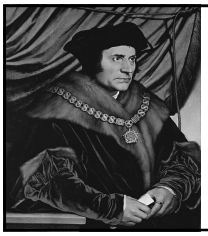
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg'd. Charity No. 246871



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

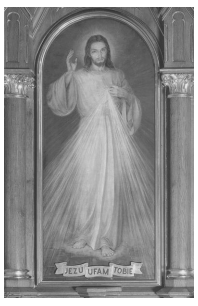
SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER Yr C

2nd/3rd April 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 2nd/3rd April		Mass Intention
Saturday 2nd April Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**SECOND SUNDAY Of EASTER**	People of the Parish
Sunday 3rd April Principal Mass 9.30am Baptism Veronica McGonigle Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		For the repose of the soul of Christopher Gilby ----------
Tuesday 5th April Weekday Mass 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am - 11.00am	**of the 2nd Week of Easter**	For the repose of the soul of Katherine Teresa James (Foundation Mass)
Wednesday 6th April Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	**of the 2nd Week of Easter**	----------
Thursday 7th April Weekday Mass 9.30am *Requiem Mass 11.30am*	**of the 2nd Week of Easter**	For the repose of the soul of Jozef Weyers
Friday 8th April Weekday Mass 9.30am Toddler group (led by Fr Darryl) after Mass	**of the 2nd Week of Easter**	For all the parish faithful departed
Saturday 9th April Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**THIRD SUNDAY Of EASTER**	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th April Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ----------

<u>SPECIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING</u> : Corpus Christi Church, 8th April, 7.00pm. In Thanksgiving for Fr Denis Blackledge, who leaves for pastures new in Liverpool.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

There will be a Divine Mercy Service
at St Joseph's Church, Christchurch,
this Sunday, 3rd April,
starting at 2.45 pm.

Second Sunday of Easter Year C

Our struggle to believe

When we come together for Mass every Sunday we come to remember Jesus. Our presence and participation in the Eucharist is an act of faith – an act of personal faith and an act of shared faith. In praying together we also help one another believe, hope and love more strongly. So we become a stronger Christian community. It might be said of us what was said in our First Reading today about the infant Church in Jerusalem: ".".. the number of people who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily."
Our shared faith is above all faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that he has risen from the dead, that he is alive in himself and alive in us, and that he is our Teacher, Lord and Leader. But nobody can do our believing for us. This is powerfully illustrated in our gospel story today.

It's Easter Sunday and the disciples are huddled together in a locked room. After what happened to Jesus just two days before, they dare not venture out because of fear for their lives. But Jesus himself does not hide away. Suddenly he comes among them. His greeting is peace. Their response is joy. For the story-teller John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost, and the gift of the Spirit is the breath of the Risen Christ. The disciples breathe in the Spirit and the Spirit becomes part of their lives. Soon they will leave the Upper Room changed persons – fearless and courageous, energetic and zealous people. In short they will leave as persons animated, fired and propelled outwards by the Holy Spirit.

But one of their group is missing. His name is Thomas. He is one of the apostles, part of the group. But he is also a distinct, independent self, a real individual. He cannot be both loyal to the group and disloyal to his own inner self. That would make his loyalty deceitful and worthless. For Thomas honesty and sincerity are, in fact, more important than loyalty and belonging. So when the others say, 'We have seen the Lord', he declares strongly and emphatically that before he is willing to believe that Jesus is really risen and alive he must see and test the evidence for himself. He won't accept that claim just on their say-so. So it's his honesty that makes him doubt and leads to him being called ever afterwards 'Doubting Thomas'.

We learn from the gospel story that Thomas comes to believe in the Risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples, i.e. when he sees the Lord for himself. But in the way John tells the story Thomas stands for all those who have not yet seen the Lord in the flesh but who are called to believe in him just the same. That's where we come into the story. We are among those many generations of believers ever afterwards of whom it may be said: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

It's understandable that Thomas was so slow to believe. One reason is that he was such a rugged individual, a real self-starter. The other is because he was not present when Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into his fellow-disciples.

But Jesus has given the Spirit to you and me, first at Baptism, then at Confirmation, and subsequently at every Eucharist we celebrate. The Spirit which Jesus gives is the Spirit of truth. It's the same Spirit that empowers us to say to Jesus with Thomas: 'My Lord and my God!'

Our faith is one of the main gifts the Spirit has given us. But it is not a one-off gift that we lock away in a safe like some precious jewel. As a form of life we must let our faith grow and mature. On the other hand, like other forms of life, our faith can wither and die from neglect and lack of exercise. We need to pray about our faith, think about our faith, and express it in works of love.

This does not mean that we will never have any doubts. After all even great and saintly characters like Mother Teresa had to struggle with doubts her whole life long. But if like Thomas we care about what we believe, surely sooner or later our faith, revived by the Holy Spirit, will bring us into the presence of God in the person of Jesus, whom our Second Reading today calls 'the Living One'.

www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp



CONFIRMATION

The last session for the Confirmation candidates will be Session 9 at St Joseph's on Friday 15th April from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

This will be a rehearsal for the Confirmation for both candidates and sponsors.

REACHING THE UNREACHED
(Brother Lionel) COFFEE MORNING
17th April

In the church hall, after 9.30am Mass and after 11.15am Mass.
Finish approx. 1.00pm. Bring and Buy, Cake Stall, Sale of Work
If anyone would like to be involved in the preparation for this, or on the day, please contact Annie.
There will be a box in the church for donated items on 3rd April.

Fabric and Finance Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for the 19th April. Please contact the Chair, Steve if you have any items for the agenda of the next meeting.
Suggestions regarding the use of the 'Living Our Faith' fund are still welcome.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

The planned giving envelope boxes for 2016/17 are now available for collecting from the back of the church. Please note that this year there will be no boxes for those who give by standing order since only two or three people use them. Also, in the interests of avoiding waste, the boxes do not contain envelopes for special collections. Only about one person in four actually uses them. In future all second collections will be cash only.

If anyone wishes to have a box of envelopes please advise the parish office or contact Steve Ferris. If you are a tax payer please ask for a gift aid form so that the parish can claim a further 25% on your donation from the government.

The greatest need for any parish is regular giving. The best way to guarantee that your offering is received every week, even when you are not here, is to set up **a standing order.** Relevant forms are available in the parish finance pack on the free table.
Alternatively, all you need to do is go to your bank/building society direct and pass on your instructions. The parish account details are: *Lloyds Bank plc; Sort code:30-93-04; A/C No:00875415 A/C Name :PRCDTR Bournemouth St Thomas More.*

FLAME 2017

From the Diocese: Tickets for Flame 2017 will soon go on sale. I would like you to encourage the young people of our diocese to travel together to Wembley Arena to join with around 8,000 other young Catholics for an encounter with the Lord and an epic celebration of our faith. Last year over 200 young people and leaders from our diocese made their way to Wembley. If your parish is interested in going, please contact Will Hince at whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. I would like us to book tickets as a diocese.

Significant Wedding Anniversaries

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years?
If so then you are invited to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 9th July 2016. If you would like to come, please visit the diocesan website and complete the online form, or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a COPY of your Wedding photograph, either by email to the above email address or by post and send to the following address: St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. (Please mark the envelope, "Significant Anniversaries Mass").

PASTORAL AREA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
Tuesday 12th April: Called & Gifted – all those who have been involved in the Called & Gifted Process are invited to gather together for one final time to share good news stories about what has been happening, to pray together and to discuss what might happen next.
Tuesday 26th April: Pastoral Area Network Event: First Holy Communion Catechists 7.15-9.15pm at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch.
Thursday 28thApril: First Pastoral Area *"Welcome to Worship"* event – for teenagers and adults of all ages: contemporary praise & worship, scripture, reflection, choice of ways to respond in prayer. St Joseph's Church, Christchurch 7.00-8.00pm, followed by refreshments.

FACEBOOK: Did you know we have a Pastoral Area Facebook group? If you use Facebook, you are invited to join – search for "Avon Stour Pastoral Area" and then click on "Join". It serves as a forum for us to share information about Pastoral Area matters or of particular interest to Pastoral Area members. Currently we have 55 members and it is a Closed Group, which means the posts are not viewable by the general public. The more members we have, the more useful this group will become.

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 and Blessed Margaret Pole, 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.		

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Saturday 21st May, Annunciation Church Hall, 218 Charminster Road, Bournemouth BH8 9RW. Child Protection Safeguarding session 10.00 am to 12.30 pm Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding session 1.30pm to 4.00 pm. Refreshments of tea, coffee, biscuits will be available but not lunch. Please contact either the PPC Chair, Neil or see the diocesan website to book.

PILGRIMMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: Tuesday 11th October - Tuesday 20th (inclusive)2016. Flight: Gatwick - Tel Aviv. Twin Room/Half Board Basis. Price: £1,295 includes Flights, Taxes, all transfers in UK and Israel and some entrance fees. Please see poster for more details. Contact: Fr Tom Grufferty, 01202 483340.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience, open to married couples of all ages. It's not a retreat, religious instruction or counselling, but an experience to enrich and refresh marriages. There are place available on the Marriage Encounter weekend taking place at Park Place Pastoral Centre, near Fareham, from 13th - 15th May.
Interested? Visit our website http://wwme.org.uk/

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION*:* 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 here at St Thomas More's on Saturday 11th June at 6.00pm , followed by a buffet in the church hall afterwards.

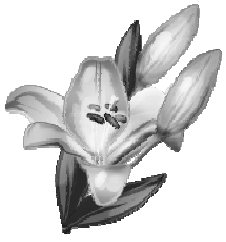
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER VACANCY: The governors of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Christchurch are seeking to appoint for September a practising Catholic who can contribute to the continued success of the school. Please contact the school on 01202 485976 or office@stjosephs.dorst.sch.uk for more information.

THANK YOU

for the offerings 19th/20th March

Envelopes :	£ 122.73	Cash :	£ 131.44
Standing Orders :	£ 186.85		**Total : £ 441.02**
Holy Places:	£ 164.38	*Thank you!*	

Easter Offerings (to date): £ 572.61



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