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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Second Sunday of Easter Year A

26th/27th April 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG.

Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel: 01202 485588

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW

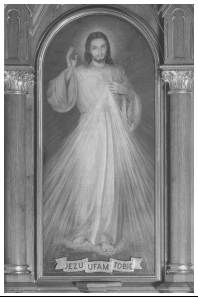
e-mail: djordan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

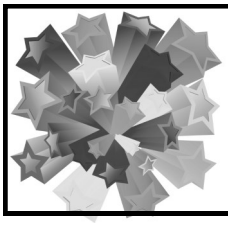
Week beginning 26th April :		Mass Intention
Saturday 26th April 6.00pm	First Mass of the Second Sunday of Easter	Maggie Donlevy, RIP
Sunday 27th April 9.30am	**SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER**	People of the Parish
Monday 28th April	—	—
Tuesday 29th April 9.30am	St Catherine of Siena, *feast*	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 30th April 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00 noon	of the Second week of Easter Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 1st May 9.30am	of the Second week of Easter	Leonard & Gladys Hinton (Foundation Mass)
Friday 2nd May 9.30am	St Athanasius, *memorial*	For the parish faithful departed
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Third Sunday of Easter	

RAY ROCKS RIP Sadly, Ray Rocks passed away on the evening of Tuesday, 22nd April. The Requiem Mass will be here at St Thomas More's on Tuesday May 6th at 2.00pm.

Please note:
There is a message from Bishop Philip about the Canonisation of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II on the 'free table' at the back of church - please take a copy if you would like one.
Alternatively, visit www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

TODAY IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Fr Darryl will be celebrating at **Our LADY QUEEN of PEACE Church**, Southbourne, Sunday 27th April **3.00-4.00pm**. This will be followed by refreshments. Also, Our Lady Immaculate Church, Seamoor Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth will be hosting an event at **1.50pm**: Processional Blessing, procession and enthronement of image, hymns, Blessing & Veneration of the image of Mercy, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, during which the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place. 3pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy.





A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" –

To all those who helped, in many different ways, to make the Triduum services, the Easter Vigil and the Easter Day Service so special - the cleaning, the 'festal' flowers, all the preparation beforehand, etc etc. *You are stars!*

The Second Sunday of Easter Yr A

THE LEAP FROM KNOWLEDGE TO FAITH

Today's gospel is about two of the many appearances of Jesus to his disciples after his resurrection. Today's account is special, because he appears to the larger group, from which Thomas is missing, and then he appears when Thomas is present, because Thomas didn't believe the story the others told him. Here we have Jesus looking for definite belief and conviction about the fact and truth of his resurrection.

Faith and knowledge must not be confused. I can know something in my head, and not really believe it down in my heart. I know that Jesus is God, but Satan knows that also. It is how I respond to that knowledge that can lead to faith. Faith, in a way, is in my feet, and it enables me to step out with confidence in my decisions and in my words. It comes from experiential knowledge, rather than something I learned from a textbook. Thomas was told the good news of resurrection, but he was not prepared to believe until he had experienced that fact for himself.

It is difficult for the human mind to know anything of God. Our terms of reference are so limited and so conditioned, and Thomas Aquinas tells us that when we speak about God, there is only one thing we can be sure of, i.e. that we're wrong. God is so much more than anything we could say or think about him. God, however, does not wish to be clouded in mystery. The coming of Jesus on earth, with his action-packed life and his public death was a down-to-earth statement from God. If Thomas wants to touch the wounds of Jesus, then Jesus will make that possible, and invite him to do so. A real invitation of the gospel is "Come and see for yourself." I believe that if I really and genuinely want to know the risen Lord that he will meet that wish and, through the action of his Spirit within my heart, I will come to know him in a deep and personal way.

Thomas believed because he had seen. Jesus said that the real test is to believe without having seen. The atheist would believe if I could provide all the proofs. That would not be faith. Faith is a response to love. If I am convinced of God's love for me, either as a Father, or as Jesus my Saviour, then I will accept his promises, and trust him to keep his end of the offer. The word "covenant" is used a lot in scripture. A covenant is not the same as a contract. I go into a shop, give the money, and walk out with a newspaper under my arm. That is a contract and, once the conditions are met, there ceases to be any responsibility. A covenant, on the other hand, is something that cannot be broken, and that does not end, even if one side is unfaithful to it. John and Mary remain husband and wife, even if they are living apart. As things stand with the church today, that covenant still remains, even if they get a civil divorce. Jesus announced "a new and eternal covenant," and he is definite and insistent that heaven and earth will pass away before his promises or covenant will fail. All he asks is that we believe in him. On the morning of the ascension, the apostles were looking up into the heavens, when angels appeared to them, and asked them why they were looking up there. Jesus had told them where they would find him from now on. He is to be found in the marginalised, the outcast, the broken, and the suffering. These are the wounds in the Body of Christ today.

"Whatever you do to the least of these, that is what you do for me." I can reach out and touch the wounds of Jesus any day I choose.

There is an advertisement for bread, which claims that it is "Today's bread today." It would be a good idea if I took today's gospel for today, and not something that I might do something about some other time.

If the gospel begins with the invitation to "Come and see," then it surely ends with the words "Go and tell." As a Christian, who has come and seen for myself, I have a responsibility to go and tell. There is an important proviso included in this, however. You have no responsibility for whether the other person accepts or rejects what you have to say. The apostles told Thomas what they had experienced, but he was totally free to believe that or not. Jesus told his disciples that if people refused to believe them they were to shake the dust of that town from their shoes, and go ahead to the next town.

There is a little postscript to today's gospel to which I have not referred. John tells us that his selection of events is just a sample of the many other events in the life of Jesus. He presents these to us in the hope that they might lead us to believe in him, and so to receive the abundant life that flows from such faith. The events in the life of Jesus are continuing right here, right now, as I speak. When the final chapter is written, how will our role in the events be seen?

The village had its own wise old man, to whom people came for advice on everything. His wisdom and knowledge was greatly respected by all. A young man from the village was given the opportunity to go away to college. He obtained several degrees and, in his heart, he considered himself to be so much more intelligent and informed than the old man. One day he decided to show that he was so much cleverer, and he decided to embarrass the old man by setting up a situation where he would be proven wrong. He caught a little bird, which he held firmly concealed in his hand. He would ask the old man if the bird were alive or dead. If the man said the bird -was dead, he would release his grip and allow the bird to fly away. lf he said the bird was alive he would squeeze it so tight that it would immediately die. He approached the old man, showed him the beak of the tiny bird sticking out from his fist, and asked him, "Old man, tell me: is this bird dead or alive?" The old man looked at him, and calmly replied: "The answer to that question, my son, depends totally on you."

As you look within your heart, is Jesus dead or alive?

Week of Accompanied Prayer 11 - 17 May Information Evening

There will be an Information Evening on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's Parish Centre. This will be an opportunity to ask questions about how the week works, and there are still places to be filled so it's not too late to sign up! If you cannot come to the meeting but would like to take part please contact Chris c/o St Joseph's, Christchurch.

Confirmation 2014



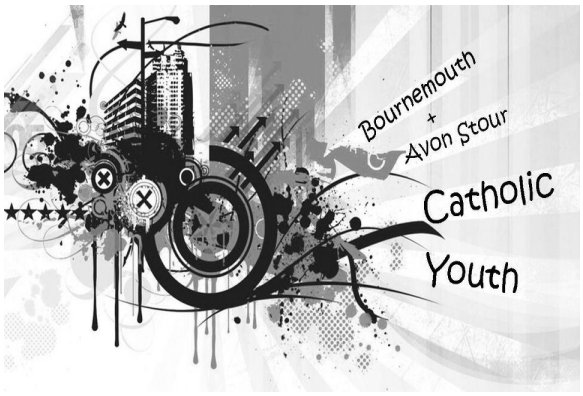
The next meeting for candidates (and sponsors if possible) is Friday 2nd May at 7.00pm, at St. Joseph's parish centre Christchurch, which is the rehearsal for Confirmation on Saturday 3rd May at 3pm at the Cathedral.

The following Sunday 11th May at 9.30 Mass at St. Thomas More they will be presented with their certificates.

Monthly Area Youth Mass!
Saturday 10th May 6-8pm
Here at Saint Thomas More's.

Come and join us for our Monthly Area Youth Mass and social!

"From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others" -Blessed John Paul II



(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 14th, 21st & 28th May 6 - 7pm at Corpus Christi
(757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6AN) Need some peace in the middle of your busy week of school, college, uni or work? Come along and make some new friends at this beautiful time of prayer.

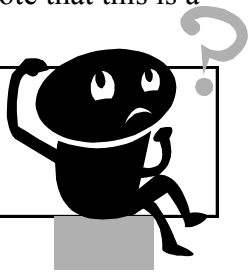
Big Church Day Out! 24th & 25th May at Wiston House, West Sussex
Get in touch if you're interested in joining 20,000 people at this Christian music festival! They're looking to get more Catholics involved and are offering half price tickets to our group! www.bigchurchdayout.com
From Will Hince 07810827606 whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The next **Local Pastoral Council meeting** will be on Wednesday, 30th April at 7.00pm.
The next **Fabric and Finance meeting** will be on Tuesday, 6th May, at 7.00pm. (Please note that this is a change from the original date.)

STM QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, May 10th at 7pm. In the church hall. Shared supper.

Tickets will be on sale again after both Masses this weekend and next, 3rd/4th May.



The Link.
Have you taken your Spring 2014 copy of 'The Link'?
Please note that contributions for the next (Summer) edition need to be submitted by **1st May**.
Please e-mail these to Maureen at mike.gage@tiscali.co.uk. Thanks.

The lay members of the ACI family of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart are collecting unwanted spectacles for the Sister's mission in the Cameroon.



We meet at 11am every last Monday of the month at the convent at 6 Parkwood Road, Boscombe. All are welcome.

Marriage Care, a registered charity, provides relationship counselling at no fixed fee.
So that the relationship counsellor has someone else present in the building when seeing clients we need someone sitting in the office, but of course not in the same room. The location of the service is near Bournemouth Town Hall, we would need your help on Tuesday evenings and are under pressure from May until September so hope to create a rota.

A note for your diaries! MIDSUMMER FAYRE at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church (15 Salisbury Road, Fordingbridge SP6 1EG). In the church hall and garden. Saturday June 21st, 11am - 2pm.
Fun for all the family! Relax in the garden and on the patio with a Pimms or a soft drink. Enjoy something from the BBQ or a cream tea or cake. Stalls include plants, cakes, bric a brac, gifts, tombola, toys and games, bottle stall, raffle and more. There will also be an art exhibition and sale by the church art group.
Also - **Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Summer Fête:** Saturday 28th June at 2pm.

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 office post box

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 (Emergency no is 01202 470722) or the Annunciation Church 01202 513369

CLERGY MOVES (September 2014) affecting our area:

- Fr. John Lee from Christchurch to St. Joseph's, Maidenhead (& as co-ordinating pastor for Windsor Great Park Pastoral Area).
- Fr. Tom Grufferty from Havant & Emsworth to Christchurch (our new co-ordinating pastor)
- Fr. David Quarmby from Highcliffe to Jersey as chaplain to the Little Sisters of the Poor Nursing Home.
- Fr. Paul Obada (Lokoja Diocese, Nigeria) from assistant at Winchester, to Highcliffe.
- Fr. Marcus Brisley from Annunciation, Charminster, Bournemouth to Havant and Emsworth.
- Fr. Bernadine Nsom (Bamenda) from assistant at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Southbourne, to Annunciation, Bournemouth

NEWSLETTER INSERTS FROM THE DIOCESE:

Called and Gifted Workshop: Places for the Called and Gifted Workshop in June are filling up fast. Please book your place if you wish to come. Go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted and fill in the form. Places are free for those in the diocese. If someone outside the Diocese wishes to come, please contact cvirgo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Framework for Collaboration: Framework Teams wish to make contact with the following people:
1. Those who are involved in any way in Natural Fertility Planning, especially practitioners 2. Those who are involved in spiritual direction 3. Those who are involved in any type of chaplaincy.
Please could you send your details to Caroline Virgo cvirgo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk All teams are still recruiting volunteers. Volunteer interview days continue to be on the 4th Saturday of each month. The interviews take the form of a mutual discernment conversation. If you would like to help at diocesan level please contact us after discussing it with your parish priest.

THANK YOU for the offerings 19th/20th April

Envelopes :	£ 121.10	Cash :	£ 133.56
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93	**Total : £ 399.59**	

