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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



First Sunday of Lent Year A

8th/9th March 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

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Priest-in-charge: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW
Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth

Week beginning 8th March :		Mass Intention
Saturday 8th March 6.00pm	First Mass of the First Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Sunday 9th March 9.30am	**FIRST SUNDAY of LENT**	Jeremy Brook, RIP
Monday 10th March	—	—
Tuesday 11th March 9.30am	of the 1st Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 12th March 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00 noon	of the 1st Week of Lent Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 13th March 9.30am	of the 1st Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 14th March **12.00** 6.30pm	**Requiem Mass** Stations of the Cross	**Pat Stephens**
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Second Sunday of Lent	

Lenten Reflections

In the Ash Wednesday gospel reading (Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18) Jesus encouraged his followers to perform exercises of almsgiving, prayer and fasting – but the aim of this must be to please God, and God alone. In the Old Testament we read of the kind of fasting which pleases God : "To share your bread with the hungry is the fast that pleases me" (Isaiah 58:6-8). Our Lord went even further by identifying with those in need: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink" (Matthew 25:35). During Lent we should prune ourselves through penance and enter into the closest possible union with Our Lord. But we should have justice on our minds as well. By being hard on ourselves we can make it easier for others. Whatever we can give should find its way to those who are in need, not just to keep them alive for another day, but to help them create a better life further on. Our sacrifice should build their future - our Lent can lead to their Easter.

http://www.biblical.ie/lections/SLentA.asp#1553

Friday, 14th March is **CAFOD LENT FAST DAY**.

Tonight, one in eight of us will go to bed hungry. For some, finding food is a daily struggle. CAFOD is working with poor communities around the world on our behalf, so they can put food on our table. Fast Days are our opportunity to support that vital work. Take home your Fast Day envelope this week, and don't forget to hold your fast on Lent Fast Day! **Please give as much as you can in next week's collection, so that hunger doesn't remain a fact of life.**

The First Sunday of Lent Yr A

(Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 Romans 5 :12-19 Matthew 4: 1-

Each one of us is personally involved in a struggle between sin and holiness, between death and life. Our time on earth will be successful only insofar as we put sin aside, and try to live by the grace of God. Today's readings confronts us with two contrasting reactions to temptation. The first parents, Adam and Eve, abandoned the struggle, preferring their own inclinations to the will of God. Jesus, the Saviour, on the contrary resisted temptation, remaining faithful to what God the Father required of him. St Paul states what effect each of these choices had for ourselves: Adam's sin brought trouble on all, but we are saved and offered new life because of the fidelity of Christ.

Temptation, and the fight against it, are an unavoidable part of the life God gives us. If we honestly examine our daily experience, we can find many aspects of temptation: impulses or tendencies that clash with the Christian way of doing things. To rationalise away these temptations, so that they become more acceptable to us, and make us less uneasy - is itself a temptation, perhaps the most insidious of temptations. We want to dictate what is right and wrong, to draw for ourselves the boundaries of "acceptable" or good and bad behaviour, like Adam eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Instead of this, our real growth to Christian maturity comes by acknowledging and accepting the vocation of struggling against temptation, to achieve the kind of behaviour and attitudes Jesus expects. We must submit our behaviour to his gospel.

Christ and Adam show the two opposite reactions in face of temptation: Adam, archetype of sinful, evasive, self-seeking humanity, finds plausible reasons to yield to it, and rebels against God's will. Jesus, archetype of the new God-seeking man, resists temptation even repeatedly. It can only be conquered by this blend of patience and loyalty, supported by trust that what God requires of us is genuinely for our good. *www.biblical.ie/lections*

CONFIRMATION

Enrolment for the candidates of St.Thomas More Parish preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 16th March 2014.

All candidates should attend with their family (and sponsor if possible).

Session 5 'The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass' will take place in the sacristy after Mass and will finish at 11.30am.



Please pray for:

Andrea,
Jack,
Michael,
Theo,
Jonathan
and Mia

as they continue their journey to Confirmation on the 3rd May.

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 6-7pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BH7 6AN)
All young people are invited to join us for this beautiful time of quiet prayer & adoration. "From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others." - Pope John Paul II
For more information on these events and more, contact Will Hince on 07810827606
whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth

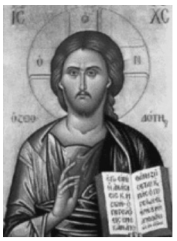
Upcycle your old FHC items

– Gold ties, smart shirts, smart trousers,
veils, dresses etc. etc. –

Do you have any items you would like to donate/lend or to sell on? We would like to hold a stall at our last children's session on 26th April in the church hall. You can leave donations in the box at the back of the church. Items you want to sell or lend can be marked with a price/or please return label, and brought along at 9.30 on 26/4. Unsold/un-borrowed items will be returned. Please speak to Kathy if you have any queries. Thank you!

LENT NOTICEBOARD

MUSIC …. Please take a copy of the musical setting for the Mass!



LECTIO DIVINA …. Thursdays, starting next week, in the sacristy after the 9.30am Mass. Lectio Divina literally means 'divine reading'- It is a praying of the Scriptures. Everyone is welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS …. Every Friday at 6.30pm in the church.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY…. This Friday, 14th March. Please bring back the Fast Day envelope attached to this newsletter next weekend. We are grateful to Claire for her talk about CAFOD.

LENTEN TALK FOR AVON STOUR PASTORAL AREA….
THIS Tuesday, 11th March, 7.30pm, at St Joseph's parish centre, 67 Purewell, Christchurch. The talk will be given by Dr Bridie Stringer (Catechist & Visiting Lecturer, St Mary's University, London)

PASTORAL AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICE…. St Thomas More's, Tuesday 8th April 7.00pm.

Bishop Philip's Lent Catechesis The First Sunday of Lent – Bishop Philip reflects on the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Online catechesis is offered each week to help you take a spiritual pilgrimage with Christ this Lent. The video is available on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk each Monday which includes the Gospel for the coming Sunday, followed by Bishop Philip's catechesis. There are also accompanying discussion questions which can be downloaded. You may wish to use these materials individually, or in small groups within the parish.

THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT COMUMBA say **"Come Walking with us!"**

on our Thirtieth Sponsored Walk on Sunday 23rd March.
We will be walking for five miles to raise money for the Amelia Grace Rainbow Fund.
Sponsor forms are at the Church entrance.

PLEASE WALK WITH US, OR SPONSOR A WALKER. – *Jo and Rosemary will be doing the Sponsored Walk and would be very grateful for your sponsorship!*

Important Safeguarding Message

Kerry and Pauline have undergone training as Parish representatives for Safeguarding and are currently reviewing all the Parish records in regard to Disclosure and Barring Checks and any required training that may need to be completed across the different Ministries.

If you are involved in a Ministry where you are volunteering to support children or vulnerable adults there may be a need to complete documentation for what is now known as a DBS check (formerly CRB).

A number of parishioners will already be familiar with this process and Kerry and Pauline are currently reviewing all the information held by the Diocese to determine who may need to complete one of these checks, and also to ensure that our records are up to date and that, as a Parish, we are compliant with all Safeguarding requirements.

They are working through the records as quickly as possible and will be contacting people in the near future. If however, in the meantime, you have any questions in relation to Safeguarding or are aware that you will need to complete a DBS check and undergo training please contact Kerry in the first instance. Thank-you.

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 01202 485588 or the Annunciation Church 01202 513369

WESSEX YOUTH ORCHESTRA: Gala Concert at the Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts. Saturday March 15th. Tickets available from the Lighthouse Box Office, tel. 0844 406 8666.

CALLING MARRIED COUPLES : A weekend of discovery and renewal for your marriage. Interested? A Marriage Encounter weekend is an opportunity for couples of any age to enrich their relationships in a relaxed and caring atmosphere. Places available on the weekend starting Friday 20 June. For details and dates of other weekends please visit the website wwme.org.uk

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: The Diocese's sixth Significant Anniversaries Mass and Reception will be celebrated at 11.00am and on Saturday 28th June 2014 at St Bede's, Basingstoke for those celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2014. Bishop Philip will preside at the Mass. Attendance is by invitation; if you are celebrating one of these anniversaries, please fill out the online form available on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by clicking 'Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass 2014' or alternatively, email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH GOLF DAY: This popular event returns this year and will take place again at the Royal Winchester Golf Club on Tuesday 20 May. Full details and applications forms can be obtained from CAFOD Portsmouth on 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM : Please join the Bournemouth Ordinariate on this year's pilgrimage to Walsingham from 27th to 30th June, led by Fr Darryl and Mgr. Edwin Barnes. The pilgrimage includes half-board accommodation, transport by coach and use of the coach during our stay and a visit to historic Clare Priory on the return journey : cost £215 (child under 16 £155). Booking forms are available in church. For more information, please contact Madeleine c/o Our Lady Queen of Peace Church.

MEDJUGORJE 2014 – An Avon Stour/Bournemouth area PILGRIMAGE. 15-22 September 2014. From Gatwick. £529 (twin room), £649 (single room) + insurance. See poster in porch. Contact: Barry and Jo c/o Corpus Christi Church

Sense and Nonsense on 'Assisted Dying' An Assisted Dying Bill to legalise assisted suicide is currently before Parliament. There is often confusion about what 'assisted dying' means. This briefing note explains simply and clearly what the issues are, and what the Church says. Copies of this short briefing note from the Bishops Conference of England and Wales are available on the websitewww.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide-information

EWTN Lent Reflections – Bishop Philip & Priests of the Diocese Don't miss Bishop Philip accompanied by priests of Portsmouth Diocese on EWTN Global Catholic Television this Lent as they offer special seasonal reflections. Starts Sunday 9 March.

THANK YOU for your weekly offerings; 1st / 2nd March

Envelopes :	£ 170.50	Cash :	£ 126.04
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93		**Total : £ 441.47**
CAFOD (February) :	£ 19.71	Thank you!	