Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg'd.



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

5th/6th December 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 5th December:			Mass Intention
Saturday 5th Dec.	6.00pm	**First Mass of Second Sunday of Advent**	People of the Parish
Sunday 6th Dec. *Ordinariate Mass*	9.30am 11.15am	**SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT**	For the repose of the soul of Lance Kerr
Monday 7th Dec.		–	–
Tuesday 8th Dec. Adoration & Confessions Rosary Mass	9.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**, *solemnity* CELEBRATION of OUR LADY, MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 9th Dec. *Ordinariate Mass*	10.30am	of Second week of Advent	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 10th Dec.	9.30am	of Second week of Advent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 11th Dec. Toddler Group Carol Service	9.30am 10.00am	of Second week of Advent	For all the Parish faithful departed
Sat. 12th Dec.	5.15 – 5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) **First Mass of Third Sunday of Advent**	 For the well-being of Geoff Hadden
Sunday 13th December *Ordinariate Mass*	9.30am 11.15am	**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	People of the Parish



At the 9.30am Mass this Sunday (6th Dec.)
there will be an **ENROLMENT MASS**
for our **CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

CHRISTMAS CAKE SALE

in the church hall after Mass
***THIS* Sunday**
All proceeds in aid of church funds.



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

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

Preparing

At a time when we are preparing our hearts for Christmas, we read of John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Jesus. John's message was a call to turn from sin, and be ready for God's forgiveness. There was a Saviour coming, there was a Redeemer coming. In order to be saved, it is necessary to acknowledge my sinfulness, and my need for salvation. In order to be redeemed, it is necessary to acknowledge the fact that I am in bondage, and in need of being set free.

In many ways, John the Baptist is an image of the church. At a later time, John pointed to Jesus, and encouraged his disciples to follow him, and become Jesus' disciples. During this Advent season, the church concentrates on preparing us to celebrate the coming of Jesus as our Saviour. We must heed that call, and prepare our hearts for this great occasion.

We are called to straighten out our lives. To fill in the valleys, and to level the mountains and hills is about ensuring justice for all of God's people. In today's language, we refer to this as providing a level playing field for all, so that everybody has access to the goods of this world. The final words of Isaiah in today's gospel tells that "And then all people will see the salvation sent to us from our God." This is the direct result of making straight the ways of the Lord, filling the valleys, levelling the mountains, straightening the curves, and making smooth the rough places. We can all identify these areas in our lives.

The only way I will ever be able to respond to the word of God is to accept that it is a personal word for me. The gospel contains a message for me. I am the one who is asked to turn from my sins, to turn to God, and to prepare the way for him to make his home within my heart. I am the one who is asked to ensure fair play and justice for others, so that I can see the salvation sent from God.

What exactly does "turning from sin" mean? If I am conscious of anything in my life that is in conflict with my Christian vocation; if I am aware of any pattern of behaviour, relationship, or deceit in my life that is not according to the will of Jesus, then I must get rid of it. "If your hand sins against you," says Jesus, "cut it off. It is better to enter heaven with one hand than to end up in hell with two." Usually there is little difficulty identifying something in my life that should not be there. We all have a conscience, that still silent voice that reminds us.

Filling the valleys, levelling the mountains, straightening the crooked road, preparing a pathway for the Lord- this is all part of my preparation for Christmas. This involves decisions, and these decisions come out of the context of the realities of my life. God is always calling on me to respond to him. Responding to him is to become responsible. I have responsibility for my actions, and become willing to face up to the truth.

Most churches have a Service of Reconciliation during Advent. Sin has a community dimension. When I do wrong, I offend the community in general, through an individual, or through a group. Because there is a community dimension to my sin, there should be a community dimension to my repentance.

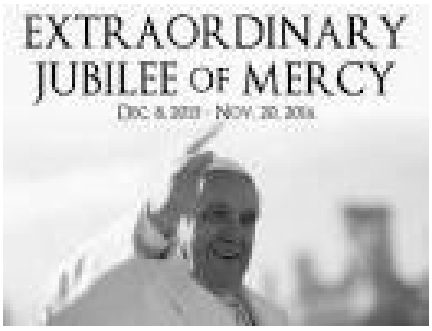
Taken from http://www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp

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
with Priests available for Confessions.
Rosary at 6.00pm followed by Solemn Mass at 6.30pm



The Extraordinary **Jubilee of Mercy**
will be held from the
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
on the 8th December, to the
Feast of Christ the King
on November 20th 2016.

'Jesus' attitude is striking. No words of condemnation, only words of love, of mercy. Have you thought about God's patience, the patience he has with each one of us? That is his mercy. He always has patience with us. He understands us, he waits for us, he does not tire of forgiving us if we are able to return to him with a contrite heart.' *Pope Francis.*

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CHRISTMAS SHOPPING …. We will be collecting presents for the Women's Refuge and Apostleship of the Sea - boxes will be left in the church for these next week. It would be helpful if you could indicate - by means of a label or card perhaps - the nature of the gift, eg 'Gift for boy aged 7 - 8 years old'.

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 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.

CHRISTMAS CRIB Crib offerings this year will be donated to Friends of the Holy Land for the poorest Christian families in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

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MISSIO RED BOXES

To all box holders: If you have money in your box and it has not been collected for at least six months please contact your promoter. If you do not know who this is please contact Steve, c/o the parish office. If you no longer want to use your box please let us know.

To all promoters: If you have not contacted any of your donors in the last six months please ask them if they wish their boxes to be emptied. This should be done twice per year and it doesn't matter how little there is in the box.

All money needs to be handed in by December 15th.

Dates for your diary -



ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE
St Joseph's, Purewell, Christchurch.
Thursday, 17th December at 7.30pm.

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

From the Royal Bournemouth Hospital:
You can take part in the Tree of Lights by buying a light for a minimum £5 donation in memory of a loved one. Lights are on sale in the entrance of the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

The Tree of Lights is organised by the Boscombe and Southbourne Rotary Club and will be displayed at the hospital throughout December.

The Tree of Lights Carol service will take place at 6.30pm in the Oasis restaurant at RBH on Thursday 17th December with the Boscombe Salvation Army Band. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served following the service.

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.

MINI CHRISTMAS FAYRE *THIS* Sunday, 6th December. Corpus Christi from 10.30am- 1.30pm.

JOINT SCHOOLS ADVENT SERVICE: A joint Advent service with St Walburga's, St Joseph's and St Peter's Schools is being held at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Thursday 10th December at 7pm. All are welcome.

POETS, PIKELETS AND PETTICOATS: An afternoon of words & music with a Scottish themed afternoon tea at 2pm Saturday 23rd January at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Purewell in aid Of Kabanana Care (Zambia), charity which provides food, shelter & education for over 80 orphaned children/vulnerable adults. James Manlow, Bournemouth's 2014-15 Poet Laureate will be reading his poems & answering questions. Music by The Happy Heart Singers, plus young local performer. Tickets £5 (inc afternoon tea) For further details please contact the parish office at St Joseph's.

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS' MEETING: Join us at our next meeting on **Sat 23rd January 2016** from 10am until 1.30pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX) where we will explore our Lenten resources and hear more about CAFOD's water programmes in Uganda. To book a place please ring 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk by 15 January 2016.

HOLIDAY COMPANION WANTED

I am a 68 year old lady parishioner and am looking for someone to accompany me (home or abroad) for a week or two on holiday in the New Year. All expenses paid. Please contact the parish office for more details.

THANK YOU

for the offerings November

Envelopes :	£ 143.10	Cash :	£ 100.58
Standing Orders :	£ 201.85		**Total : £ 445.53**
CAFOD (November) :	£ 55.70 (plus a cheque for £50)		*Thank you!*

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