

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY Ordinary Time Year C 9th/10th November 2013

Weekday Masses Tues.– Fri. 9.30am, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tues.- Fri. 8.30am – 9.25am and Morning prayer at 9.10am.

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG. Tel: 01202 485588

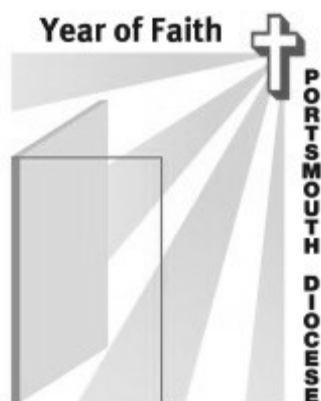
Parish Priest: Father Vitalis Vaakwagh Kondo, MSP e-mail: vitakond@yahoo.com

Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Local Catholic Youth Worker: Will Hince 07810827606 whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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Week beginning 9th November :		Mass Intention
Saturday 9th Nov. 6.00pm	First Mass Thirty-second Sunday Ord. Time	Keith Hadden, RIP
Sunday 10th Nov. 9.30am	THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY Ord. Time. <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	People of the Parish (Missa pro populo)
Monday 11th Nov.	—	—
Tuesday 12th Nov. 9.30am	Saint Josaphat, memorial	Brian Frith (Foundation Mass)
Wed. 13th Nov. 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Feria Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Epifany and Martina Lobo, RIP
Thurs. 14th Nov. 9.30am	Feria	Gerry King, RIP
Friday 15th Nov. 9.30am	Feria	November Dead List
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation		
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time		



YEAR OF FAITH

11th October 2012 - 24th November 2013

To celebrate the Year of Faith, there will be a gathering for all the parishes in our Pastoral Area on **24th November**, the concluding day of the Year of Faith, at **3.00 p.m.**

There will be a liturgical celebration in the church, here at St Thomas More's, and, afterwards, a social in the church hall - this will involve a 'Bring and Share' buffet. Volunteers to help with setting up and tidying away will be needed!



THANK YOU

for your weekly

offerings;

2nd / 3rd Nov.

Envelopes :

£ 152.10

Cash : £ 110.58

Standing Orders :

£ 148.38

Total : £ 411.06

In this November season of the dead, we celebrate the God, not of the dead but of the living, in whom all are alive. We are members of the Communion of Saints, linked with those who have gone before us.

Thoughts for the Thirty-second Sunday Ord. Time Year C

Knowing where we are going

We would regard as highly foolish the one who would set out on a journey and never consider where he was going. Yet the pilgrim way we are all following through life is largely a journey into the unknown. For it is a journey of faith, and of hope in God. However, a hope which is already visible is not hope any longer; for how can one hope for what one already sees. But if we hope for what we do not see, then in patience we eagerly wait for it (Rom 8:24f). When we think about it, much of our ideas about heaven and hell stems from a section of Jewish writings, referred to as Apocalyptic literature, which does not form part of the Hebrew canon of scripture, and also from writings and paintings of the Middle Ages, for example Dante's *Inferno* and Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. The Bible tells us that heaven is the vision of God, face to face, and that hell is eternal separation from God; and, apart from that, nothing further is revealed to us. In fact, among the rabbi heaven was another name for God. During this month of the Holy Souls, it is good to recall the sober teaching of the Church about the condition of those who have gone before us, and the kind of assistance we can render to them.

As well as emphasising the existence of Purgatory, the official teaching of the Church simply says: firstly, that for all those who die, while being truly sorrowful for the sins they committed on earth, but without having made full satisfaction for these sins by acts of penance, there is a purification available in the next life; secondly, the Church says that such souls can be helped by the prayers of the faithful who are still on earth; thirdly, the Church tells us that such help is especially available through the holy sacrifice of the Mass. And that in full, is what the Church teaches. There is nothing whatsoever said about the nature of this purification, or about its duration. It is purely popular imagination which has come to regard Purgatory as a kind of hell with a lower temperature, or with the back-door open, so that escape is ultimately possible. There is never a word about fire or any specific torments. Practically speaking, most of our talk about future existence is simply guesswork. The Cure of Ars, St John Mary Vianney, a great mystic, whose days, and even more so nights, were a continuous encounter with the

divine, was once asked about the future and the hereafter. In reply he simply said, "I know nothing of to-morrow, except that the love of God will rise before the sun."

Our lack of information about what awaits us beyond the grave should not give rise to undue alarm in our hearts, and we have Christ's word for that in the promise he made to the Apostles at the Last Supper. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so I would have told you. Now I am going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared a place for you, I will return again and take you with me, so that where I am you also may be" (Jn 14:1-3). Reflection on these words, however, should not make us complacent. For we are being continually challenged to make a choice between the call of God coming to us in the person and message of Christ himself on the one hand, and our own selfish cravings on the other. The only thing we must fear is our failure to rise above this self-seeking, because if we shut out God from our lives, we can become no better than Judas Iscariot who, as Jesus himself said, "chose to be lost. Sin does indeed bring punishment, but such punishment is self-inflicted, brought about by one's inability to love, or respond to the love which comes from God, and from others. Sinners become locked within themselves, and, cut adrift from God and the believing community, their hearts experience a sense of profound unrest and loneliness.

To repent, to turn again to God is a gradual process, even having recourse to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If death intervenes, the healing process of what we call Purgatory enables one to be rid of the last traces of selfishness, and so be ready to abide for ever in the vision of God face to face. To have all one's shortcomings laid bare by being confronted with the perfection which is the glorified person of Christ can be an experience of intense anguish for the departed soul. But remember that Christ also will be there to plead for that soul. And by our prayers, almsgiving, pious works, and in particular the Mass, we too can give comfort and support to all such Holy Souls.

CATHOLIC BIBLE TOUR: 'A Prodigal Returns to the Catholic Church'

7pm, Thursday 14th November at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth.

You're invited to be part of a life-changing Catholic Bible tour that will rekindle your love for the faith. Catholic speaker, author, and theologian Jeff Cavins will be visiting from the United States and embarking on a six city Bible and Evangelisation Tour delivering four of his most powerful and popular talks for the first time in England. On Thursday 14 November, he will be speaking in Portsmouth Cathedral. This event is open to anyone and is free. To find out more and register online, go to: www.catholicbibletour.com. Jeff's talk will touch on key aspects of our beautiful and rich Catholic faith leaving you with a greater understanding of the Scriptures and a deeper relationship with Christ.

The Parish are invited to
Deacon Darryl Jordan's Ordination to the Priesthood
at Portsmouth Cathedral on Sunday 8th December at 3.00pm.
*If you would like to travel on the coach being hired by the Bournemouth Ordinariate Mission,
please contact them. Families welcome : Adults £17 maximum, children free.*

A note for your diaries!

Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party

Please make a note in your diaries that the Annual Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 14th December, 12.00 for 12.30pm.

If anyone is able to help with organisation, in the kitchen or with transport, please contact the parish office.

HALL BOOKINGS

We are fortunate to have our church hall, and it is used for different functions and by different people. Most of the time the hall is used by our regular hirers - the pre-school and the various activity groups, the floral club and so on. Some of the time the hall is used for parish and Pastoral Area events - our recent harvest supper and forthcoming end of Year of Faith celebration for example. In addition, some of the time the hall is let out for birthday parties etc, which provides a welcome boost to our parish funds.

Catherine has faithfully (and well!) undertaken the duties of being the contact person for these occasional hall bookings, but now has to stand down. Is there anyone who could volunteer to take over?

If so, please contact Fr Vitalis or the parish office. Many thanks.

SUMMARY OF AREA PASTORAL COUNCIL [APC] MEETING 2nd November

The Council discussed the work of the Youth Coordinator and the possibilities for the future. Fr. Vitalis had spent the day before at the Swell Retreat and noted the vibrant atmosphere. A brief update of the 2012-13 priorities was given with special mention of the two wonderful talks given by Dr. Bridie Stringer on Vatican II; feedback received had been overwhelmingly positive. All agreed that Bridie be asked to give our PA more talks (possibly on 'Lumen Gentium'). Discussion then centred on the priorities for 2013-14 and the training of laity in order to facilitate Liturgical Celebrations in the sudden absence of a priest. The Steering Group will work on these during the break between then and the next meeting in February 2014. The next issue of 'The Link' should be available at the end of November.

Confirmation The first meeting for Confirmation Candidates will take place on Tuesday 7th January 2014, 7.30 pm at St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Christchurch.
The Sacrament of Confirmation for candidates of the Avon Stour Pastoral Area will be celebrated at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth on Saturday 3rd May 2014 at 3pm.

Are you involved in Parish Catechesis? The Department for New Evangelisation Formation for Mission invites you to an information evening to meet the Formation for Mission team and to discuss resources and upcoming events. There are several dates and venues (see poster on notice board) but the nearest is at St Dominic's Priory, Lymington, **this Tuesday, 12th November**, 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 13th, 20th November... 6-7pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6AN) "The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life... For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself" CCC1324 All young people are invited to join us for this time of quiet prayer & adoration. **Free rosary!**

Without God, our week would be:

***Mournday
Tearsday
Wasteday
Thirstday
Fightday
Shatterday.***

***7 days without
God
makes one weak!***

***If anyone has any items for inclusion in the newsletter please leave a note
in the black post box by the office door or e-mail the parish office.***

TIMES OF WEEKEND MASSES

in other Parishes in the AVON STOUR PASTORAL AREA



The Immaculate Conception and St Joseph's, Purewell, Christchurch	01202 483340	Saturday 6.30pm Sunday 9.00am, 10.45am
Holy Redeemer Kilminster Way, Highcliffe	01425 274838	Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am
The Sacred Heart and St Therese of Lisieux, Ringwood	01425 653131	Sunday 11.00am
Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi, Fordingbridge	01425 653131	Saturday 6.00pm Sunday 9.00am
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Southbourne	01202 424960	Sunday 8.00am, 11.00am 6.00 pm
Hospital Visit, Urgent requests (usually for poorly patients who have not been visited in the last 48 hours) please call the chaplain or his substitute directly , using, in order , the following numbers: Fr John: Lee 01202 483340 Emergency Mobile: 07850 365897 If these fail, ring St Thomas More's 01202 485588 or the Annunciation Church 01202 513369		

ST PETER'S SCHOOL production of MISS SAIGON: 28th, 29th & 30th Nov., 7.30pm. (Sat matinee 2.30pm)
Tickets £8 (£6 concs) Call 01202 421141.

ST THOMAS GARNET'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE Fri. 29th Nov., 3.15pm, St. Thomas Garnet's School, Parkwood Rd, Boscombe. Different stalls including Santa's Grotto and a raffle with great prizes to be won. Everyone is welcome!

HEAVEN'S ROAD FM CATHOLIC RADIO: Heaven's Road fm Catholic Radio [by the team that brought you Heart Gives Unto Heart radio] has just announced exciting plans for expansion – why not tune in and enjoy the station which is devoted to broadcasting masses, features, prayers, interviews and music to appeal to a Catholic audience. Tune into www.heavensroadfm.com. To learn more email germy@heavensroadfm.com or call 0795 021 8322. The radio is run on a shoestring by unpaid volunteers, so any donation, however small, would be very welcome.

CATENIAN BURSARY FUND: Are you volunteering for a community-based project at home or abroad? If you are a Catholic and aged between 16 and 24, you may be eligible for an award from the Bursary Fund. The fund is used to provide grants to young Catholics to help them with the costs incurred in volunteering to work on community-based projects at home and abroad. Each project must have a clear benefit for others as well as widening the life experience of the volunteer. To find out more visit the Catenian website at <http://www.thecatenians.com> and click on Bursary Fund.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE: 17th November, 11am, Our Lady Immaculate, Seamoore Road, Westbourne BH4 9AE To remember and hold in prayer all deceased CAFOD supporters from our diocese.

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH: A date for your diary! A candlelit Advent Taizé Service will take place on **Mon. 23rd Dec.** at 7.30pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace church, Southbourne, with refreshments served afterwards in the church hall (mulled wine and mince pies). Everyone is welcome.

CHURCHES SEEK ORGANISTS: The Catholic churches in Fordingbridge & Ringwood are in need of help with the music. If anyone can play organ, piano, keyboard or even guitar, and has some experience with church music and hymn accompaniment, the parish priest, Fr Anthony Pennicott, would love to hear from you.

CABRINI: Join Cabrini's Brighton Marathon Team - This year we have 12 gold bond places on offer for Brighton Marathon taking place on 6 April 2014. For a limited time only there is no registration fee. Fundraising target £500. As a member of the Cabrini team you'll receive great support to prepare you for race day.

VACANCY: CLERK TO THE GOVERNING BODY REQUIRED FROM DECEMBER 2013. St George's Catholic VA College, Southampton. Grade 5 (Range £14,700 - £19,000) pro-rata. Part-time, term time only. Closing date: 15th Nov. Interview date: late November 2013. Contact: St George Catholic VA College, Leaside Way, Southampton, SO16 3DQ, Tel 02380322603, Fax 02380670111 email: head@stgcc.co.uk

MANY THANKS: to everyone who supported the Afternoon Teas and Mini Fair event on Sat. 26th Oct. at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Hall. £377.10 was raised to support the Ordinariate's fund for sick and retired priests.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: If you're stuck for ideas this Christmas or want to try and give your friends, colleagues and loved ones something really meaningful, why not consider buying a CAFOD World Gift? Catalogues available on the 'free table'.