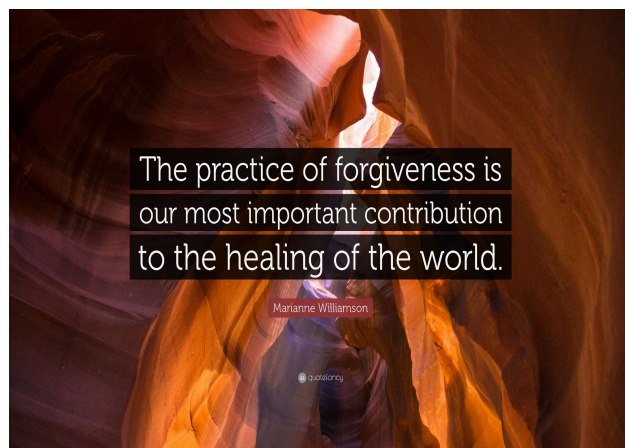


THE YEAR OF MATTHEW
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A
THE GIFT OF MERCY

17 September 2017 - Psalter Week 4 – Missal Page 128

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It might look as if Peter is asking a question about Forgiving. But he is really asking when it is okay to strike back. Rather generously, when most people would stop at two, Peter offers seven chances. Jesus evokes the horror story from Genesis 4,23-24 where Lamech boasts, 'I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Lamech seventy-seven fold'. Without forgiveness there is an escalation of violence. Violence will only stop where forgiveness is present. Jesus wants us to be unremittingly committed to forgiveness.



Today's Parable is stunning. It is the story of a king (God) and a servant (sinner) who is mercifully forgiven. The servant has made a "huge" mistake which, when found out cannot be repaid. This mistake will cost him, and all those he loves, everything. When you're about to lose everything, you will promise anything. He is on his knees and his back is against the wall. He pleads for justice and for time, when suddenly Compassion appears. Mercy comes as a shock and, when it arrives from the future, it changes everything. The servant is suddenly in the first day of the rest of his life. The classic forgiven sinner.

Of course, Jesus wants all of us to see ourselves as this servant. We have sold ourselves into slavery and cannot get out. We say that all we need is more time when the truth is that no time will be enough. We think we can sort ourselves out but our cleverness betrays us. We need the new start and it can only happen by opening our heart to the Heart of God from where mercy flows. He can't believe his luck and he should be filled with joy .....

But then a terrible thing happens. Oh no! The servant still sees himself as a creditor. He pleads for himself but continues to be violent to others. He cannot see, hear or feel himself in his brother, even when he uses the same words! So he throttles him, consigns him to bondage, destroys his family and puts him in a place where he can never make the situation better.

Then a startling thing happens! The King's mercy vanishes. It recedes back into him, leaving the man with all the consequences of his huge mistake. Divine Mercy may be freely given but if it is not passed on it ceases to be effective in the lives of those who have received it. It seems that for Jesus, Divine Forgiveness and human forgiveness are movements in the same dance.

So, when Peter asks Jesus when it is okay to strike back, the answer is clear. We can only live if we have the mercy and forgiveness of God. Never, Never, Never, Ever forget that! The more we show mercy, the more we will receive it. The more we fail to show mercy the more it will recede. Dear Peter, if you understand this, you will never ask again, "How many times?" We are all bound by our past failures until a future is gifted to us. But all is lost the moment we put our hands around the throat of someone who is in debt to us. All is lost, and we are back in a world of revenge, reprisal and retaliation.

If you don't believe this, just watch the news!

## TIMES OF MASSES AND MASS INTENTIONS

### TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Mass Hermoine Bernadette Saloile, RIP

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 8.30am Mass Francis & Bridget Robinson

10.30am Mass Michael Golden, RIP

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> **No Mass**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 9.45am REQUIEM MASS – CAYETANO JURIA SALEN, RIP**

**ST ANDREW KIM TAEGON, Priest; ST PAUL CHONG HASANG & COMPANIONS, Martyrs**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Mass Those suffering the natural disasters of the world

**ST MATTHEW, Apostle, Feast**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 9.30am Mass Those suffering enforced exile from their homes

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 11.00am Exposition

12.10pm Mass Parish Intentions

**ST PIO OF PIETRELCINA, Religious**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am Mass John Collins, RIP

### TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 6.00pm Mass Nigel Clark, RIP

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 8.30am Mass Matt Wallace, RIP

10.30am Mass Gordon Whitehouse, RIP



**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 by 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:** "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph".

**Parish Priest:** Fr Daniel McAvoy

**Parish Secretary:** Elizabeth Fisher **Pastoral Assistant:** Mary McNab

**Safeguarding Representatives:** Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read  
**Safeguarding Telephone No:** 07712048695

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

# 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).



**SEASON OF CREATION** – From **Friday 1 September 2017** until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on **Wednesday 4 October 2017** is a time we are called to focus on the wonders of all God has created, our impact on it and the responsibility to care for it as resource shared by everyone. Don't just appreciate nature, see if you can take action to celebrate the beauty of creation. You could take a photo of nature that inspires joy and post it to Twitter using the hashtag #beautyofcreation or post it to our Facebook page. For more information and ideas go to <http://seasonofcreation.org/>



**FACING DEPRESSION TOGETHER AWARENESS DAY** - An opportunity to learn about depression and how to support those living with depression. The day includes a clinical, a personal and a pastoral perspective of depression, a dramatic perspective to challenge stigma and an introduction to the work of **PeerTalk**, a charity underpinned by the Methodist Church. This free event takes place on **Saturday 14 October 2017**, 10am – 3.30pm, at The Holiday Inn, Egerton Road, Guildford. Lunch is provided. Booking essential. More details contact [admin@peertalk.org.uk](mailto:admin@peertalk.org.uk) [www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/events](http://www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/events)



**WORLD DAY OF THE POOR** - At the end of the Year of Mercy in November last year, Pope Francis in his message *Misericordia et Misera* instituted a 'World Day of the Poor' to be marked on the 33th Sunday in Ordinary Time, which this year is **Sunday 19 November 2017**. The Holy Father urges that parishes and other Christian communities "make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance" with the poor



### ARE YOU A FIRST AIDER AT WORK? –

Would you be willing to join our new teams of First Aiders for each of the weekend Masses, if you wish to volunteer for this important and rewarding ministry at the Mass you attend, **please contact the Parish Office with all your details.**



### ARE YOU A FIRE MARSHALL AT WORK? –

Would you be willing to join our new teams of Fire Marshalls for each of the weekend Masses. If you wish to volunteer for this important and rewarding ministry at the Mass you attend, **please contact the Parish Office with all your details.**



**ALTAR SERVERS** – The definition of "Millionaire" is someone with an abundance.... So a massive **THANK YOU** from the hearts of our community to all our "Millionaires" who have shown an abundance of generosity and love for the sanctity of our Mass. Your very kind donations have helped us purchase the beautiful cassocks and cottas, our Altar Servers will wear them with pride and dignity.

**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 when 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 - SEPTEMBER** – 20<sup>th</sup> Ss Andrew Kim Taegon & St Paul Chong Hasang & Companions; 21<sup>st</sup> St Matthew; 23<sup>rd</sup> St Pio of Pietrelcina; 27<sup>th</sup> St Vincent de Paul; 29<sup>th</sup> Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael; 30<sup>th</sup> St Jerome.

**OCTOBER** – 2<sup>nd</sup> The Holy Guardian Angels; 4<sup>th</sup> St Francis of Assisi; 7<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of the Rosary; 17<sup>th</sup> St Ignatius of Antioch, 18<sup>th</sup> St Luke; 28<sup>th</sup> Ss Simon & Jude;

**GOSPEL CHALLENGE** – Monday 25 September at 75 Qualitas; Monday 9 October at 86 Qualitas. Meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. All are welcome.

**KEEP FIT CLUB** – Every Tuesday 2pm-3pm in the Hall.

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

**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.

**SOUP & ROLL** – Commences **Friday 22 September 2017.**

**YOUTH GROUP** – Closed until further notice.



### MASS OFFERINGS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY:

Total amount £1,661.40. Please make cheques payable to "PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph". Gift Aid envelopes and bankers/standing order forms available in the porch.

**SECOND OFFERINGS FOR SEPTEMBER: 17<sup>TH</sup> Home Mission Sunday; 24<sup>TH</sup> Cathedral.**

We pray for the Sick and Housebound of our Community and for those who care for them.

#### Sick and Housebound:

Brenda Theobald, Olga Maguire, Betty Winn, Peter Dossett, Adrian Sweeney, Johanna Lenz, Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Jadwiga Butcher, Lilijan Rodenburg, Josephine & Maurice Timms, Robert Mulcahy, Robbie McDonald

#### Those who are unwell or in hospital:

Una Gilligan, Freda Edgington, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Fr Vincent Convery, Teresa Bullock, Peggy Pendergast, Evie & Ruby Shallom, Ann Newton, Bridie Maughan, Nicholas Powell, Kathleen Brosnan, Blanche Shap, Emma Flavelle., Mike Garnham, Ethna Sweeney, Mary Carpenter, Mary King, Anna Tighe, Win McDermott

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING.....



**WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY** – Baby Xavier Audrius Fernandes and Baby Skyla Luiza Maria Fernandes who are being baptised on **Sunday 17 September 2017** at 12 noon at St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church. Please pray for Xavier, Skyla and their parents Manuel and Giedre.



**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** – The parish office will be closed from **Monday 25 September 2017** until **Friday 6 October 2017** inclusive.



**TALKS ON SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES** – We had a very positive response to the synopsis of the talks at last weekend's Masses. All Talks are from **7pm to 9pm** in the church hall:

**UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES – Part 1**  
Thursday 21 September

**UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES – Part 2**  
Wednesday 27 September

**UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC ABUSE**  
Thursday 5 October

**UNDERSTANDING TALKING THERAPIES COUNSELLING**  
Thursday 12 October

**ADDICTION : Yendall Manor Treatment Centre**  
Thursday 19 October

**SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS : Shelter**  
Wednesday 25 October

Please attend as many or as few of the talks as you wish, just turn up on the night, especially informative for Nightshelter volunteers.



## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS –

The Life in the Spirit Seminars will be every Tuesday evening from **26 September** until **7 November 2017** 8.00pm to 9.30pm in the church hall.

## PRAISE – TALK – DISCUSSION

**26 September – God's Love**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October – Salvation**

**10<sup>th</sup> October – New Life**

**17<sup>th</sup> October – Receiving the Gift**

**24<sup>th</sup> October – Inviting Him into our Lives**

**31<sup>st</sup> October – Growth**

**7<sup>th</sup> November – Transformation in Christ**

If you wish to attend but need transport, or can offer transport to someone wishing to attend please contact the parish office on 01344 425729 or email [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PASTORAL CARE** – There will be a Prayer and Pastoral Care meeting on **Wednesday 20th September 2017** from 7pm - 8pm. Everyone welcome to come and pray for those in our parish community who are in need of our love and support and to explore ways of reaching out to them.

**SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Saturday 23rd September 2017, Child Protection Training** – 10.00am – 12.30pm; English Martyrs, 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB (Trainer – Jo Hopkins)

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017, Vulnerable Adults Training** – 1.30pm – 4.00pm; English Martyrs, 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB (Trainer – Jo Hopkins)

**Saturday 18th November 2017, Refresher Training** – 10.00am – 12.30pm; The Holy Trinity, Bowenhurst Road, Church Crookham, GU51 3ST (Trainer – Sue Smy)

For reservations please contact Soraya Ciccarone, PA to Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Diocesan Financial Secretary, tel: (Direct Dial) 023 92 836511/023 92 816396/023 92 825430

[soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

CDF



**CATHOLIC DISABILITY FELLOWSHIP**

**(Portsmouth Diocese)** – The annual CDF Mass a happy and holy occasion - with a tea-party to follow! Although primarily for people with disabilities, their families and friends, all are welcome to attend. This year's Mass will take place on **Saturday, 23 September** at **2.30 pm** at the **Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle Church**, 356 London Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7SR.



**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** - The Chaplet will be on **Sunday 24 September 2017** at St Francis of Assisi, Ascot 2.30pm. The October Chaplet will be on **Sunday 15 October** at St Joseph & St Margaret Clitherow Church at 2.30pm. All welcome.

Denise Naughten is aiming to raise £1000 for a 7 year old boy who has Muscular Dystrophy. This money will provide extra hydrotherapy and physio. If you would like to make a donation, please go to her JustGiving Page:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/denise-naughten?utm\\_id=2&utm\\_term=9K22g6xrG](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/denise-naughten?utm_id=2&utm_term=9K22g6xrG)

Our schools would be very grateful of any Sainsburys vouchers towards sporting equipment.



An Alzheimer's Society initiative

**Dementia Friends Champions** are trained volunteers encouraging others to learn about dementia. Champions run community Information Sessions and inspire others to help dementia sufferers live well. If you are interested in becoming a Dementia Friends Champion an Induction Day on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017** from 10:00 – 16:00 in Reading at Conference Hall, RISC

35-39 London Street, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 4PS. Booking a space is easily done online at [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)



just one world

**CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY - FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER** - This Harvest fast day we are standing with Eldemira, a farmer in El Salvador as she works to provide for her family. With your help CAFOD has given her fruit trees, training and strong seeds. Please help us to give this support by giving whatever you can to other farmers, Fast Day envelopes will be available in the next few weeks. Many thanks.