



## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS



### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

|                 |                        |                                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday        | 14 <sup>th</sup>       | No Mass                                            |
| Sunday          | 15 <sup>th</sup>       | No Mass                                            |
|                 |                        | No Mass                                            |
| Monday          | 16 <sup>th</sup>       | No Mass                                            |
| Tuesday         | 17 <sup>th</sup>       | No Mass                                            |
| Wednesday       | 18 <sup>th</sup>       | No Mass                                            |
| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>12.30pm Requiem Mass – Pauline McShane, RIP</b> |
| Friday          | 20 <sup>th</sup>       | No Mass, Stations of the Cross or Exposition       |
| Saturday        | 21 <sup>st</sup>       | No Mass                                            |

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

|          |                  |         |
|----------|------------------|---------|
| Saturday | 21 <sup>st</sup> | No Mass |
| Sunday   | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | No Mass |

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Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer - Postponed until further notice

**Thursday: After Mass “Novena to Mother of Perpetual Help”,
10.15am Mother’s Prayers – All postponed until further notice**

Saturday: 1st Saturday of the month 9.30am Pro-Life Rosary - Postponed until further notice

Confessions: Every Saturday at 10.45am or prior appointment

Stations of the Cross during Lent - All Postponed until further notice

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