

**THE YEAR OF SAINT MARK**  
**EATING WITH THE BRIDEGROOM**  
**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B**

**FACING THE TRUTH**

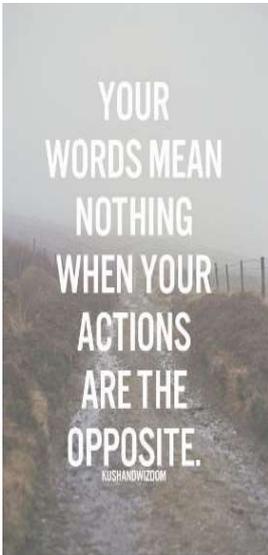
*11 November 2018 – Order of Mass Page 7 - Mass Book Page 154 - Psalter Week 4*

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If we were to ask the Beloved Son of God what His message is, He might respond, "My message is the way I live". The thoughts of His heart and the words of His mouth are in complete harmony. This makes it easier for Jesus to spot those who are not yet integrated in this way. His teaching sometimes unmasks the discordant messages and behaviour of the religious elite, and, sadly, some of those who claim to be His disciples. These people might know the 'Shema Israel' back to front and they can recite it many times a day. But the teachings have not yet found their way into their hearts. The result - hypocrisy, pretence, duplicity and violence. They say one thing but they live another. Jesus is watching.

What He sees is that selfishness has taken priority over Love. What the scribes like about being a scribe is not the blessing and challenge of the Charter for Justice. They like the superficial externals; the best robes, the best seats, the best food, the best company. They gravitate towards anything that makes them the centre of the universe. Even when they pray it is an act. They never really, genuinely open their hearts to God.

This selfishness has pushed Love for others away too. In today's Gospel, the neighbour happens to be a widow whose meagre resources are plundered by scheming scribes. In every sense, the widow is a powerful symbol of everyone in our community who is vulnerable. The vulnerable have a very special place in God's Heart (Psalm 68,5). God also makes Justice for the 'widow' a condition for residing with His people (Jer 7,6). But the most vulnerable are also powerfully attractive to abusers. Could the scene be set that the widow has come in desperation to pray to God for help? And who is there to help her with her prayers but those who claim to know the ins and outs of divine favour. And, of course, there is a fee .....



Everywhere in the Gospel Jesus champions human need over the hardened practices of the synagogues. Now He targets the Temple Treasury. When He sits opposite the treasury it becomes a symbol for all that He cannot bear about badly organised religion. The widow divests herself of all support. Her generosity plays into the devouring greed of the Temple. Those who are supposed to defend, shelter and protect her, leave her penniless. What is most frightening is that she cooperates with the exploitation - a condition often mentioned in literature on oppression. Jesus is watching and He has already warned, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority like to be called 'benefactor' ". (Lk,22).

The oppressed often think that their oppressors are benefitting them! Is the house of God really benefitting the widow when her own house comes crashing down? Jesus called those who worked in the treasury a 'den of robbers'. Has this woman freely donated the last of her livelihood or has a subtle theft taken place? The widow might not know, but the Beloved Son of God, who is sensitive to all duplicity, has not missed it.

Jesus can spot a hypocrite very easily. The split between the inside (heart) and outside (lips=words) is a common ailment of people, especially religious people, who think they are better than everyone else. Also, it is assumed that they are aware of their condition and consciously embrace it. This makes them agents of the evil one. Only thoughtful and highly integrated people notice the gap between what is preached and what is practiced. It is difficult to see the exploitation of the widow as she stands against the huge backdrop of Temple theology and policy. Donating to the Temple is a sign of one's sincerity and commitment. To give to the House of God is to give to God. However, the overriding concern of God is for the poor and the most vulnerable. This revelation preceded the Temple and was one of the driving forces of the Exodus from Egypt. No religious policy should create a situation where the vulnerable become even more vulnerable.

The house of the Father of orphans and widows (Ps 68,5) does not devour the houses of widows. The teaching of Jesus exposes the truth. I wonder what kind of response He will get!

# 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)

## RESERVATIONS

**BOOKING PARISH HALL AND PARISH ROOMS** – If you wish to use the church hall or parish rooms for your parish group, 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 – NOVEMBER:** 12<sup>th</sup> St Josaphat; 16<sup>th</sup> St Edmund of Abingdon; 21<sup>st</sup> The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 22<sup>nd</sup> St Cecilia; 24<sup>th</sup> St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions; 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew.



**MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING** - The last Friday of the month, Anointing of the Sick after the 12.10pm Mass. All welcome, especially those sick or suffering in any way. If you would like a lift to this Mass, please contact the parish office.

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 7.45pm-9:30pm.  
12th November at 57 Wellington Road.

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

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

**ALPHA** – Every Tuesday 7pm – 8.45pm at Brown Bag, High Street, Bracknell until 4 December.

**OFS** - Next meeting Saturday 10 November at 1 Christine Ingram Gardens.

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

**RCIA** – Every Thursday, 7.30pm – 9.00pm in the hall, all welcome.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Every Friday after 12.10pm Mass during term time.

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

**CHURCH SHOP** – Open every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 5.30pm-7pm; Sundays 9.30am – 10.30am.



**MASS OFFERINGS:** £1797.63. **Second Offering: Bamenda** £666.57

**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 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

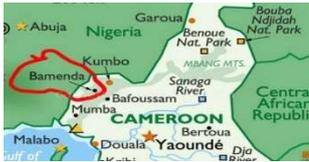
**Fr Marcus Brisley** Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS and Holy Ghost, Crowthorne, RG45 6JG, Tel: 01252 876820

**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.

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



**PARISH BAMENDA REPRESENTATIVE** – We are most grateful to Chris White for all his work as our Bamenda Representative for the past two years, due to other commitments Chris has needed to step down. If you feel that you have the heart to be the parish Bamenda Representative which is an important link with the twin diocese of Bamenda and Portsmouth, please contact [clennon@bamendaandportsmouth.com](mailto:clennon@bamendaandportsmouth.com) or the parish office.



**There will be a Finance Update at each mass on the weekend of 17th/18th November.**



**INTER FAITH WEEK 2018** - The Bracknell Forest Faith and Belief Forum invites you to a talk entitled "Status of Wealth in Different Faiths" to be held in the parish hall of St. Joseph & St. Margaret Clitherow on **Thursday 15 November 2018** at 7pm – 9pm. Speakers from the different member faiths will share their traditions' perspectives on Money and Wealth. No need to book; just come along.



**SPECIAL MASS FOR THE BEREAVED** - A very special and beautiful Mass for the bereaved of the parish and bereaved relatives of our parishioners on **Saturday 17 November 2018** at 10.00am. Refreshments will be available in the Hall after Mass courtesy of the Bereavement Support Group. Everybody is welcome.



**IGNITE! (age 10-12) & ABLAZE! (13+) YOUTH GROUPS** - **ABLAZE!** (age +13) - Next meeting - **Friday 30 November** in the Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm. **IGNITE!** (age 10-12) - Next meeting - **Friday 7 December** in the Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm. New to either of the groups? Get yourself signed up on the Parish website and come along! For further information, please contact [youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:youth@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)



**BRACKNELL CHORAL SOCIETY** - **Saturday 24th November** at **St Joseph's Church** presents a varied programme of fine music in our Autumn concert with contrasting 17th and 20th century pieces. We begin in the 17th century with music from Purcell. The fresh and youthful *Come Ye Sons of Art*, written to celebrate the birthday of Queen Mary in 1694 is a contrast to the elegiac *Funeral Sentences for Queen Mary*, written just months later for the

Queen's funeral. We will be rounding off the concert with John Rutter's glorious and well-loved *Requiem*, written in 1985 and popular around the world for its rich choral melodies.

The choir will be led by Greg Hallam, our professional musical director with professional orchestra, the Braccan Ensemble and soloists, Anna Prowse - Soprano, Sarah Anne Champion - Mezzo-Soprano and David Le Prevost - Bass.

The concert starts at **7.30pm**. Tickets cost £15 (accompanied under-18's free) and can be purchased at [www.bracknellchoral.org.uk](http://www.bracknellchoral.org.uk) or from choir members. Wine and soft drinks will be served in the interval for a small donation. **Please note, there will be no 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 24 November.**



**Christmas cards and 2019 calendars and diaries are now available in the shop**



**THE JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP** are running several workshops in the parish hall for Night Shelter volunteers which may be of interest to all parishioners, free of charge, and over the age of 18 years. For more information or sign up to attend, please contact: Bernadette Fisher at: [justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or via the Parish Office.

**DE- ESCALATION TECHNIQUES** - **Saturday 1 December**, 9:30 am to 12:30pm identify why people become angry or aggressive, recognise the early warning signals, practice how to remain in control and diffuse aggressive behaviour. Identify assertive techniques for challenging inappropriate behaviour and gaining compliance.

**INTRODUCTION TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE, Saturday 8 December** 9:30 am to 12:30pm exploring the prevalence of drug and alcohol problems in the UK, the impact on individuals, families, the wider community. Develop an understanding of support available for people with these difficulties.



**ADVENT EVENT** - St Joseph's School are planning an 'Advent Event' **Saturday 15 December**, 10.30am – 1.00pm, this is a chance to prepare for Christmas by making and baking! If you can help with this event, especially with helping children to make table decorations, flower arrangements or wreaths. please contact: [n.philpott@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk](mailto:n.philpott@stjosephsbracknell.co.uk) telephone: 01344 425246



**A FAMILY CAROL CONCERT. THAMES VOYCES** – Christmas Concert on **Saturday 15 December** at 7.30pm. Thames Voyces invite the whole family to join them at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church. It will include the usual mixture of Christmas readings and well-known carols for choir and audience. The choir will be conducted by their current Musical Director, Nick Austin. This is the choir's 4<sup>th</sup> year of performing at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church and they very much hope that 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.

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|           |                  |                |      |                          |
|-----------|------------------|----------------|------|--------------------------|
| Saturday  | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm         | Mass | David Gunn, RIP          |
| Sunday    | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am         | Mass | Peace and Reconciliation |
|           |                  | 10.30am        | Mass | The Deceased of All Wars |
| Monday    | 12 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b> |      |                          |
| Tuesday   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Robert Taylor, RIP       |
| Wednesday | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Richard McCann, RIP      |
| Thursday  | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30am         | Mass | Mary-Kate Doherty        |

### ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, Bishop

|          |                  |         |            |                        |
|----------|------------------|---------|------------|------------------------|
| Friday   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00am | Exposition |                        |
|          |                  | 12.10pm | Mass       | Helen Bolton           |
| Saturday | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am | Mass       | Bereaved of the Parish |

### THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

|          |                  |         |      |                                                   |
|----------|------------------|---------|------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 6.00pm  | Mass | Robert Buchanan, RIP                              |
| Sunday   | 18 <sup>th</sup> | 8.30am  | Mass | Parish Intentions                                 |
|          |                  | 10.30am | Mass | Jim Webster, RIP & Deceased Knights of St Columba |

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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, 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, Office Hours: Monday – Friday  
9.30am-2.30pm

**Telephone:** 01344 425729 **Email:** [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org](http://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](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH and ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW, BRACKNELL**