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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT Yr C

13th/14th February 2016

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG
Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Tel: 01202 485588
Parish Priest: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW

Week beginning 13th February		Mass Intention
Saturday 13th Feb. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**	For the repose of the soul of Jim McVann
Sunday 14th Feb. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ----------
Tuesday 16th Feb. *No Mass today*	—	—
Wednesday 17th Feb. Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	of the First Week of Lent	----------
Thursday 18th Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am	of the First Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 19th Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	of the First Week of Lent	For all the Parish faithful departed
Saturday 20thFeb. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**	People of the Parish
Sunday 21st Feb. Principal Mass 9.30am Baptism Alexander Gray Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish

There will be a meeting in the church hall after the 9.30am Sunday Mass this Sunday for those who would like to help with the Social Evening - setting up, preparing the buffet etc.

CAFOD
Just one world

CAFOD Appeal *There will a short talk after the Sunday Masses this weekend.* Could you help CAFOD by volunteering here at St Thomas More? Please see the CAFOD speaker after all Masses this weekend to find out more.

This Lent the UK government has promised to match every pound and penny you give to CAFOD's Lenten appeal (from 10 Feb – 9 May) up to the value of £3.5M. Thank you for your generous compassion for those living in poverty and for fasting in solidarity with them. **Lent Fast Day envelopes** are available this weekend as the Fast Day itself is on Friday 19th February, with the second collection next weekend, 20th/21st February.

In the **YEAR OF MERCY** we are saying the **Hail Holy Queen** (Salve Regina) in place of the Hail Mary in the bidding prayers. (**Page 348** of the Mass book.)

First Sunday of Lent Year C

Times of Testing

This is the story of the temptation of Jesus in the desert, a story included in the gospels for the first Sunday of Lent every year. Jesus has just been baptised. He has joined with public sinners in a public place. He has taken upon himself the whole burden of human sin, evil, disobedience, and pride. Immediately he is tested by Satan, who will never, and who never does miss an opportunity to stop or destroy the good. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert, so the temptations, as it were, were part of his baptism. He had been baptised with water, and he would now be baptised with fire.

We are all familiar with times of testing. When we buy a new car, we insist on test-driving it. Soldiers go through severe tests before being sent to the battle zone. The whole process of training in any field of learning, be that medicine, science, religion, etc. contains an endless battery of tests. Every marriage has its testing times. It is a fact of life that good will always be tested by evil.

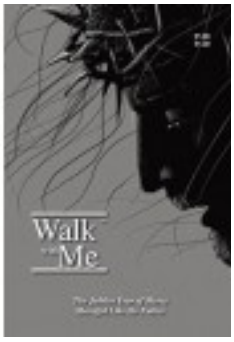
Right from the beginning of his ministry, Jesus is immersed in his humanity. We are all familiar with being tempted. Temptations are tailor-made to our natural weaknesses. A temptation for one person would not be a temptation for another. We are all uniquely different, and a temptation is like dangling something attractive outside the windows of our souls, when such an item or thought appeals directly to some weakness within.

How does all of this apply to Jesus in today's gospel? As far as Satan was concerned, the whole purpose of the exercise was to discover if Jesus were God, or merely just an ordinary selfish, weak, human being. Straightaway I must stress that yes, Jesus was a human being just like the rest of us. The big difference is that he had the Spirit within, after his baptism in the Jordan River. This inner strength would be stronger than any human weakness. (This Spirit is now available to all of us, of course, but, back then, Jesus could not give that Spirit to others, because he himself had not yet overcome the evil one, and achieved the victory). In today's gospel, Satan selected the three great human weaknesses of appetite, power, and pride. Jesus responded to each temptation in a way that would show the whole direction of his mission. He checked Scripture, and quoted what God had said. He himself had come to do the Father's will, and he was not prepared to do anything unless the Father told him. That is why he quoted the word of the Lord on each occasion, as a direct rebut to each of the temptations.

Jesus was like us in all things but sin. He was tempted as we are, says Paul. He was accused of being a glutton, a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners, and someone with whom no religious Jew should have any contact. He never denied any of their accusations, but he challenged them "Who can accuse me of sin?" He certainly experienced all of our human weaknesses. Jesus came on earth to take care of the weeds among the good wheat, which God had sown, the weeds of sin, sickness, and death. He did battle with all three evils, and overcame them, one after another. Today's gospel marks the beginning of that battle.

Human appetites are good, and like everything else, they can be abused. There is a whole question of relationship here. Some people find it impossible to relate properly to alcohol, to food, to sex, to power, to wealth, etc. It is as if some power has taken over inside that propels them towards destruction, through addictions and compulsions. They experience powerlessness, even if they refuse to admit it. In today's gospel, Jesus, literally, had the world at his feet. He wasn't depending on Satan for any of the power and the glory. He had come with a mission, and his mission was to set up the Kingdom on this earth. This Kingdom would be diametrically opposed to the kingdom of Satan, which is based on power, pleasure, and pride. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father "The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours..."

If I look at the life of Jesus as my model for living, what can I learn from today's gospel? I certainly have my own share of temptations. When faced with a temptation, Jesus responded with a word from Scripture, with a directive from God, as to what he should do. I have something called a conscience, and it is part of who and what I am. I could write the Ten Commandments myself, without ever learning them at school. I know it is wrong to steal, to kill, to tell lies, to be jealous, or to be ungrateful. When I was a child, I had a dog that looked guilty whenever he did something wrong. Any parent can look at a three-year-old, and know that he has been up to something he shouldn't. The call of the gospel is a call to be honest, with myself, with others, and with God. Only the truth will set us free. A temptation, by definition, is a lie. Adam and Eve fell for the lie in the Garden, and, as it were, came under new management. They hid, and we're hiding since. A bully is a coward when faced up to. So is it with temptations. If I take to myself the power of the Spirit, which is mine through Baptism, then, I, like Jesus, will exercise that full authority he speaks about. I have given you full authority over all the power of the evil one. Nothing shall harm you...



Copies of
'WALK WITH ME'
for Lent now available.
Cost is £1 per booklet.
(Please place money in 'Papers and Magazines' box on the wall in the narthex.)

FATHER RON HISHON
will be celebrating his
Golden Anniversary of Ordination
on Sunday 12th June.

He is saying a Mass of thanksgiving at 6pm on Saturday 11th June here at St Thomas More's, followed by a buffet in the church hall afterwards.

LEARNING IN LENT

Everyone in the Pastoral Area is invited to a series of 4 short DVD films (20-25 minutes) during Lent: **The Sacraments – transforming everyday life.** Each is stand-alone, so come to as many as you can manage. No need to sign up, just turn up on the day. So that as many people as possible can come, we are running the series BOTH at Our Lady Queen of Peace hall, Southbourne (Thursday early afternoons, 1.30pm, from 25 Feb) AND at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch (Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm, from 16 Feb, but not on 1st Mar). More details on the fliers or on the Avon Stour Pastoral Area website.

LENT REFLECTIONS - 'Channels of God's Mercy' : Three reflections for Lent at St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Christchurch, on Sunday 21st and 28th February, and Sunday 13th March, from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please see poster for details.

COLLECTION FOR WOMEN'S REFUGE

(Part of the Catholic Women's League national project)
Items needed include toiletries, new children's books and toys, new underwear etc.
There is a box placed in the church (near the Catholic papers) for the items. Thank you!



SOCIAL EVENING

20th February, 7.30pm



An evening of good food (buffet provided) and good company!

Please feel free to bring a bottle.

There will be live music courtesy of Tony Adams.

£5 a ticket. Under 16's free.

Proceeds to 'Aid to the Church in Need.'

Le Buffet

Barry writes:

Update from the Music Ministry..

This Saturday we welcome back Thomas to the keyboard. Thomas usually provides the music for Saturdays, but unfortunately he has been away for some time due to family health problems. We pray for Andrew, his father in our church prayers, and we will continue to pray for Andrew, Tracey, Thomas and Peter in our prayers.

This week we start Lent period, and musically, through Lent, the music side of the mass is very limited. With the exception of the Fourth Sunday in Lent, there will not be any music during Altar Censing, or at Communion time. This means that I'm not able to continue with the usual requests from parishioners for music during these two parts of the mass until Easter. Then we can resume again.

Once or twice recently, we have been asked if we can do the "Happy Clappy Gloria" like they do at St. Josephs. I would like to receive your views on this if possible, also quite recently, we did the Israeli Mass Settings (313), and the feedback was very encouraging . Again if you would like to hear this again, please let either Paul or myself know.
We are still looking for singers and musicians of any age, or experience for Sunday mornings. For more information please contact either Paul or Barry.

Pastoral Area No. 20: AVON STOUR. Co-ordinating Pastor – Fr. Tom Grufferty.

TIMES OF WEEKEND MASSES in other Parishes/Bournemouth Ordinariate Mission in the **AVON STOUR PASTORAL AREA**		
Ordinariate Mass St Thomas More, Exton Rd., Iford	01590 610133	Sunday 11.15am (except the last Sunday of the month when there will usually be Choral Evensong & Benediction)
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 Visits: Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals: For non-urgent requests please contact the Chaplaincy Office on 01202 704221. They also have an answerphone. For more urgent requests/ out of hours, the duty RC chaplain may be contacted via the switchboard on 01202 303626 **For Poole Hospital**, please contact Deacon McConville on 01202 442167.		

Calais Migrant Camp – Notice from the diocesan Caritas Team

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth is in the process of establishing formal links with Caritas Secours Catholique. Secours Catholique have a large presence in the camp: their national director has been seconded to the camp for three years and they have a fixed base within the camp, facilities in the nearby town and about 150 volunteers. Secours Catholique have requested that all Catholic aid to the camp, financial and voluntary, be directed through themselves. Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth, among others, are trying to support their sister organisation and to understand what larger resource is needed in the camp that a diocese might be able to provide. This may include voluntary help, which will need to comply with our diocesan procedures. Whilst details are being finalised, could we request that any financial donations for Calais from parishes are sent to the Department of Administration, clearly marked as being for the migrant camp. These will be put into a designated fund. The needs in the camp are clearly enormous but realistically the overwhelming desire of the majority of individuals to come to the UK cannot be met. If anyone would like further information please contact caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

WESSEX YOUTH ORCHESTRA GALA CONCERT: The Concert Hall, Poole's Centre for the Arts. Saturday 27th February at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £14, £12 and £9 (Senior citizens £2 off and under 18's half price). Tickets are available from the Lighthouse Box Office, Tel. 0844 406 8666

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which has been prepared this year by the ladies of Cuba. In Iford, the Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held in Cranleigh Chapel, on Friday 4th March.

'**WHAT NEXT FOR THE FAMILY?' TALK :** Please join Bishop Peter Doyle and Fr Daniel O'Leary as they give their thoughts on the recent synod. Saturday 27th of February between 0930 and 1500 at St Peter's Church Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. For further information please phone 07825 392925.

THANK YOU

for the offerings 6th/7th Feb.

Envelopes :	£ 112.33	Cash :	£ 104.38
Standing Orders :	£ 189.15		**Total : £ 405.86**