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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

28th/29th November 2015 Yr C

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 28th November:		Mass Intention
Saturday 28th November 6.00pm	**First Mass of First Sunday of Advent**	People of the Parish
Sunday 29th November 9.30am ***(No Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am)**	**FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT**	For the repose of the souls of Mary and Dick Mullins
Monday 30th November	–	–
Tuesday 1st December 9.30am HOLY HOUR 10.00 am - 11.00am	of 1st First week of Advent	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 2nd December 10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	of 1st First week of Advent	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 3rd December 9.30am	of 1st First week of Advent **St Francis Xavier,** *memorial*	For all the faithful departed
Friday 4th December 9.30am	of 1st First week of Advent	For all the Parish faithful departed
Sat. 5th December 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) **First Mass of Second Sunday of Advent**	People of the Parish
Sunday 6th December 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	For the repose of the soul of Lance Kerr

CONFIRMATION SESSION DATES : Session 4 will be at St Joseph's on Friday 4th Dec., 7.00 - 8.30pm.
On Sunday **6th December** there will be an **Enrolment Mass** for our candidates at the 9.30am Mass.

THE BOURNEMOUTH ORDINARIATE MISSION

here at St Thomas More's,
will be observing the beginning of Advent with a
Lessons and Carols service
on the Sunday 29th November, at 4.00pm.
All welcome. Refreshments in hall from 3.15pm.





There will be a special
Children's Carol Service
for young children (pre-school age) on
Friday 11th December at 10.00 am.

First Sunday of Advent Year B

Our personal commission

Jesus has given each of us a commission, a purpose or mission in life, and it is important that, when he comes to call us home, we are found to have been carrying out that commission.

There is a serious and simple message in today's Gospel. As a Christian, I have been called and commissioned to be a witness to Jesus and to his message. I am to be the salt of the earth, and the light of the world, in the surrounds in which life has placed me. It is certainly not a question of being up on a pulpit all the time, or proclaiming the gospel at the street corner. It is about a way of living, a way of being. "By this will all people know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

"Procrastination is the thief of time." How true that is, especially when it comes to taking Jesus and his message seriously. All diets start on Monday. God is a God of now. "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." The only "yes" in my whole life that he's interested in is my "yes" of now. "Today is the acceptable day. Today is the day of salvation." From the early gospel accounts, we see that following the call of Jesus meant "leaving all things, and following him now." One man wanted to return to bury his father, another had to examine some property or animals he had bought, while another had just got married, and was not free to follow him. Excuses. Excuses. Excuses. Following Jesus doesn't always mean leaving a place, but it certainly means taking on a whole new way of life.

Early in the gospel we are promised "Peace on earth to those of goodwill." In a later passage we are told "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and everything else will be added to you." In other words, if I take my Christian call seriously, there is no way I could be off my guard, or forget the fundamental direction of my life. Jesus tells us that we are no longer slaves, who do not know, nor are they told, their master's business. "You are my friends, because I have made known to you everything that has been told me by my Father." To be a slave would tend to develop a slavish mentality. It would mean looking over my shoulder all the time, and really working only when the master is watching. If a Christian is motivated by love, then his service will be a service of love. Love is always active and is always engaged.

According to today's gospel, the people were given detailed instructions about what they were to do, what they were to be about. In other words, they couldn't claim ignorance, or say, "We weren't sure." Jesus is clear about what he has to say; he is definite about his return, and he leaves us in no doubt that, to put it in simple words, the direction we choose to travel in now will determine the eternal direction of our lives after death. In other words, he gives us the message, he gives us the choice to make decisions, and he stands back, allowing for our free will to come into operation.

For centuries the Jews had been expecting a Messiah to come, and, when he did come, they were not ready, and missed the moment. Mary, because of her humble, prayerful, and listening heart, was fully alert to everything that God might want her to do. She had a sense of being on "stand-by," awaiting his instructions at all times.

No matter what age I am, I should look seriously at how I deal with time. Time is a gift and each day is a gift. Life is for living, and a good life is spent in the service of others. Unless I accept life as a personal gift from God, I may not involve him in my living of that life.

We are beginning a time of preparation for Christmas. We are all only too well aware of the amount of effort we put into our preparation for Christmas, relative to food, clothes, cards, presents, etc. All of this is good. The gospel points to a much more serious form of preparation and effort.

Taken from http://www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

St Joseph's, Purewell, Christchurch.

7.30pm Thursday, 17th December.



CELEBRATION of OUR LADY,
MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
on the feast of **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
and the opening day of **THE YEAR OF MERCY**
St Thomas More's, 8th December
5.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Priests available for Confessions
6.00pm Rosary
6.30pm Solemn Mass



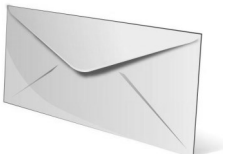
St Luke's Chapel, Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Mass is celebrated at 6.00pm every Wednesday. We pray for all sick people, especially those in this and every hospital, as well as for those who have died. It is a moving time for all who participate: we feel close to all who are suffering (including those inpatients who attend) as we pray for them. Do come along and join us in this powerhouse of prayer for the sick. (Please note that Mass is also celebrated in Poole Hospital chapel at 6.30pm on Thursdays.)

Copies of 'Walk with Me' for Advent are still available. Price £1.

Please leave the money in the 'Books Papers and Magazines' box in the porch.

Our diaries for 2016 have arrived: they are in the narthex, near the front door.

Please help yourself to your - free! - diary.



If you have not already taken your **OFFERTORY STATEMENT**,
please pick up your envelope from the table near the church front door. Thank you.

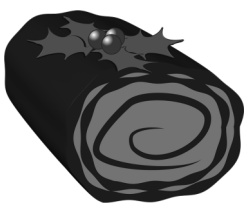
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ….

…. seems to be well under way in the shops!
At the last PPC meeting it was agreed that St Thomas More's will again be collecting Christmas presents.
These will probably be for the Woman's Refuge and Apostleship of the Sea - details to follow!

CHRISTMAS TREE

We will be putting up our Christmas tree in the church later in Advent.
If any parishioner can supply a tree or the funds for one, please let the parish office know.
The tree needs to be in the church by Friday 18th December, ready for decorating on Sunday 20th December.





CHRISTMAS CAKE SALE

A reminder that there will be a special Christmas cake sale in the church hall after Mass next Sunday, 6th December.
If you would like to contribute any cakes or goodies, please leave them in the church hall before the 9.30am Mass.
We hope for lots of customers on the day!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As in previous years, a box will be left in the church porch for you to 'post' your Christmas cards to your fellow parishioners. If you haven't yet purchased your Christmas cards, then why not pop into the repository after Mass? There is always a nice selection of cards available.

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please e-mail the parish office at stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or leave a note in the post box by the office door

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
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.		

Holy Mass is celebrated each **Wednesday at 6.00pm in the Royal Bournemouth Hospital chapel** (and each Thursday at 6.30pm in the Poole Hospital chapel.)

WESSEX YOUTH ORCHESTRA: A sparkling evening of musical festive treats. 7.30pm, Saturday December 5th. The Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts. Tickets £14, £12, £9 (Senior Citizens £2 off and under 18s half price) Available from the Lighthouse Box Office Tel: 0844 406 8666

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH MINI CHRISTMAS FAYRE : Sunday 6th December, 10.30am- 1.30pm. Father Christmas will be in his Grotto!

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE: A candlelit Advent Taize Service will take place on Monday 21st December at 7.30pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Douglas Road, Southbourne. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and mince pies served in the Parish Centre.

From the Diocese

Life Charity have joined with 'Right To Life' to launch a new campaign called 'Amnesty Travesty' which highlights the damage done by abortion since 1967 in the UK, during which time, over 8 million lives have been lost, and to petition Amnesty International to stop trying to pressure the Irish people into legalising the termination of the unborn. Please show your support and help by visiting http://shamnesty.org/ and signing the petition.

SHARE YOUR STORY Do you have a family member or friend, over 18, who is baptised Catholic but no longer practices their faith? Perhaps they no longer attend Mass regularly? As part of a campaign to listen to those who no longer practice, Bishop Philip would like to hear from them. Perhaps they feel let down by the Church or have something they would like to say to the Church. Or perhaps they have just drifted away. Whatever their story, they are invited to share it anonymously. The survey available at www.mystoryshared.co.uk - open until Christmas. Encourage them to share their story today!

THANK YOU

for the offerings **21st/22nd Nov.**

Envelopes :	£ 155.60	Cash :	£ 131.69
Standing Orders :	£ 201.85		**Total : £ 489.14**