

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY Ordinary Time Year C 12th/13th 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.

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

Hall booking: Catherine Boardman. Tel: 01202 511504 e-mail: catherine_a_boardman@hotmail.com

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

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Week beginning 12th October :		Mass Intention
Sat. 12th Oct. 6.00pm	First Mass Twenty - Eighth Sunday Ord. Time	
Sunday 13th Oct. 9.30am 4.00pm	TWENTY – EIGHTH SUNDAY Ord. Time Rosary and Benediction	People of the Parish (Missa pro populo)
Monday 14th Oct.	–	–
Tuesday 15th Oct. 9.30am	St Teresa of Avila, <i>memorial</i>	
Wed. 16th Oct. 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Feria Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thurs. 17th Oct. 9.30am	St Ignatius of Antioch, <i>memorial</i>	
Friday 18th Oct. 9.30am	ST LUKE, <i>feast</i>	
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time		



MARIAN DEVOTIONS DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:

Rosary before the weekday Masses

Rosary and Benediction 4pm Sunday

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

Twenty - Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time Year C

Luke 17: 11 - 19

Going To Mass

I imagine most priests have had the experience. They call to a friend's house on a social visit and out of the blue they are asked to perform a delicate pastoral mission on some member of the family. It has happened to me. "Would you ever have a word with Eileen?" her mother whispered to me, taking me aside by the arm. "What's wrong with Eileen?" "She doesn't go to Mass any more." Eileen was going on nineteen. I had baptised her, like her brothers and sister. They were almost family to me. I was fond of her and, as far as I knew, the feeling was reciprocated. Which was why I didn't feel at all keen on playing the priest with her. Besides, why should I succeed in five minutes where her parents had failed after nineteen years? However, I had no option but to try. A year or two earlier, Eileen had been in the guitar-group at the folk-Mass and couldn't wait for Sundays to come round. Now she had out-grown that. "What's this about Mass?" I said, when I got her alone for a few moments, trying desperately to sound casual. "I don't get anything out of it anymore." she said.

For hundreds of years, people have been going to Mass on Sundays and it never once occurred to them that they might "get something out of it." They went because they were expected to or because it was a mortal sin not to go. Whatever their reasons, they went and it was not always easy for them. For centuries in this country they were persecuted for going. There were no churches. Masses were said in secret, in secluded spots, in the open-air with look-outs posted, in all sorts of weather, mostly bad. And those who travelled long distances on foot to attend such Masses ran the risk of fines or imprisonment or worse. At the least, a good drenching. That is what our ancestors could expect "to get Out of it." And for good measure, the Mass was mumbled in Latin by a priest you couldn't hear and would be lucky to get a sight of his back. I didn't tell Eileen

that. Or that the Mass is a thanksgiving - service. The word "eucharist" derives from the Greek verb "to give thanks." It got its name from the gospel description of the Last Supper, where Jesus took bread into his hands and "giving thanks" he blessed and broke and gave to his disciples. We go to Mass for no other reason than to thank God for all he has given us. We all complain - about the shortage of jobs, the rate of taxation, the high mortgage repayments, the crime rate or even the price of the pint. We are like the beggar with no shoes who never stopped complaining until he met another beggar with no feet.

In this media age, it cannot have escaped even those who feel most deprived, that two-thirds of the world's population go to bed hungry every night.

We have an awful lot to be thankful for.

I didn't tell her either about the ten lepers that Christ cured. And that only one came back to thank him. Plus ça change! The average percentage of those who attend Sunday Mass in what used to be called the "Christian West" remains much the same. Not much more than one out of ten come back regularly to say thanks. I didn't say any of these things to Eileen because it wasn't the time or the place. Like most priests, I realised that preaching to young adults can be counter-productive. The party line cuts no ice with them.

Instead, I talked about myself. "You know, Eileen," I said, "that for the last twenty years I say Mass at 7 o'clock every morning in a convent for a few elderly nuns. What do you think I get out of it?" "Then, why do you keep doing it?" she asked. "Because, like you, I believe in God and I think I should let him know."

"I never thought of it like that." she said.

www.biblical.ie/lections

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics all over the world at prayer, celebration and care for the family of the Church. Thanks to the sacrifice and mission of missionaries, the Catholic Church is growing; many Churches can now take care of themselves. However, over 40% of the Church across the world still needs our help. By supporting Missio you will be directly helping over 1,000 diocese in these young Churches, bringing hope and new life to people thirsting to hear of God's love for them. Through Missio, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection next Sunday. You will be able to Gift Aid all donations by using the envelopes provided. You will be able to Gift Aid all donations by using the envelopes provided. Thank you for your support.

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

If so, contact Kathy Ede 01202 434494, kathy.ede@ntlworld.com and pass on your details - by 18th October please.

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 Sat. 3rd May 2014 at 3.00 p.m. More information later.

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 or icsjoffice@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

FABRIC & FINANCE COMMITTEE - AN APPEAL

The present committee comprises six members plus the Parish Priest.

We really need a further **TWO** members.

No special skills required

- just a desire to help and give your opinions.

Meetings are held about every two months.

If you feel able to join us please contact Steve Ferris, 01202 426648, SF1951@hotmail.co.uk



Afternoon Teas and Mini Fair

The Bournemouth Ordinariate is raising money for a Fund to support sick and retired priests and invite you to join them for afternoon tea on Saturday 26th October between 3 pm and 5 pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace Hall. There will be several stalls, including jams and cakes, plants, general bring and buy and books, together with a raffle. Please come and bring friends!

Saint Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones,

and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

http://www.ramshornstudio.com/st_theresa_s_prayer.htm

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
<p>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</p>		

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 Seamoore Rd, Westbourne, Bournemouth. BH4 9AE) This monthly youth group for 16-30 year olds is open to all.

YOUTH HOLY HOUR! 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

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER/MEDITATION : A time for reflection and shared silence each Monday at 2.30pm in the Presbytery Meeting Room at St Joseph's, Christchurch. You are invited to join us. For more details contact: Beth Parfitt on 01425-274116

BOURNEMOUTH & POOLE MARRIAGE CARE : A new person to chair the organisation is being actively sought. 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

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.corpuschrisitprimary.co.uk

THANK YOU	for your weekly offerings;	5th / 6th Oct.
Envelopes :	£ 209.50	Cash : £ 113.93
Standing Orders :	£ 148.38	<u>Total : £ 471.81</u>
Cathedral :	£ 103.40	<i>Thank you!</i>