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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6th/7th December 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 6th December:		Mass Intention
Saturday 6th Dec. 6.00pm	First Mass of Second Sunday 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
Monday	—	—
Tuesday 9th Dec. 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Of the 2nd week of Advent Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	George Hackwell, RIP
Wed. 10th Dec.10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	Of the 2nd week of Advent	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 11th Dec. 9.30am	Of the 2nd week of Advent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 12th Dec. 9.30am	Of the 2nd week of Advent	For all the parish faithful departed
Sat. 13th Dec. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation First Mass of Third Sun. of Advent	Martin MacDonald, RIP
Sunday 14th Dec. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	People of the Parish

New rotas for the weekend ministries are now available
- they are on the 'free table' in the grey trays.

New rotas for the **Saturday Eucharistic Ministers** also available - please take your copy from the grey trays.

TODAY is CATHOLIC BIBLE SUNDAY This is an initiative of the Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It exists to encourage every baptised Catholic to hear afresh, and be renewed, in their attentiveness to God's Word through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures both at home and in their local parish. This year, materials have been provided that support parish Mass readers. For these resources please see: www.thewordofthelord.co.uk

Psalm Refrain:

Second Sunday of Advent



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40: 1-5 2 Peter 3: 8-14 Mark 1: 1-8

PREPARING HIS WAY

Christmas is drawing steadily closer. Many of us are already preparing for Christmas by writing our Christmas cards and buying presents. That experience of preparing is one we are familiar with from other areas of life. We prepare for visitors; we prepare to go on holidays; we prepare for exams; we prepare for some task or other we have to do. Some people are thorough in their preparations. They leave nothing to chance.

Yet, there are some experiences in life we can never fully prepare for. There is only so much we can do to prepare for the death of a loved one. Even if that loved one has been ill for a long time, and we think we are preparing for the moment of their death, yet, when it comes, its impact can surprise us. We realize that there was a quality to the experience that was impossible to anticipate, no matter how prepared we were. No marriage preparation course can prepare people fully for marriage. The relationship of love between a particular man and a particular woman is too complex and mysterious to be fully anticipated in advance. When it comes to the bigger, more significant, experiences of life, the preparing often happens in the doing, or even, indeed, after the doing. We look back and learn from some experience, and then, in the light of that, prepare ourselves better to face that experience or a similar one when it comes around again.

In both the first reading and the gospel reading for this Advent Sunday, we hear the cry: "Prepare a way for the Lord." We are being asked to prepare for the coming of the Lord. The second reading looks to the Lord's coming at the end of time. We could understand that as referring to his coming at the end of our own personal time, the end of our lives. If it is difficult to prepare for the more mysterious and complex experiences of life, we might be tempted to wonder how we can prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Surely, the Lord is even more mysterious than the most significant experiences of life. How do we prepare for the coming of one whose thoughts are not our thoughts and whose ways are not our ways? Indeed when the Lord first came among us as a human being two thousand years ago, many were not prepared for the way he chose to come. The Lord's crucifixion is a monument to how unprepared many people were for his coming.

Yet, because we can look back on the Lord's first coming, we are better prepared for his coming again. We are being asked to prepare for the coming of one who has already come and who, having come, has been present with us. The Lord who will come again is the same Lord who became flesh and lived among us two thousand years ago, and who has been present with us through the Holy Spirit ever since. The risen Lord said to his first disciples "I will be with you always until the end of time." The Church is a privileged place where we meet the Lord. We meet him in the Scriptures. We meet him in the Sacraments. We meet him in the community of believers. We meet him in the broken and the needy, whoever they are. In preparing for the Lord's coming to us, we are not preparing for the coming of a stranger. Our preparing for the Lord's coming is more akin to a person preparing for the arrival of a friend or a spouse, someone they have come to know and love. We prepare for the Lord's coming by opening ourselves to the many ways in which the Lord is present with us now. Advent calls on us to receive the Lord's daily presence, his daily coming, and to allow the Lord's daily coming to shape how we live our lives. If we grow in our relationship with the Lord in this way, his final coming to us will be a joyful moment, when we experience him as the good Shepherd, holding us to himself and leading us to our rest.

www.biblical.ie/lections

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.

Have you started your Christmas shopping…..?!

This year we will be taking gifts:

* to a Refuge - toys for children/toiletries for teenage boys
* to the Salvation Army - socks
* to the Foodbank

Please bring your wrapped present (with label stating contents - eg. toy for 5 year old girl) to the church in good time for 'Santa' to deliver! No need to wrap the foodbank donations!



CHURCH FLOWERS

There are no flowers in the church during Advent - as in Lent - but the rest of the year our team of flower arrangers do a wonderful job.
If there is anyone who would like to help our team of flower arrangers please have a word with Jo.
Any donations towards the cost of the church flowers - particularly the Christmas flowers - would be welcomed. Or perhaps you would like to sponsor a particular arrangement? Just have a word with any member of the flower team. Many thanks.

Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party

The Annual Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party will be held *next* Saturday, 13th December, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

If anyone wishes to attend, please add your name to the list on the "free table". There is a box for your food donations underneath the table.
If anyone requires a lift to or from the party please let Neil know.

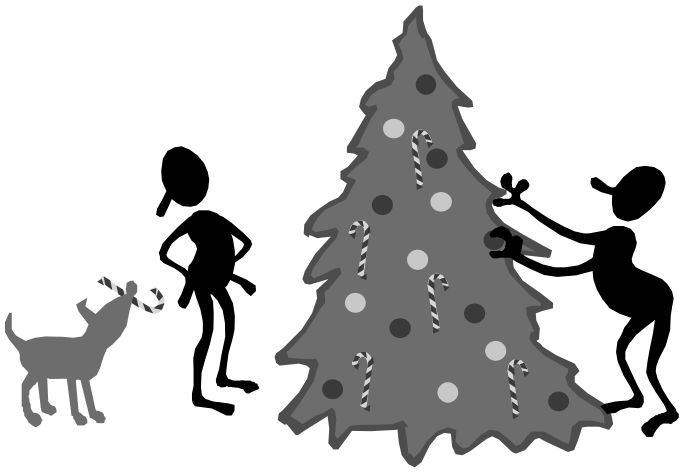
IS THERE ANYONE WHO COULD GET US OUR **CHRISTMAS TREE?** (IT NEEDS TO BE IN THE CHURCH BY FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER.)

PLEASE LET THE PARISH OFFICE KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP.
MANY THANKS!

As in previous years, there is a box at the back of church for your

Christmas cards

for your fellow parishioners!



CHRISTMAS CRIB:
Crib offerings will go to support Christians in the Holy Land; the monies collected throughout the diocese will be sent to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

HOSPITAL CAROL SERVICES

The RBCH NHS Foundation Trust Carol Services will be on

Thurs. 18th December at 2pm at Christchurch Hospital Chapel and on
Sunday, 21st December at 3pm in the Bournemouth Hospital Atrium

DECORATING THE TREE …….

The children are invited to decorate the Christmas tree after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 23rd Dec.

We will also be putting out the **CRIB** at that time, so need some volunteers to help get the figures down from the gallery.

All offers of help welcomed!

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA CHRISTMAS POSTERS now available. Please take one!

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH 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).

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.

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 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.

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. Contact the School Office on 01202 420172 for more information.

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL ARCHIVE: In 2013, Corpus Christi School celebrated the 125th anniversary of its foundation as, the then, Holy Cross School. During the past year a considerable amount of research has created an archive of material relating to the school's earlier days. If any parishioners have memories, photographs, etc. of their days at Holy Cross School and would like to share them, please send to holycrossmemories@corpuschristi.bournemouth.sch.uk

'**OUR GOD WHO COMES TO LOVE AND FORGIVE US' IGNATIAN DAY :** Sat. 20th December at St. Joseph's parish centre, Christchurch**.** As we approach Christmas please join us to consider what the incarnation means for us today. Jesus came to bring love and forgiveness and we will explore these gifts through prayer and sharing, with the help of the New Testament scriptures. We begin with coffee at 10.30am and finish by 4.15pm. Please remember to bring a packed lunch. Everybody is welcome whether or not you have been to Ignatian days before.

FLAME 2: Sat. 7th March 2015. This event is for young people from Year 10 - young adult. 5000 tickets have been sold, and the young Catholics of Portsmouth Diocese are going to be a big part of it, as they travel with Bishop Philip on our diocesan coach to Wembley for Flame 2. Places cost just £45 which will include transport, tickets and a hoody! For more information and to book a place, contact Will Hince whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 07780221686.

WORLD YOUTH DAY, THURSDAY 21ST JULY - TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2016:
We are delighted to announce that we will be taking a coach of young people from our diocese to Poland for the next World Youth Day in 2016 with Pope Francis. We'll be travelling across Europe with Bishop Philip to join with over a million young Catholics. With accommodation in the heart of Krakow facilitating full participation in the whole event, this is going to be epic! Guide price £995. See www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more information. Limited places.

THANK YOU **for the offerings 29th/30th Nov.**

Envelopes & Cash:	£ 254.85	
Standing Orders :	£ 152.99	**Total : £ 407.84**
CAFOD (November):	£ 34.40	*Thank you!*