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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT Yr C

20th/21st 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 20th February		Mass Intention
Saturday 20th Feb. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**	Gunter Baeck's birthday
Sunday 21st Feb. Principal Mass 9.30am Baptism Alexander Gray Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ----------
Tuesday 23rd Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am	__	Tony O'Reily
Wednesday 24th Feb. Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	of the Second Week of Lent	----------
Thursday 25th Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am	of the Second Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 26th Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	of the Second Week of Lent	For all the Parish faithful departed
Saturday 27thFeb. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**	People of the Parish
Sunday 28th Feb. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Choral Evensong & Benediction 4.30pm		For the Repose of the Soul of George Vine

CAFOD
Just one world

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend
for your **Lent Fast Day envelopes.**

Thank you for your generous compassion for those living in poverty and for fasting in solidarity with them.
The UK government has promised to match every pound and penny you give to CAFOD (from 10th Feb – 9th May) up to the value of £3.5million!

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.)

Second Sunday of Lent Year C

So What's New?

"Our young people today love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, disrespect for the elderly. Children nowadays are domineering. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannise their teachers." How many of us, older people, would see this as a true assessment of modern behaviour, as compared to that of our own young days? But - and here is the catch - these words were written by the famous Greek philosopher, Socrates, one of the wisest men who ever lived, and ironically condemned to death in 399 B.C., for supposedly corrupting the morals of young people and preaching religious heresy. Perhaps it is a question of human nature not changing, being the same yesterday and today.

What we can say with certainty, however, about the present age is that it is, in some ways, a time of extraordinary change. We seem to be thrilled by change; and yet the older we grow, the more we protest against change, even change for the better (John Steinbech). But we cannot get away from the fact that we are unable to experience the unchanging fullness of life here and now. Only God is capable of this. "Change and decay in all around I see. Oh thou who changest not, abide with me," the well-known hymn "Abide with me" says. Once, and once only, for 33 years, God lowered himself to become like us a being subject to change, when in the person of his only begotten Son, he was born of the Virgin Mary into this material world. And God in doing this had a special purpose in mind. It was that in the person of Jesus Christ he might show human beings the way forward they should pursue, in a changing universe.

Of course God did not neglect previous generations. For example, in the person of Abraham, our father in faith, we see somebody who was called to follow such a way, called to leave his home, his own people, to give up the gods he had so far worshipped, to change from the settled ways of city -dweller (in Ur) to the uncertain existence of nomadic tribesman in the mountainous regions of central Palestine - and all this surely in order to safeguard the new relationship between him and God, a relationship so personal that Abraham was later to be remembered so personal that Abraham was later to be remembered as "the friend of God" (Is 41:8, "El Khalil" among Arabs). In return for Abraham's venture of faith, God made a covenant with him.

This was a form of treaty entered into by individuals or groups of people in ancient times. According to the terms of this, God promised that Abraham would be the father of a great people - something most unlikely at the time, since he and Sara were as yet childless. Yet the faith of each of us here, and that of the countless people who have professed it through the ages, bears witness to the fulfilment of that promise.

Because of Abraham's acceptance of God's word, nothing would ever be the same again. And what the second reading and the gospel are saying is that death, which will usher in a new existence for each of us, will not be simply a continuation of the pleasant things of this life. Rather will it herald the most profound change of all - the beginning of a completely new existence of which the three Apostles on Mt Tabor had a premonition, a fleeting glance, in the person of Christ transfigured before them. Christ was about to enter this new state as the first fruits of God's plan of redemption. And in so doing he would make it possible for all true believers to enter after him. For, as St Paul assures us, our true home is in heaven, and if we manifest a willingness to be changed under the influence of God's grace, he will transform these poor lowly bodies of ours, also, into copies of Christ's glorious, risen body. In the meantime, "life passes, riches fly away, popularity comes and goes, the senses decay, the world changes, friends die. One alone is constant; one alone is true to us, one alone can be all things to us" (Newman), and this is God.

If one's abiding trust is in him, then after the fever of life is over, after the set-backs and illnesses, the strivings and failures, the changes and uncertainties of this troubled earthly existence, there will come the ultimate change, that which will usher all those, who have persevered in Jesus Christ, through the darkness of death, into the enduring brilliance of the beatific vision of God. Then in the presence of the Father of all light, St James tells us, there will be no more change, nor shadow of alteration. God grant that this may be our destiny as well.

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

PASTORAL AREA "LEARNING IN LENT" DVD series:
The Sacraments – transforming everyday life
THIS THURSDAY (25th Feb) 1.30 – 2.45 pm "Why Sacraments?" - the first lunchtime session at Our Lady Queen of Peace hall, Southbourne (Why not bring your lunch and join us from 1pm?)
THIS TUESDAY (23rd Feb) 7.30 – 8.45 pm "Baptism" - the second evening session at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch
Each session is stand-alone, so come to as many as you can manage. No need to sign up, just turn up on the day.
More details on the fliers available in the church porch or on the Avon Stour Pastoral Area website or contact Richard Martin (rmartin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, 07990 826934)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: PASTORAL AREA NETWORK EVENT
Everyone involved in helping with Children's Liturgy of the Word (or interested in doing so) is invited to this event **THIS THURSDAY 25th FEB 7.15 – 9.15 pm at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Christchurch** (Dorset Road, BH23 3DA). The session will bring together people from all six of our churches and will be led jointly by Richard Martin (our Pastoral Area Director of Lay Formation) and Angela Wood (from the Diocese Formation for Mission Team). If you plan to attend, or would like more information, please contact Richard Martin (rmartin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, 07990 826934)

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.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ('Watching')

This is now the first Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise announced.

Exposition will be from after the end of Mass until 11am.

'Stay with Me ….. Watch and Pray'



LIVING OUR FAITH FUNDS

Now that the campaign started in 2010 has finished it is time to consider how best to use the money raised. The Finance Committee and the PPC have agreed that the parishioners should be invited to make suggestions.

There is about £10,000 available which can be used for virtually any major project which would directly benefit the parish. Suggestions already put forward include new front doors, new outside notice boards and general refurbishment of the hall. There is no set timescale but we need your input.

Please put your ideas on paper and leave them with the office (either in the post box in the sacristy or through the outside letter box). You do not need to put your name on them but please mark the envelope "Living Our Faith Funds".

Thank you to everyone.
Steve Ferris (Finance Committee Chairman).

Date of next PPC Meeting : Thursday 25th February, 7.00pm (Change of date)

Website Addition - Readings of the Day courtesy of Universalis. Please note that there is now a new page added to the avonstourpastoralarea.org website. This page is entitled Universalis Readings of the Day. Courtesy of Universalis, there is now a link on that page that, on clicking on the hand on the headline Banner, gives you a download of the Readings of the Day. Please inform all the people whom you visit who may be housebound as this may prove to be a valuable resource for them.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT is 29th February to 13th May. If you would like to get involved, please visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2016

FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

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.		

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!

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 at 2pm.

'**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 13th/14th Feb.

Envelopes :	£ 148.20	Cash :	£ 126.03
Standing Orders :	£ 189.15		**Total : £ 463.38**

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

A note for your diaries:

Fr 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.

