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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

SECOND SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME

17th/18th January 2015

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 17th January:		Mass Intention
Saturday 17th Jan. 6.00pm	Vigil Mass of the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
Sunday 18th Jan. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**	For the repose of the soul of Ponnamma Simon (7th Anniversary)
Monday	—	—
Tuesday 20th Jan. 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Feria Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Derek James Andrews (Foundation Mass)
Wed. 21st Jan. 10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	**St Agnes**, *memorial*	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 22nd Jan. 9.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Friday 23rd Jan. 9.30am	Feria	For all the Parish faithful departed
Sat. 24th Jan. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation First Mass of Third Sunday Ord. Time	People of the Parish
Sunday 25th Jan. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**	People of the Parish

This Sunday is **PEACE SUNDAY**.
The Annual Papal Message for World Peace Day can accessed via the Vatican Radio website or from the Diocesan website, www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk The theme is 'Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters.'

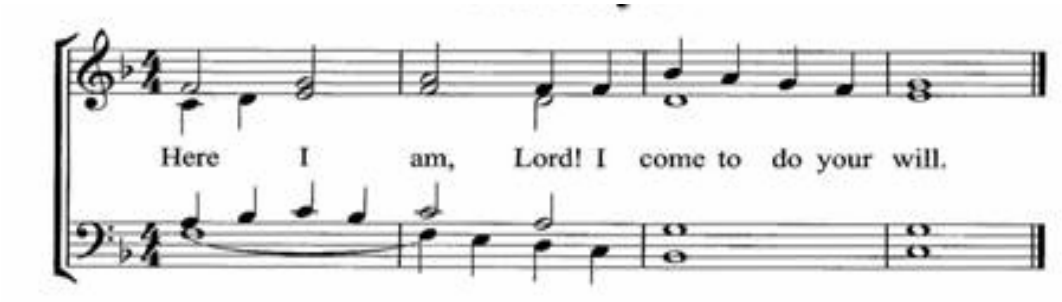
The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is observed from 18th to 25th January.

ROTAS

Copies of the new rota for the weekend ministers are now available in the grey trays on the 'free table'

Date of next PPC meeting: Wednesday 28th January at 7.00pm. There is a 'Suggestions Box' on the 'free table' near the entrance to the church if you wish to bring any matters to the attention of the PPC.

Psalm Refrain: 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time



SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 55: 1 - 11 1 John 5: 1-9 Mark 1 : 7 - 11

Listen to God

Is it not a fact that many of us Christians are so busy talking to God, telling him in exact and minute detail all the things he should be doing for us, that we rarely or never listen to what God is saying to us. Today's first reading might well be called "The boy who listened to God." Whether it is pandering to our failings, or the intention of those who selected these readings to keep them as short as possible, unfortunately, eight verses have been left out before the ending, precisely the eight which tell us what God revealed to the boy Samuel. What have we to learn from events and sayings so far remote from our present day world, you might ask? Well, "all scripture is inspired by God, and can profitably be used for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy" (2 Tim 3:16). And the only scripture St Paul had in mind when he wrote those words was the Old Testament. Moreover, the period in question had much in common with ours, in that religious practice and divine worship had declined.

This happened because the Israelites, having reached the promised Land and gained a military victory over the native Canaanites, were in danger of losing out in the ideological struggle that followed between the two groups. The Israelites were tempted to copy the ways of the more highly cultured and sophisticated Canaanites, even though the pagan gods of these were sexual in nature and were worshipped in rites that were sexual also. A strong comparison could be drawn here with the people of our own country and their reaction to outside influences and example. in the past century, some of which of course are good and desirable, but others evil and retrograde, such as abortion, drug-culture and crime.

Samuel, who beyond doubt was the greatest spiritual leader of Israel since the days of Moses, was to be the last of the leaders, or Judges, as they were called, who were elected to hold the different tribes together. Under his spiritual guidance Israel was to become a monarchy with Saul its first king, while his successor King David, himself the ancestor of Jesus, was the one to consolidate that monarchy. What did God reveal to Samuel? We should remember that at the time, Eli then an old man, was both Judge and high priest. The Lord God disclosed to Samuel the wickedness of the House of Eli, how in particular his two sons had been cursing God - the Bible bluntly says they were scoundrels, caring nothing for God - and how Eli, although himself a good man, had failed to correct them. And the Lord stated most solemnly that no sacrifice or offering would ever wipe out the guilt of the House of Eli. At the beginning of this sorry saga, the sacred author tells us that the eyes of Eli were beginning to grow dim, he could no longer see. But this physical blindness was an external sign of a much more serious interior blindness to the misdeeds of his own family, supposedly placing all their confidence on the mere externals of religion, like the offering of sacrifice, while within they were concerned not with the things of God, but with their own ambitions. All this profound spiritual assessment was made by a mere boy, because he listened to what God was revealing to him in the depths of his soul, and saw that the corruption of its leaders was the reason why Israel's fortunes were declining.

There are tremendous lessons to be learned from this story from scripture, but they will never be clear to us unless we are open to God's message. This has become more and more difficult, with so many agencies trying to monopolise our attention. Thirty years ago a Professor of Literature at Cambridge (C. S. Lewis - Christian Reflections) described the trend like this, and it has worsened since. "How then, it may be asked, can we either reach or avoid God? The avoiding, in many times and places, has proved so difficult that a large part of the human race failed to achieve, it. But in our own times and place it is extremely easy."

"Avoid silence, avoid solitude, avoid any train of thought that leads off the beaten track. Concentrate on money, sex, status, health and above all on your own grievances. Keep the radio (and T.V.) switched on. Live in a crowd. Use plenty of sedatives. If you must read books, select them carefully. But you'd be safer to stick to the papers. You'll find the advertisements helpful, especially those with a sexy or a snobbish appeal." Any combination or all of these will drown out the voice of God within. How true it is that one person who prays and listens attentively to God's Holy Spirit, is worth more than a thousand ordinary souls who never listen.

www.biblical.ie/lections

NURTURING THE SEED Through Baptism, we have received the gift of the divine life from our Heavenly Father. Using Ignatian Spirituality and ways of prayer, we can nurture this gift and experience more deeply God's great Love for us. This will be explored in a series of 5 meetings to be held fortnightly at 7.15 pm. on Thursdays, 29th Jan., 12th Feb., 26th Feb., 12th Mar. and 26th Mar. in Corpus Christi Parish Hall, St. James's Square, finishing no later than 9 pm.
All are most welcome to share in this exciting journey to “Find God in All Things”. Pope Francis says in Evangelii Gaudium: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting Him encounter them. No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.”



St Thomas More RC Church, Iford ***presents***

Songs of Praise

Hosted by *BBC Radio Solent*
Sunday Morning Presenter
Tim Daykin

Sunday 8th February 2015 at 3.00 pm

Submit your favourite hymn to us, along with a short paragraph of what the hymn means to you and we will sing it on the day. You can submit your hymns two ways, you can either pick up one of the hymn forms on the free table at the back of the church, and put it through the office letterbox in the sacristy, or you can submit via e-mail and you will be sent confirmation.

NEW MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST – training for new candidates for our area will be on 27th and 28th February. This is a very special ministry. If you think you would be a good and suitable Minister of the Eucharist, please do have a word with Fr Darryl or with Jan, our Eucharistic Ministers co-ordinator.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Our rota-compiler has had to step down after five years of doing the weekend ministry rotas. Firstly, a **huge 'Thank You'** to Christina for doing this! Secondly, *is there anyone who could carry on the good work?* Please have a word with Fr Darryl or contact the parish office for more details if you feel you could help.



Also, it would help enormously if there were a few more people on the teams for the welcoming and offertory. Or maybe you'd like to help with the teas and coffees after Mass? Or …. there are lots of jobs which need to be done from cleaning and gardening to accounting, producing the newsletter etc etc - Something for everyone!
Please do have a think about this. Thank you.

Could you help CAFOD at St Thomas More?

CAFOD Just one world

CAFOD is currently looking to help us thank parishioners for their support during one weekend this Lent. If you could spare any time to help fight poverty and injustice please contact Lynda Mussell for more information on 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting
CAFOD Portsmouth will be holding a meeting for all supporters on Saturday 31 January 2015 from 10am until 1.30pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX).
Booking essential. Please ring 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk by 26 January 2015.

Portsmouth People
The new edition for January 2015 is available. Make sure you pick a copy up after Mass today!

Evangelisation Strategy Teams: A message from Bishop Philip
Bishop Philip writes: "As you know, the Church in our time is calling us to the work of new evangelisation. We are Christ's missionary disciples, and He has given us many charisms and talents for this work. Now we want to set up in every Pastoral Area an Evangelisation Strategy Team, comprised of clergy and laity, to direct the work of mission at the local, parish level. In your Pastoral Area, there will soon be a Holy Hour to pray for this initiative. The Strategy Team is a new body to replace the Pastoral Council. It should represent all ages and types. It's all about vision! Its purpose is to sponsor mission-projects across the area. Teams will meet once a term. To find out more, go to our diocesan website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/evangelisation-teams. There you will find a video with more info. and details of what the commitment would be for team members."

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.

SKITTLES EVENING: 31st January. at 7pm. Avonway Community Centre, 36, Shaftsbury St., Fordingbridge SP6 1JF There will be a bar, also soft drinks and the food is on a 'Bring & Share' basis. You are warmly invited to join in this fund raising event for CAFOD. Tickets are only £5 for adults (16yrs +) or £12 for a family ticket. Phone Helen 01425 475088 for more information.

INDUCTION OF FATHER TOM GRUFFERTY AS PARISH PRIEST OF CHRISTCHURCH: This is a formal appointment which will take place on **Friday 23rd January** at 7.30pm Mass at the Immaculate Conception & St Joseph Church, Purewell, Christchurch. There will be refreshments after the Mass in the Parish Centre. **Everyone is welcome.**

SCRIPTURE & LIFE GROUP : Please see poster

MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM: Fr Anthony Glaysher, parish priest of Ryde, offers Mass in the Extraordinary Form (the 'Tridentine Mass') at Our Lady Immaculate, Westbourne, on the third Sunday of each month at 6.00, preceded by confessions from 5 pm. We apologise for the last-minute cancellation before Christmas, but the next EF Mass is on this Sunday, 18th January. All are welcome.

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: Please join the Bournemouth Ordinariate for a pilgrimage to Walsingham led by Fr. Darryl Jordan from 26th June to 28th June 2015. The pilgrimage includes travel by coach from St. Thomas More and Ringwood and transport within Walsingham. There will be a full programme of devotions to include pilgrimage Masses, Processions, Stations of the Cross and Sprinkling with water from the Holy Well. On the Sunday we will be able to celebrate the Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul at the Shrine before our return journey. All those who would wish to spend their time in Walsingham in private devotion are also most welcome! Cost £170 (adult) and £118 (children under 16). Please book by 28th February: posters and booking forms are available in church.

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. Accommodation will be in the heart of Krakow facilitating full participation in the whole event.Guide price £995. See www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more info.

THANK YOU for the offerings 10th/11th Jan.

Envelopes :	£ 150.58	Cash :	£ 137.81
Standing Orders :	£ 146.45		**Total : £ 434.84**
CAFOD (December):	£ 49.60		
CRIB COLLECTION:	£ 47.36		
WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:	£ 96.64		***Thank You!***