

THE YEAR OF SAINT MATTHEW  
On Earth as it is in Heaven  
**OPENING TO HOLINESS**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Sunday 11 December 2022**

From his prison cell, John sends a messenger to ask Jesus if He is the One who is to come, or must John wait for another. It's an important question for John as he is about to, not just die, but to be executed. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus doesn't answer the question but points to His works. All who are longing must look at these works and answer the question for themselves. It is more important to grasp the meaning of the works of Jesus than to adorn Him with a title. Titles, as the Gospels make clear, are open to misunderstanding, works are not.

These works of Jesus are works of restoration. Something that was missing was found. Something that was wounded is healed. Sight, mobility, hearing, life and dignity are returned to those who did not have them. Jesus is undoing the effects of Adams fall. He is restoring people's relationship with God. John must see that this is the way that God answers the deepest desires of the heart. And he does.

Now that John is sorted, Jesus turns his attention to the crowd and asks a three-tiered question about John. This is a time-tested strategy of a spiritual master, to help us be clear about why we went into the desert in the first place. Our longing is to hear once again the clear voice of a Prophet. Our desire is to see a man of God who cannot be bullied or pushed around, who confronts the abuses of those who worship their own power. John calls for repentance and the promise that follows rings the heart like a bell.

John points to Jesus. And if we carefully ponder the works of Jesus, we will see that He is the answer to the deepest desire of our hearts. John clears the path but it is Jesus who walks it. As He does, He says, 'Come, Follow Me.' As we follow Him on the pathway to holiness, our sight is restored.

Asher Lev once said that the seeing of God is not like the seeing of people. People see only between the blink of an eye. We do not know what the world is like when we blink. We see our world in fragments. But the master of the universe, sees the world whole and unbroken. That world is good. Our seeing is broken. Can we make ours like the seeing of God? Is it possible?

When Jesus answers John's question by pointing to the blind seeing, He is moving us beyond fragments and pieces. Giving us the ability to see without blinking. Thus, He opens our hearts to the possibility of holiness for this is what the heart longs for. And when we ask the question John put to Jesus, we realise that The One Who Is To Come, has arrived.





## WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

**Freda Crookall RIP** whose funeral will take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at 11am at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

**Peter Hale RIP** whose funeral will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 12pm at Easthampstead Park Crematorium.

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD & CHRISTMAS OCTAVE MASSES 2022

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

Family Mass – 5pm

Vigil Mass – 8pm (Carols from 7:30pm)

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

Masses at 8:30am and 10:30am

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December – St. Stephen 12pm**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December – St. John 12pm**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Innocents 12pm**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December – St. Thomas a Becket 12pm**

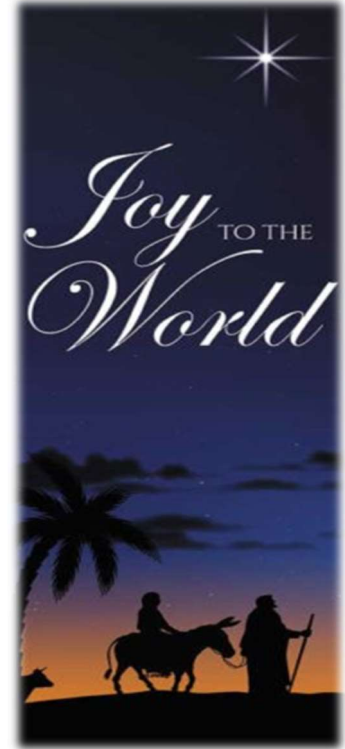
**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Family 12pm**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December 10am**

**Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December Vigil Mass 6pm**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 8:30am and 10:30am**



### Bracknell Forest Cost of Living Support

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/cost-living-support>



Follow the link for more Information about local Community Winter Hubs, help with energy costs, help with food costs, help for families, help with employment, help with housing, Mental Health Support plus information about the government's help for households/cost of living payment.

**REMEMBER: THERE ARE WEEKLY ADVENT REFLECTIONS ON OUR PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE** Follow us @sjsmcbracknell



**“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart?  
Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with  
God's own love and concern.” *Saint Mother Teresa***



## ADVENT APPEAL 'GIVE A GIFT'

There is still time to donate a Christmas gift to those who are most in need especially the Berkshire Women's Aid Refuges, Bracknell LIFE House, local Care Homes, and many needy families in the local community as well as those in our community who are housebound. Please choose from any or all of the following options:

**a) Give a gift for a mother or child** at the Berkshire Women's Aid Refuge or Bracknell LIFE House. If you would like to do this, then please contact the Pastoral Care team for details of children's ages, either by email: [pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org) or by phone: 07394 440 938.

**b) Give a gift of sweet treats** e.g., for adults - boxed sweet biscuits or confectionery; for children - boxes or stockings of confectionery.

**c) Give a gift of toiletry treats** e.g., boxed gift sets for women, men, or children

**IMPORTANT:** We can only accept the gift items specified above and these must be new, unused and, if edible, unopened and well within their sell by dates.

**We will be collecting your gifts again this weekend at the Saturday evening 6pm Vigil Mass on 10th December and before the 8.30am and 10.30am masses on Sunday 11th December.**

We will be wrapping gifts in the church hall on:

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 9:30am**

(Please bring your own pair of scissors)

**IF YOU HAVE TIME TO HELP WITH WRAPPING**

**PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

**[pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)**

**07394 440 938**

**OR JUST COME AND JOIN US ON THE DAY,  
WE WOULD LOVE TO WELCOME YOU!**



### **WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO ARE SICK, HOUSEBOUND OR IN HOSPITAL AND FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM**

Ena Stanton, Inge Walker, Eddie Moore, Anne Hardy, Patricia Holmwood, Blanche Shap, Ethna Sweeney, Mary King, Mary Phelan, Tony Andrews, Shaun Howard, Sally Torode, Dorcas Innes-Grant, Veronika Jastrzebski, Jerry Tobin, Rico Morales, Reynalita Leysan, Mary Murray, Thelma Briggs, Margaret Pearce, Audrey Lam, Marie Swash, Terri Landmann, Jennie Tucker, Vilma Taborda, Zac Hoy, Brenda Lynch, Amanda Killestein, Doreen Pryor, Sharon Bryan, Chantal Addley, Terry and Peggy McCullough, John Moir, Beryl Pilgrim, Charles Hose, Douglas & Bernadette Hunt, Phyllis Whitehouse, Clarita Kokou-Tchri, Margaret Finnieston, Louis Burgisser, Prim & Ian Maynard, Vivienne Halfpenny, Ann O'Sullivan, Lucia Saligo, Leonie Macintosh, Maureen Baxter, Catherine White, Ann D'Ambrosio, Edmund Carroll, Claire Hose, Arthur Hardy, Bernard O'Neill.

*To add or remove a name to this list with consent, please contact the Parish Office.*

If you or your relative is housebound, or because of illness cannot come to Mass and wish to receive Holy Communion at home, call the parish office 01344 425729 or email [stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Daniel McAvoy

**Deacon:** Rev. Aidan Lynch

**Pastoral Assistant:** Mary McNab

**Safeguarding:** Marion McGuire, Sarah Birch, Paula Read

07712 048695 [safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:safeguarding@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**Parish Office, St. Joseph's Church, 39 Braccan Walk, Bracknell, RG12 1HA**

**Usual Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday 9:30am-2:30pm

**Telephone:** 01344 425729

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

**Website:** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org>

### MASS TIMES

<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('Gaudete')</b>			
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Jose Coelho RIP</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Sarah Davis RIP</i>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	NO MASS – OFFICE CLOSED		
<b>ST. LUCY, Virgin, Martyr, memorial</b>			
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, Religious, Doctor of the Church, memorial</b>			
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	<i>D. Wilcox</i>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Mass at St. Margaret Clitherow School</b>	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	12pm	Mass	<i>Lucian Ciocotisan</i>
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Mass	
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Mass	<i>Roma Bembridge RIP</i>
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	Mass	<i>Parish Intentions</i>
	10:30am	Mass	<i>Doreen Pryor (100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY)</i>

**ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED** <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/watch-live>

New to our parish or not yet registered? <https://www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org/parish-registration>



**07394 440 938**

[pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

Are you lonely? Are you shielding? Are you ill and in need of prayer and/or support? Perhaps you haven't had contact with the Catholic Church for a while. Whatever the reason, please get in touch for a chat.



**07947 182 761**

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

Are you in the land of loss & would appreciate a chat with someone in our group? If so, do not hesitate to get in touch.



Call **IN CONFIDENCE**  
**07731 862 349**

If you need help, particularly, as a result of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the local Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) may be able to provide some assistance.

**DONATIONS TO PARISH FUNDS** Online, Bank Transfer, Direct Debit, Standing Order <https://bracknellcatholicchurch.org/planned-giving>

**BANK DETAILS:** Account Name: PRCDTR Bracknell St Joseph

Sort Code: 30-93-04; Account Number: 00875520; Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc, Palmerstone Road, Southsea

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: PRCDTR BRACKNELL ST JOSEPH**

**South Berkshire Pastoral Area, Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocese, Registered Charity No. 246871**