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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29th/30th November 2014

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 29th November :		Mass Intention
Saturday 29th Nov. 6.00pm	First Mass of First Sunday of Advent	Marciano & Ruby Colaco, RIP
Sunday 30th Nov. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	People of the Parish
Monday	—	—
Tuesday 2nd Dec. 9.30am - 12.00	NO MASS TODAY Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	—
Wed. 3rd Dec. 10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	**St Francis Xavier**, *memorial*	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 4th Dec. 9.30am	Of the 1st week of Advent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 5th Dec. 9.30am	Of the 1st week of Advent	For all the parish faithful departed
Sat. 6th Dec. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation First Mass of Second Sun. of Advent	Keith Hadden, RIP and Donald Hadden RIP
Sunday 7th Dec. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Peter Price, RIP

Cake Sale in the church hall after Mass <u>THIS</u> Sunday, 30th November

Home made Christmas cakes will also be on sale. All proceeds for church funds.



Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party

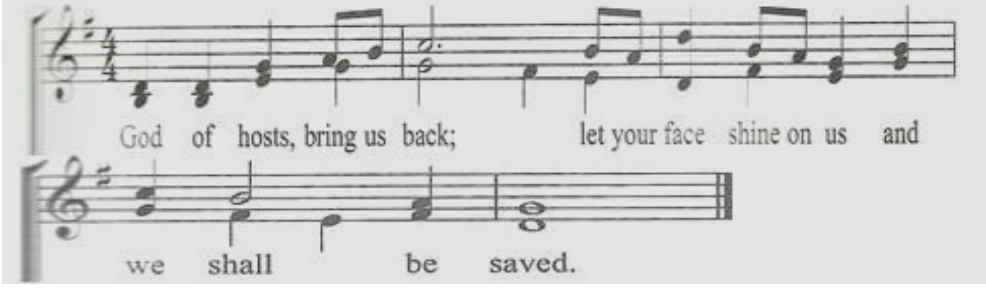
The Annual Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 13th December, 2.30pm - 4.30pm. There is a guest sheet on the "free table" at rear of Church for Senior Citizens and anyone who may benefit from the companionship, to add their names.

There is also a list for those who wish to help with donations for the party - to be completed by 5th December please.

Copies of **'WALK WITH ME'** for Advent available on the 'free table' at the back of church. **£1**

Psalm Refrain:

First Sunday of Advent



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 63: 16-17 64: 1-8 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13: 33-37

Awake My Soul

"My heart is ready, Oh God; I will sing, sing your praise.
Awake my soul; awake lyre and harp. I will awake the dawn."

That is the first verse of Psalm 107, and it is full of hope and expectancy, looking forward to a new dawn, a new era. Today is the First Advent Sunday and it marks the beginning of a new year in the Church liturgy celebration of the mysteries of Christ, our Redeemer. The term "Advent," which means coming or arrival, is used especially in connection with the first coming of Christ at his birth, and also in looking forward to his second coming at the end of time.

Most of the influential people in Jewish society had been carried off into exile by the Babylonians in 586 B.C., and, after fifty years, at last they were being allowed return to their own country. But the Temple in Jerusalem still remained in ruins, no sacrifice was being offered to God, no voice lifted in prayer to the Almighty in the place where once that Temple had stood. It was a period of gloom and utter desolation. The prophet, Isaiah, called by divine providence to be the mouthpiece of the returned exiles, confesses that they all have been sinners, blown hither and thither at the mercy of the winds of change in their fortunes. He raises a heartbroken cry to God, to return, to tear the heavens open, and by his renewed presence among them to free them from the shackles of their sinful habits, and so end their disappointment and frustration.

Advent also is a time when we should call upon God to renew us in heart and soul, so that we may be able to celebrate his divine Son coming among us in a truly religious way. But neither should we forget that, Sunday after Sunday throughout the entire year, the heavens in a divine sense are truly opened, and Christ comes down to us in the sacrament of the Eucharist. He comes to visit each of us personally, to grant our inmost needs, to keep us, as St Paul tells us, steady and without blame until the last day, so that we may be witnesses to his presence before the whole world. There is a clear message for us, as well, in the gospel parable of the man who set off to travel abroad, after warning his servants, whom he had left in charge, to watch out for his return. This is a definite reference to the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and to his expected second coming, what the first Christians called the "parousia."

From earliest times then, the Church is asking its members to look forward with confidence to their eternal destiny, and not to heed the crosses they encounter. So earnestly did the first Christians take to heart this injunction that, whenever they met, they greeted one another with a saying in the Aramaic language which became a watchword among them, a kind of password which identified them as being followers of Christ. St Paul used it as part of his farewell greeting to the Corinthians at the end of his first letter to them - "marana tha." which means "Our Lord, Come." We are troubled, however, when we consider that life on earth for everyone is full of trials. We are troubled in view of temptations to come, so much so that we ask the Father repeatedly in the Lord's Prayer not to lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. We are especially troubled at the thought of leaving this world for a destination hidden from us, and yet we pray every day that God's kingdom may come.

We want to be rewarded with the vision of God hereafter, and yet we depart from this world against our will, whereas the saints regarded this world as a place of exile, and heaven as their true home. It was a custom of St Augustine to urge his people to sing Alleluia to God, as travellers sing along the road, in order to shorten their journey, or as workers do to sweeten their toil. So rejoice, for religion is not a sad thing. But at the same time keep pressing forward, advancing in true faith, in virtue, in right conduct. St Paul advised the Thessalonians to look forward to the Lord's coming, and with such thoughts to comfort one another. "Be happy at all times," he advised them, "pray constantly, and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess 5:16-18). From such considerations we too should find consolation, as we prepare this Advent season for the coming of Christ.

www.biblical.ie/lections

A date for your diary..... St. Thomas More RC Church will be presenting a "Songs of Praise" style event on Sunday 8th. February 2015 at 3.00 pm, followed by saleable refreshments after the event.
Parishioners from the church, and from the wider Avon Stour Pastoral area, along with Corpus Christi, will be invited to sponsor and submit their favourite hymn from the Celebration Hymnal, along with a few lines to say why they have chosen that hymn, and what the hymn means to them. Once the hymn has been accepted, the person submitting the hymn, should they wish, be invited to introduce the hymn.
If the number of hymn requests exceeds the time limit allocated for the service, the submitted hymn requests will be looked at by a panel made up of Parish Pastoral Council and Liturgy Group, and the final selection will be chosen on the strength of what the hymn means to the person who has submitted the request. Barry (STM Organist)

A NEW START FOR CHRISTMAS …. **Avon Stour Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service,** with several priests available, at Holy Redeemer, Highcliffe, Thursday 18th December7.00 pm *All Welcome.*
Advent Reconciliation Service at **Corpus Christi** on Tuesday 16th December at 7pm.

UPDATE ON PARISH FINANCES

Accounting period: September 1 - August 31

Annual accounts summary

INCOME	2013/14	2012/13
Planned giving	13973	14788
Other offertory	9134	9199
Gift aid	4888	4046
Xmas/Easter offerings	1225	1484
Repository, books,papers	856	928
Stole fees	347	0
Hall income	12712	11790
Votive candles/flowers	845	748
Gifts/donations	180	3313
DOPIF	107	102
Other	0	102
	44267	46500

EXPENDITURE		2013/14	2012/13
Clergy	Stipend	5147	4049
	Stole fees	0	75
	National insurance	0	138
	Motor expenses	498	1167
	Housekeeping	5372	3036
	Xmas/Easter offerings	1479	2425
Staff	Wages (gross) paid by Diocese	1956	3016
	Wages (gross) paid by Parish	300	18
	NI paid by Diocese	0	0
	NI paid by Parish	70	0
Church	Altar & Liturgical	2567	1574
	Light, heat and water	2590	2626
	Repairs & maintenance	1300	3778
	Furniture & equipment	10	0
Office/	Council tax	1054	1124
house/	Light, heat and water	1158	1316
grounds	Repairs & maintenance	1934	871
	Telephone	676	960
	Postage, printing, stationery	205	400
	Photocopying	341	261
	Computer costs	34	0
	Equipment	586	2398
	Other	254	229
Hall	Light, heat and water	1371	1375
	Repairs & maintenance	1116	1122
General	Insurance paid by Diocese	3645	3395
	Parish books and courses	613	2285
	Parish events	502	1002
	Repository & papers	797	819
	Diocesan levy	9291	8973
	Major repairs	0	13889
		44866	62321

In order to achieve a regular break even income sum the parish needs approximately £500 per week. At the moment we are about £75 short of this. One way in which we can work towards this figure is to set up a standing order. If you fell able to do this just go to your bank/building society and give them your instructions and the parish account details: PRCDTR Bournemouth St Thomas More A/C 00875415 sort code 30-93-04

A thought…when was the last time you increased your weekly offering?

Thank You

to the Ordinariate

for their recent - extremely generous - donation of £1000 to our parish funds! This is in addition to their regular monthly contributions.

CAR PARKING

As will appreciate with the current roadworks in the vicinity of the church, parking is at a premium. However, please be considerate towards the local residents when parking and do not obstruct their driveways or cause an obstruction.



For disabled drivers/passengers who need to park near to the church there is a disabled parking bay in Carlyle Road.

Many thanks, Neil and PPC.

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

Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals Chaplaincy: 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.

ST NICHOLAS FAYRE: Saturday 6th December at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Albert Road, Bournemouth**.** There will be entertainment (Spanish choir, Polish dance group, Taekwondo group), a raffle, games, stalls, minces pies, mulled wine and St Nicholas will be visiting! All welcome.

CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY: 8th December. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Holy Mass 12.15pm. Candle-light Procession led by the Statue of Our Blessed Lady. Hymns. Prayers. Benediction. Everyone welcome!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUB: St Thomas Garnet's School are providing a club for children aged 5-11 during the school holiday. The cost is £25 per day and will run 8.30am -5.30pm with half day sessions also available. The dates the club is running are 15-19, 22, 23, 29 & 31 December. There will be lots of great activities to keep your children busy during the festive break. Please contact the School Office on 01202 420172 for more information and a booking form.

HOSPITAL CAROL SERVICES: The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Carol Services will be on Thurs. 18th December at 2pm at Christchurch Hospital Chapel (followed by light refreshments) and on **Sunday, 21st December at 3pm in the Bournemouth Hospital Atrium** (followed by light refreshments).

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH: A date for your diary! - A candlelit Advent Taizé Service will take place on Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace church, Douglas Road, Southbourne, with refreshments served afterwards in the church hall (mulled wine and mince pies).

WESSEX YOUTH ORCHESTRA: 'Northern Lights' - Music by Sibelius, Grieg and Prokofiev. Also featuring various ensembles from the Centre for Wessex Young Musicians. 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: 08444068666

Keep in touch with the latest news! The Diocese of Portsmouth now issues a weekly e-news with photos, news, and information from around the Diocese. Go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk and add your email address to receive these updates. Are you on Facebook? Like 'Diocese of Portsmouth' to get all the latest info as it happens. You can also follow @BishopEgan and @PortsmouthRC on Twitter.

THANK YOU for the offerings 22nd/23rd Nov.

Envelopes :	£ 166.30	Cash :	£ 112.36
Standing Orders :	£ 152.99		**Total : £ 431.65**

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