

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY Ordinary Time Year C 5th/6th October 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.

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

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Week beginning 5th October :		Mass Intention
Sat. 5th Oct. 6.00pm	First Mass Twenty - Seventh Sunday Ord. Time	Margaret Robinson, RIP
Sunday 6th Oct. 9.30am	TWENTY – SEVENTH SUNDAY Ord. Time	People of the Parish (Missa pro populo)
Monday 7th Oct.	–	–
Tuesday 8th Oct. 9.30am	Feria	Asia Maria McCann
Wed. 9th Oct. 9.15am 10.00am - 12.00	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Gerry King, RIP
Thurs. 10th Oct. 9.30am	Feria	Margaret Robinson, RIP
Friday 11th Oct. 9.30am	Feria	Gerry King, RIP
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time		

CAFOD Collection (*Harvest Day envelopes*)
this weekend. Thank you.

THANK YOU	for your weekly offerings;	28th / 29th Sept.
Envelopes :	£ 173.70	Cash : £ 105.36
Standing Orders :	£ 148.38	<u>Total : £ 427.44</u>
CAFOD (September)	£ 16.70	<i>Thank you!</i>

*If anyone has any items for inclusion in the newsletter, please
leave a note in the black post box by the office door*

Twenty - Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time Year C

Luke 17: 5 - 10

Motive, at Prayer

"Lord increase our faith," the apostles requested of Jesus in that gospel reading. Elsewhere they asked, "Lord teach us how to pray" (Lk 11:1). And really these two requests were the same. For to pray is simply to think of God, and at the same time to love him, to trust him, to have faith in him. Every prayer then is an act of faith in God, and conversely every time our thoughts turn to God in faith, we are praying to him. Indeed, we can say that it is no more possible to have faith without prayer than it would be to swim without water. But we must always try to have proper motives when we pray to God. For it is possible because of worry, or fear, or undue concern about the success of our day to day undertakings, that we offer up intense prayers, but with an intensity due to our purely human concerns rather than to any thought of God.

We are often trying to win God over to our way of thinking, to have him on our side, in a scheme of things we have mapped out for ourselves. Or again we sometimes look on prayer as a kind of magical last resort, which is always worth a try. There is a story of a clergyman walking along a street with a friend who was a man of considerable scholarship. When they came to a ladder leaning over the sidewalk and against a wall which was being decorated, the friend refused to pass under it. "Surely you don't believe in that superstition, said the clergyman. "No, I don't exactly believe in it," was the reply he got, "but I never throw away a chance of avoiding an accident." Well, that describes the way some of us approach prayer. We don't exactly believe in it, but we never ignore the possibility that it may work. Sometimes it becomes a last forlorn hope. On the contrary, however, our constant plea should be, "Lord, increase our faith. Lord, teach us how to pray."

"When you pray for something," St James reminds us, "and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly. You have prayed for something purely to satisfy your own desires" (Jas 4:3). In order to avoid such pitfalls we all need guidance, in particular the guidance of God's Holy Spirit. Prayer according to St Augustine is not a matter of informing God of our

thoughts and desires. Prayer is not an instruction of God, but rather the construction of a new heart within us. For true prayer has what may be called a natural effect. It elevates and spiritualises the soul. Gradually, and almost imperceptibly, the person who prays acquires a new outlook, a different set of values, a clearer understanding of what lies behind and beyond the topsy-turvy of our everyday existence. For as speech is the necessary means for entering into fellowship with other human beings, so prayer is the instrument of communing with God.

There is no greater proof of this than the example of Jesus himself. Never before did a human being pray as he did. Even in the middle of a public discourse he would turn to God and address him as Father. Early in the morning he would steal away and go out by himself onto the hillside, his favourite location for uninterrupted prayer. Apparently it was a regular custom of his also, while in Jerusalem, to pray during the night in the Garden of Gethsemane, and that his visit there on the night of his arrest was not his first one. On that particular occasion, as recorded in the gospels, we are told that "being in anguish he prayed the longer." We can learn much as well from his prayer that night. "Father, if it is your will, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, let your will, not mine be done" (Lk 22:42f). Note that the first part of that prayer was not granted, in other words God did not take away the cup, that is the suffering of a most cruel death which lay ahead. But by being open to the will of God, something even greater was to follow for Jesus, namely, his glorious resurrection. "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain" (Jn 12:24).

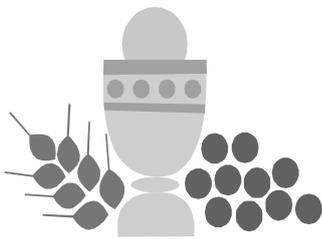
The letter to the Hebrews sums it all up this way (5:7-10): "During his life on earth, he offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to raise him from the dead, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard." And God grant that our prayers, throughout our lives, may be heard also, and that being raised from the dead through the merits of Jesus' prayers we may be united with him for ever in heaven.

www.biblical.ie/lections



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2014

Please note that 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 3.00 p.m.**
More information later.



**Would you like your child to make their
First Holy Communion in 2014?**

If so, please contact Kathy Ede 01202 434494,
kathy.ede@ntlworld.com and pass on your details.

WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH OFFICE? Our parish does not have a secretary or administrator, but we do have volunteers (the regulars are Louise, Julia, Linda and Steve) who make sure the monies apart from the weekend collections are banked, the Gift-Aid records are kept up to date, the accounts are done, the filing is done, supplies are ordered, the bills are paid, the newsletter is printed, etc etc - all under the watchful eye of Father Vitalis! The best time to contact someone in the office is a Tuesday morning or a Friday. Otherwise, just phone or leave a message in the black post box in the sacristy by the office door. If anyone could commit to regular weekly help, that would be much appreciated - please contact Steve Ferris, F&F chair (01202 426648), or Neil Dawson, PPC chair (07791227160)

HARVEST SUPPER : SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

This will be in the church hall at 7pm, after the Saturday Vigil Mass. There is a food list on the 'free table' for you to select your choice of food and ***tickets (£4) are now on sale after the weekend masses.***



Auction: As in previous years, there will be an auction of donated Harvest produce during the evening with proceeds going to charity (- half to our church and half to CAFOD). Could parishioners please bring their donations of fruit, vegetables, groceries etc and leave in the church on the Saturday (there will be baskets placed on the altar where the produce can be left). Thanks!

AVON STOUR PASTORAL AREA

'Open doors and open windows – Vatican II and the Year of Faith'

Two talks by Dr Bridie Stringer, as follows:

Tuesday 22 October, 7.30 pm, at Sacred Heart Church, Ringwood: *'Church of Christ, what do you say of yourself?'*

Tuesday 29th October, 7.30 pm at St Joseph's Centre, Christchurch: *'We are the Church.'*

The talks will explore some of the key teaching documents from the Second Vatican Council and their implications for us today. The sessions will be interactive. Refreshments will be available. [Dr Stringer is an active catechist in her own parish in our diocese and a visiting lecturer in Pastoral Theology at St Mary's University College, Twickenham.]

If you wish to attend one or both talks, please inform St Joseph's parish office by telephone/e-mail: 01202 483340

AREA YOUTH MASS!

This Sunday, 6th October 5-8pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth. BH7 6AN)

This Mass is especially for all the young people of our area and will be followed by a movie, tuck shop and free popcorn & coke! Check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK Service. Saturday, 12th October, 2 p.m. at Corpus Christi Church, Boscombe. ***All welcome.***

Bournemouth and Poole Marriage Care are actively seeking a new person to chair the organisation. This is a really important service to the Catholic community providing marriage preparation courses and couple counselling. It is the local branch of a national organisation, www.marriagecare.org.uk. For further information telephone John Rynne 01202 885760

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 Kilmington 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 THOMAS GARNETS SCHOOL'S HARVEST MASS: The school would like to warmly invite members of our local parishes of both Pastoral Areas, to their Harvest Mass on **Wednesday 16th October at 2.00pm** in Corpus Christi church. *Sarah Breeze, Headmistress*

JOURNEY! Thursday 17th October. 7-9pm at Our Lady Immaculate (Beside 31 Seamoor Rd, Westbourne, Bournemouth. BH4 9AE) This monthly youth group for 16-30 year olds is open to all.

YOUTH HOLY HOUR! 9th 16th 23rd 30th October... 6-7pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AN) We hope you can come and join us for this time of Eucharistic Adoration with reflections and Taize music for all young people.

SWELL@BOURNEMOUTH : 1st-3rd Nov. at St Peter's School (St Catherine's Road, Southbourne, BH6 4AH) Come and join us for the first ever Youth 2000 retreat in Bournemouth! Join with other young Catholics (16-30) from around the UK to celebrate our faith! Live worship, powerful services, engaging talks, creative workshops, in-depth discussion groups, friendship. Contact Will Hince 07810827606 & Youth 2000 National Office 02072212124 www.youth2000.org

CORPUS CHRISTI (FORMERLY HOLY CROSS) PRIMARY SCHOOL'S 125th ANNIVERSARY: The school will be proudly celebrating this anniversary in 2014. Did you attend, teach, work, support or govern at the school? Do you have any memories of our school? Can you help us update the school's History, or perhaps fill in some of the gaps? **If you can help in any way, or just share your memories & experiences** please contact us either by regular mail addressed to '125th Celebration Corpus Christi School' or by email: 125yearscorpuschristischool@mail.com or Via Facebook (Corpus Christi Primary, Bournemouth). Our website: www.corpuschrstiprimary.co.uk

MEET THE COPTS: The Coptic Orthodox Church is an ancient part of the Christian family and is the majority Church in Egypt. The local Coptic community bought a former Evangelical chapel in Winton and transformed it into a beautiful Orthodox church. Their priest, Fr Botros, has kindly invited the people from the local Catholic parishes to visit his church at **2.30pm on Saturday 5th October**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see the church, have the icons and symbols explained and also to learn about the history, spirituality and present situation of the Coptic Orthodox people in Egypt. It will be a chance to express solidarity with our Coptic brothers and sisters in their present sufferings. St Peter & St Paul Coptic Orthodox Church is in Calvin Road, Winton (BH9 1LN) (parking behind Wilkinsons/Iceland.) Everyone welcome.

CAFOD NEEDS YOU: CAFOD Portsmouth is urgently looking for volunteers to help them visit secondary schools in Bournemouth. They believe it is vital to reach as many young people as possible to talk to them about global issues and to empower them to make a difference in today's world. Full training is given and the degree of time required is up to the volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Lynda Mussell on 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk