

THE YEAR OF SAINT LUKE  
THE YEAR OF THE RELENTLESS WIDOW

**WORKING TOGETHER TO WEAR DOWN INJUSTICE**

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

*20 October 2019 - Order of Mass Page 6 - Mass Book Page 152 - Psalter Week 1*

Now children, I'm going to tell you a story about a jealous woman who will destroy anyone who threatens her position as Número Uno in the palace of life. Once upon a time there was a little girl called Snow White.....

Storytellers rarely give the game away at the start of the story as those who hear the story like to make it their own. Yet Jesus chooses to 'leak' the point of this Parable before He has begun! He doesn't give the ending away but He positions His hearers to consider the story in its fullness, as we will do now. Knowing this story is knowing how to keep our heart in the heart of God (praying at all times) when it comes to wearing down injustice. The temptation to 'split' the Parable and mis-interpret it is headed off by the introduction.

Ordinary folk know well the impersonal places where ruthless, hard and cynical people take advantage of the weak. So the unjust Judge is immediately recognised. There is no point appealing to his better side because he doesn't have one. His weekly visit to the synagogue only masks his rejection of the Charter for Justice and the Compassion it demands. His total lack of respect for God and for people make the unjust Judge an 'immovable object'. What he didn't bargain for, however, was the 'irresistible force' of a widow who would not be put off by his ignorance. She knows she cannot count on any decency from him. As a widow, she is quite literally, "one who has no voice", and yet her voice is all she has! How will she use it?

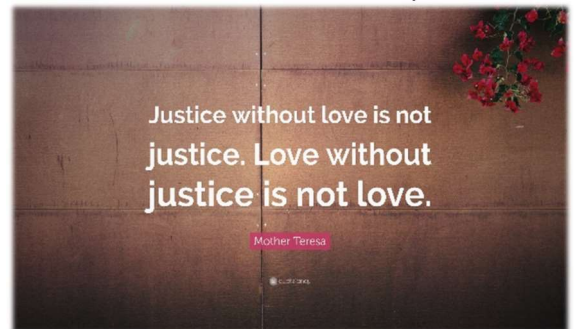
At first the unjust Judge is unmoved by her plea, but instead of losing heart, she keeps going. The Judge caves, but we are left in no doubt as to the reason why. Saint Luke opens a window into his mind. His reputation is at stake and up for grabs and he can't bear it. He wants the whitewash of justice on the outside even though his heart is not in it. His hypocrisy is a vital piece of information for the listener.

As the story ends, the Beloved Son of God guides a reflection on it. As we listen to the inner dialogue of the unjust Judge, we learn that he can be defeated. What He fears most, - exposure, vulnerability and reputational damage - will drive him to do what is right even if he does so with some reluctance.

And then the teaching is driven home with full authority. The hearts of widows (of those with no voice) are sustained during their relentless quest for justice if they pray day and night. As they do this, God will pour the strength of His justice into their hearts. God suffuses the hearts of those who pray with a passion for Justice, and then, Hearts empowered, they bring Justice to bear on the affairs of the earth. God does not intervene as a separate agent but can only bring that justice which is created in the hearts of those who pray and act with Justice. The commitment to transform the face of the earth may be difficult to sustain. Injustice is everywhere. It may be overcome here and there but is never unmasked and dissolved everywhere at once. So the effort is endless and leads to the question of endurance. When the Son of Man, whose passion is to transform the earth, comes, will He find the strength of God grounded widows still at work, or will they have given up the quest for Justice as a lost cause? Will the power of those who have no reverence for God and less for creation have worn down the widows? Only those who understand this Parable have the answer.

It would be a big mistake to read this Parable as a teaching about twisting God's arm. If you don't get an answer to your prayer, pump up the volume and God will cave in. It would be a big mistake because it separates what Jesus is trying to hold together. My commitment to being a disciple and the quest for justice are two sides of the same coin. Praying is praying ourselves into being Justice-Makers. God answers the cry of the poor by pouring His Justice into the hearts of those who pray, and they will endure because they have sunk the root of their heart into the heart of God. This channel is never closed and provides a steady stream of justice into the world. When the powerless at prayer take down the powerful, a careful investigation will uncover the hidden agency of God. It is mediated through the widow but it does not originate in her. Justice happens because of her communion with God. Can you pause here to consider who in our own times has done this?

Finally, as Jesus showed with utter clarity in the Garden of Olives, 'staying awake', sustaining communion with God, is vital if we have any chance of being faithful to His Mission. Sleeping Apostles become as violent as those who have come to arrest God. But Jesus only allows the Peace of God to suffuse His Sacred Heart and inform his action and reactions. Widows must not just keep going when things get difficult, they must also step forward with love and keep faith with the ways of Peace. The temptation when wearing down injustice is to become more unjust than what we are attempting to wear down. We cannot really win if we join the unjust in their violence. As the Psalmist sang, "Mercy and Faithfulness have met. Justice and Peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth. And justice look down from heaven".



## 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 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 will 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.**



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR – October:** 28<sup>th</sup> Ss Simon & Jude; 30<sup>th</sup> Blessed Winchester Martyrs. **November:** 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints; 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls; 9<sup>th</sup> Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday; 11<sup>th</sup> St Martin of Tours; 12<sup>th</sup> St Josaphat; 16<sup>th</sup> St Edmund of Abingdon; 18<sup>th</sup> Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul, Rome; 21<sup>st</sup> The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 22<sup>nd</sup> St Cecilia; 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew



**MASS OFFERINGS: £1751.32**  
**SECOND OFFERING THIS WEEKEND: Foreign Missions**

**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.

**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** – Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am during term time in the hall.

**KEEP FIT** – Tuesdays 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

**OFS** – **Saturday 16 November 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 **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, Betty Winn, 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, Jacque Rawstron, Jim and Francis McEvoy, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Brenda Hook, Simon Brennan, Audrey Lam, Pam Savage, Pauline McShane, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker and Vilma Taborda

*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.....



**BRACKNELL NIGHT SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS** - Starting on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> in our church hall and running until the end of March 2020. The initiative is shared by seven local churches and is coordinated by the Pilgrim Hearts Trust. We rely on our wonderful volunteers, every Sunday here, to serve our homeless guests a hot evening meal, watch over them as they sleep and then on Monday morning, to prepare and serve a hearty breakfast. If you would like to volunteer for any of these shifts, email [justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

Pilgrim Hearts are also looking for a paid **NIGHT MANAGER** for two nights each week. Previous experience with homeless and vulnerable adults is required but training will also be given. The rate of pay is £110 per night (from 7:30pm to 7:30 am) and if you are interested in the position, please contact Elaine Chalmers-Brown at Pilgrim Hearts Trust, 01344 307030 or email [pilgrim.hearts@gmail.com](mailto:pilgrim.hearts@gmail.com)



**FRIDAY SOUP & ROLL:** As the weather is turning cold, we would like to serve soup, roll, tea and cake in the hall after 12.10pm Friday Mass during the winter months. Whether this happens once or twice a month or every Friday depends on the number of volunteers coming forward. Can you spare an hour of your time on a Friday to set up in the hall ready to serve (10.45am – 11.45am) OR to serve soup and clear away (12.45pm – 2pm) OR to make soup/bake cakes? Cooking requires a level 2 food hygiene cert which can be completed easily online. For further information please contact the parish office or

email [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or phone 07394 440 938 (Pastoral Care).



Join our joyful singing group as we reach out to the residents in our local care homes with fun singalongs throughout the year! If you're musically minded and play an instrument or if you just love singing, this could be your opportunity to serve our parish and our community, bringing people much needed moments of joy and happiness. Email [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) if you'd like to find out more.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION JOURNEY** – If you were unable to attend one of the preparatory meetings please email [catechesis@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:catechesis@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) Closing date for application forms to be returned is **Sunday 27 October 2019**.

**CAMBERLEY PRAYER GROUP** are holding a workshop on Healing and Prophecy afternoon of **Saturday 26 October** at St. Peter and St. John Church, Camberley. The workshop will be prior to the 5.30 p.m. vigil mass, and a healing service will follow the mass. To register an interest email David Connelly by **28 September**, at [d.a.connelly999@gmail.com](mailto:d.a.connelly999@gmail.com)



**DEMENTIA FORUM** – If you'd like to hear about how Carers are supported in Bracknell Forest, come along to our Dementia Forum and hear from Bracknell Forest Council, Bracknell Memory Clinic and supporting organisations. The forum is open to anyone. A free lunch is provided. Date: **Friday 1 November 2019** 11:30am-2:30pm Easthampstead Baptist Church, Bracknell, RG12 7NS Contact Karen White on 01344 823220 to book your place.(Book early as places are limited!)



### YOUTH GROUPS – DATES FOR THE DIARY

**ABLAZE! (age +13)** – Next meeting – Friday 8 November in the Church Hall, 7pm-9pm

**IGNITE! (age 10-12)** – Next meeting – Friday 15 November in the Church Hall, 7pm-9pm

**New to either of our youth groups?** Want to make some new friends and have some fun! Register on our Parish website and just come along. We look forward to welcoming you!

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING ACROSS THE DIOCESE – OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2019

Child Protection Awareness	Vulnerable Adult Awareness
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b> (10.00am – 12.30pm) St John Bosco, Reading RG5 3BH	<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b> (1.30pm – 4.00pm) St John Bosco, Reading RG5 3BH
<b>To book a place on any of these training sessions, email <a href="mailto:soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk">soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</a> or telephone: 023 92 836511 / 023 92 816396 / 023 92 825430</b>	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> (10.00am – 12.30pm) English Martyrs, Didcot, OX11 7AJ

### SAFEGUARDING TRAINING TAKING PLACE IN OUR PARISH HALL

**Child & Vulnerable Adult Awareness REFRESHER Training** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am-12:30pm

**Child Protection Awareness Training** – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 1pm-4pm

**Vulnerable Adults Awareness Training** – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – 10am-12:30pm

**To book a place on the training here in our parish, please email [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

If you have previously attended full training for child and or vulnerable adult awareness, you only need attend the **REFRESHER** training. If you are new to a parish volunteering role with children, you will need to attend the **Child Protection** training.

# TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

## TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	
		10:30am	Mass	
Monday	21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>		
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am	Mass	
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Mass	Justin Grattan RIP
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12:10pm	Mass with Anointing of the Sick	
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	

## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	Bill Docherty RIP (100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
		10:30am	Mass	Robbie McDonald RIP

**Wednesday & Thursday: 9.10am Morning Prayer**

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

**Saturday: 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)**

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

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