Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg'd. Charity No. 246871



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY Ord. Time
Year A
12th /13th July 2014

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG.

Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel: 01202 485588

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW

e-mail: djordan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Week beginning 12th July :		Mass Intention
Saturday 12th July 6.00pm	First Mass of Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Marek Weyers, RIP
Sunday 13th July 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME	Repose of the soul of Francesco Di Fiore (Anniversary)
Monday 14th July	—	—
Tuesday 15th July 9.30am 11.00am - 12.00 noon	**St Swithun,** *memorial* Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Charles Frith (Foundation Mass)
Wed. 16th July 10.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 17th July 9.30am	**St Bonaventure,** *memorial*	For all the faithful departed
Friday 18th July 9.30am	Feria	For all the parish faithful departed
Sat.19th July 5.15 – 5 .45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation First Mass of 16th Sun. Ord. Time	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th July 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME	People of the Parish

There will be a collection this weekend for the

Apostleship of the Sea.

Today is SEA SUNDAY, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea.
Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in shops. Today's second collection is for Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually.
This annual collection is absolutely vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you.
For more information on the work of the AoS please visit **www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk**

PRESENTATION and a QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION
here after Mass on Saturday 19th July.

This will be about the work of Antony Elliott in Uganda - he has been working with a lay Missionary organisation , 'Youth with a Mission'. There will also be an opportunity to purchase African cultural pieces. Bring and Share Supper!

Fifteenth Sunday Ordinary Time Yr A

A Core Teaching

Today's gospel contains a core teaching of the gospel message. It is about his message being given to us, and the ways in which we respond to it. His message is given, it is available to all. When he has spoken, he stands back and awaits our response. That response can range from a full response, to a half-hearted, lukewarm one, to none at all.

The first point is a simple but central one. "The sower went to sow his seed." He just scattered it here, there and everywhere, with a certain sense of prodigal generosity. Having done that, his task was finished. What happened the seed after that was not his responsibility. That depended on what kind of ground received the seed. The conditions of the ground varied, from place to place. Where the right conditions existed, the seed took root and grew into a harvest. It is exactly like that with the message of the gospel. We often speak of someone "having a heart condition." Well, in this case, it really does depend on the condition of the heart of the hearer. Every invitation from God has RSVP written all over it. Even "no" is a response!

Some of the ground was as hard as a rock; other places were shallow and had no depth, while other areas were taken over by briars and weeds. There were, however, certain places that were just right for sowing, and the seed got a chance to grow. Some people are really open while others are shut off. It is only when the Apostles came aside with Jesus that they were given special insights into Jesus as a person, and into the message he spoke. It was at one such time that he taught them to pray; it was at another that they saw him glorified on Thabor; and yet again, it was so when they saw him in agony in the garden. Prayer is about spending time with God. It is about listening to him. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening," rather that "Listen, Lord, your servant is speaking." All of this is part of the openness of the good soil. Prayer is a hunger, and the soul has a real hunger for - · God, and his word. "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts can never be at rest until they rest in you."

Response: Everything that comes out of today's gospel is an invitation to respond. Jesus was speaking to people who were familiar with farmers sowing seed, and the various and varied outcome of that work. There is his offer which is sure and certain and can be relied on. The big question is: What is my response? What condition is my heart in, to receive the word of God with gladness?

We are not saints! None of us can claim to be perfectly ready to receive God's word. It is consoling, then, to notice that what Jesus called good ground produced different levels of results, some 30%, some 60%, and some 100%. Even the 30% was considered good ground. The thing about it is that the ground produced something. It didn't lie completely idle, and produce nothing. The message is for "those of goodwill." In another story about talents, Jesus tells us that the person who received five talents produced five more; the person who received two talents produced two more; while the person who received one wrapped it in a cloth, and did nothing with it. He was held accountable for what was entrusted to him.

"To those who are open to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge."

We are speaking about a personal contact with Jesus here. There are as many ways of praying as there are people. It is more a question of getting in touch with and acknowledging my inner hungers, than of the time spent or the method used. Anybody can pray, and praying is so much easier and so much more natural than saying prayers.

When it comes to God and to his word, I must be prepared to go downstairs into my heart, because it is only there that I will meet him, and hear him. "Be still, and know that l am God." "It is in silence and quiet that you will preserve your soul." I can have all the theories and knowledge in the world but, if I do not give God time, open my heart to him, and invite him to live in my heart, nothing will happen. "You are the potter, we are the clay." "You are the sower, I am the soil." Are you aware of the conditions within your heart, as you reflect on today's gospel?

How do you rate yourself as a listener? Jesus speaks of people who do not listen. "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." A worthwhile experience is to sit quietly in a spot where there are no distractions, to close your eyes, and to try to listen with the heart. On the first few occasions you may hear nothing. Please take my word for it, and act on it: if you continue this experiment, you will hear, and that hearing will lead to prayer.

Unlike the soil which is suitable for sowing only at certain times of the year, there is no time constraints on hearing God's word, like today, for example. There are so many things in our lives that we are "going to get around to" sometime! "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Your response is as important as if you were actually there listening to him with the crowds. It is a personal message, however, or at least the response has to be personal.

My life is the way it is because of me. The Lord has scattered the seed, but I may not have the proper condition of heart to receive it.

www.biblical.ie/lections

DEEPENING OUR AWARENESS OF GOD WITHIN US

Following the guidelines of St Ignatius of Loyola

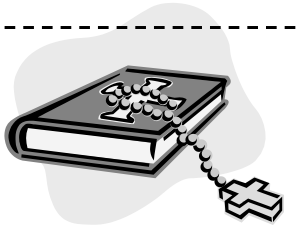
There will be a course at Corpus Christi on Monday evenings, starting September 15th.
For details please see poster on noticeboard. Applications need to be in by 29th July.

YOUTH MASS at Corpus Christi on **Sunday 3rd August at 5pm**, arranged by the Youth Council. This is an invitation to all young people to join together to celebrate Mass followed by refreshments and socialising afterwards in the Parish Centre.

Summer Drama Club at St Thomas More's

Who can come? – Children aged between 4 and 11(School yrs R-6)
When? - Monday 28th July until Friday 1st August inclusive, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and a **Performance** 10:30 – 11:15 on Sunday 3rd August
Please note; all participants must be available for the performance on Sunday 3rd August
Where? – St. Thomas More's Church, Exton Road, Iford BH6 5QG
What? – drama, art, music, craft, games, and sports
How much will it cost? - £10 per child, maximum of £15 for a family group.
There are booking forms available in the church porch.

Why not pay a visit to the Repository?



There are various resources available as well as the usual varied selection of cards, books and gifts - new stock comes in regularly.

LOST PROPERTY The lost property items are mounting up again ! Could you please check and see if anything belongs to you? Any items which are currently in the lost property box underneath the 'free table' and not collected by Sunday 3rd August will be taken to a charity shop.
Also, there are several umbrellas in the umbrella stand ... does one belong to you?!

NEWS …. Most weeks, the parish office is e-mailed the newsletters from the other parishes in the Pastoral Area. These are printed out and pinned up on the notice board (right hand side when coming in to the church) so you can see what's going on in the area, week by week. The newsletters - including our own, of course, are available on http://www.avonstourpastoralarea.org/

SUMMARY OF APC Meeting Held on Thursday 19th June at Iford.
Having briefly updated matters arising from the last meeting, the Council discussed the changes to come into effect in September to the Pastoral Areas [clustered together into local Deaneries] throughout the Diocese with regard to a document which has since been circulated to members and Fr. John asked for comments by the end of July. They also discussed the need for all committees to have a safeguarding representative [the APC has two]. There will be a new member of the Council appointed from Our Lady Queen of Peace. The Chairman of the Council offered a vote of thanks to Will Hince [Youth Coordinator], Fr. David and Fr. John for whom this was their last Council Meeting and a presentation was made to both Fr. David and Fr. John to mark the occasion.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR 2015: Two meetings are being held at St Peter's School for Parents/Carers and Students.
Open Evening for Parents/Carers and Students attending Catholic Primary Schools only: Thursday 18th September 2014.
Open Evening for Parents/Carers and Students attending other non-Catholic Primary Schools only: Thursday 23rd September 2014.
FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE SEE NOTICE BOARD.

ENTRY INTO YEAR 7 - SEPTEMBER 2015

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION SHOULD BE LODGED WITH ST PETER'S SCHOOL, IFORD SITE, BY **31st OCTOBER 2014.**
e.g. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM (Confirmation of Religious Practice)
BAPTISM CERTIFICATE - if applicable
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - if applicable

UNFORTUNATELY ST PETER'S ARE UNABLE TO CHASE THESE DOCUMENTS AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENING: **Thursday 9th October 2014** 6pm at St Peter's School (Iford Site), Holdenhurst Avenue, Bournemouth.
The Open Evening is designed to give parents/carers an opportunity to visit St Peter's Primary, look around the classrooms, meet staff and discover what the "St Peter's Experience" will hold for their children.
This meeting is for parent/carers who have children who will be **five years old** between ***1st September 2015*** (not 2014 as previously stated) and ***31st August 2016*** (not 2015 as previously stated) and are looking for a place in Reception in September 2015.

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 or the Annunciation Church

ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE OR SEPARATION? Meet a friendly group of people in the same situation for a cup of tea and a chat. MONDAY 14th July at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre at St Joseph's, Christchurch. For further information telephone Carole on 07873312711.

'A NIGHT TO REMEMBER' by SWING UNLIMITED BIG BAND: Thursday 24th July 2014 at 7.30pm in the grounds of St Peter's School, Holdenhurst Avenue, Bournemouth BH7 6RG.
A free concert to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War 1 & the 70th anniversary of D-Day.
Bring a picnic. Fundraising for Forces Charities during the evening. See flyers on 'free table'.

DIOCESAN MISSION MASS APF-MILL HILL: Fr Frank Thompson MHM invites APF-Mill Hill members, and anyone interested, to attend our Diocesan Mission Mass which will be offered for your intentions followed by a 20 minute film about "Missio SPA" and its support for the growing number of Vocations to the priesthood and the religious life worldwide. The nearest Masses locally are at St Joseph & St Walburga, Bournemouth Road, on 18th July, and at Christ the King, Bitterne Road, Southampton, on15th July. Please see poster on noticeboard.

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT: St John's Cathedral 11.00am - 4.00pm, Saturday 16th August.
Please see the 2014 'Dates for the Diary' from the Confraternity of the Rosary on the notice board.

HEAVENS ROAD FM CATHOLIC RADIO: If you have a story to share for a series of programmes on Vocations and also on Confession/Reconciliation they'd love to hear from you at admin@heavensradiofm.com Tune in and enjoy this new catholic radio. They are also looking for enthusiastic people to help make programmes, techies to operate the Radio and administrators to hold it all together. Much can be done over the internet – they have people in 10 different dioceses contributing. Further info at http://www.heavensroadfm.com/vols/. Follow on Facebook (Heavens Roadfm) or twitter (@HeavensRoadFM).

From the diocese: #livelife – Protect and Cherish Life www.dayforlife.org Day for Life – 27 July 2014 – the day in the Church's year dedicated to celebrating the dignity of life – will this year call upon young people in particular to protect and cherish life from conception to natural death. There will be a mandatory second collection in parishes to support Day for Life. Proceeds of the collection will go to The Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other pro-life related activities supported by the Catholic Church in England and Wales.
Not Dead Yet UK A group of disabled people campaigning to keep the laws against euthanasia and assisted suicide which at present protect them, has started a petition against Lord Falconer's "Assisted Dying" bill. See their website www.notdeadyetuk.org.

THANK YOU for the offerings 5th / 6th July

Envelopes :	£ 141.30	Cash :	£ 81.62
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93		**Total : £ 367.85**
PETER'S PENCE :		£ 84.32	
Aid to the Church in Need :		£ 64.39	*Thank you!*