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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY Ordinary Time Year C

16th/17th November 2013

Weekday Masses Tues.– Fri. 9.30am, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tues.- Fri. 8.30am – 9.25am and Morning prayer at 9.10am.

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Week beginning 16th November :		Mass Intention
Saturday 16th Nov. 6.00pm	First Mass Thirty-third Sunday Ord. Time	Keith and Donald Hadden, RIP
Sunday 17th Nov. 9.30am 12.00	**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY** Ord. Time Catenian Mass	Collinson family For deceased Catenians and their families
Monday 18th Nov.	_	_
Tuesday 19th Nov. 9.30am	Feria	Donald Hadden, RIP
Wed. 20th Nov. 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Feria Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	November dead list
Thurs. 21st Nov. 9.30am	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *memorial*	Votive Mass for deceased Priests and Seminarians of the MSP
Friday 22nd Nov. 9.30am	St Cecilia, *memorial*	Callistus and Michael Lobo
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Thirty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	



What does our faith mean to us?

In 1985 the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales called for an annual celebration of the vibrant contribution young people make to the Church. The Solemnity of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year was chosen to be *National Youth Sunday.* The aims of National Youth Sunday are to help our parishes celebrate the life, mission and ministry of our young people in their faith communities. National Youth Sunday falls this year next **Sunday, 24th November.**

YEAR OF FAITH

There will be a gathering for all parishioners from the six parishes of Avon Stour Pastoral Area at 3.00pm next Sunday, 24th November, to celebrate the ending of the Year of Faith.
There will be a liturgical celebration in the church, here at St Thomas More's, and, afterwards, a social in the church hall - this will involve a 'Bring and Share' buffet. ***Volunteers to help with setting up and tidying will be needed!***
There will be a rehearsal for singers, musicians and readers Thursday 21st November, 5.30pm at St Thomas More Church.

YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013

11th Oct. 2012 - 24th Nov. 2013



There will also be a special Thanksgiving Mass for the Youth to mark the close of the Year of Faith.
This will be at Corpus Christi Church at 5.00pm.

Thoughts for the Thirty-third Sunday Ord. Time Year C

Most people have a dawning realisation that our life is short, and that each of us will face the moment of death, within a limited number of days and years. Last Sunday, we thought about the after-life, and how Jesus calls us to entrust the future into God's hands. But how seriously should we (or can we) take the predictions of today's Gospel about the end of the world and the day of judgement? It is a difficult problem to know what to believe about the Last Day. There are various sects and groups who claim to know the exact date of the Lord's coming. And the failure of previous predictions does not appear to unduly discourage them from setting yet another date for Armageddon.

People have every right to be wary of wild-eyed street-corner orators whose delight it is to utter threats and warnings in God's name, about catastrophes about to befall the world. We should note how Jesus warns against believing too readily in such predictions. Even though he himself used the idea of the coming day of judgement as a motive to turn people's hearts back to God, he also said that about the day and the time of this event, "no man knows, not even the Son, but the Father only."

Still, there are too many references to the Final Judgement in our Holy Scriptures for us to easily dismiss it as just a figure of speech. And indeed, spiritual people have found important benefits in keeping the Judgement-Day as part of the horizon against which we look at things and assess them at their real value. Seeing our problems, our successes and our wishes in the light of eternity often puts them into a new and different light, and one which helps us to judge as God sees things.

But can we really follow the classic devotional advice once favoured by preachers, to "always live as though each day may be your last?" For most people, it is probably neither possible nor desirable to regularly centre that much attention on the final things. Sobering and spiritually purifying on occasion, yes; but most days, one must be like Martha in the Gospel story who was fully occupied with her daily work, busy with many things. That's also the practical advice given by St Paul to people in his day who spent their time excitably looking out for the Lord's return, and gave up caring about such ordinary tasks as planting and harvesting the crops, keeping up with their business or doing the housework. "Go on quietly minding your own affairs. And if anyone will not work, neither let him eat!'

We believe and hope, then, in a future coming of Christ as Judge, to establish God's justice on the earth. But we must leave the timing of all this as God's mystery, about which it is useless to speculate. The tasks of the present are real and challenging enough to demand our full attention. And the cutting edge of the prayer "Thy Kingdom Come" is not really a focus on something to wait for, but on building up that part of the Kingdom which God expects from us in the here and now.

From CAFOD: **PHILIPPINES TYPHOON HAIYAN APPEAL.**

We have all seen the devastating images of suffering and grief following the typhoon in the Philippines. Millions of people now urgently need our prayers and our financial support to survive the aftermath of the typhoon and to re-build their lives for the future.

There will be a special collection at St Thomas More's after the weekend Masses both this weekend and next.

You can also donate online at cafod.org.uk/typhoon, or by calling CAFOD on 0500 85 88 85.

40th Anniversary of link with Bamenda

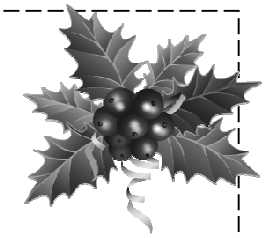
Almighty, ever-living Father,
You are the Eternal Shepherd
who never leaves his flock untended.
We thank you immensely for the bond
of love and friendship which has existed between the Archdiocese of Bamenda and the Diocese of Portsmouth now for forty years.
We are deeply grateful to you for the spiritual benefits this union has yielded,
through which many have come to experience inner conversion and the unfathomable warmth of your love.
Amen.

As we celebrate forty years of this bond through the proclamation of your Word and the guidance of your Holy Spirit,
may we receive the grace to grow continuously in partnership and understanding.
Bless those who have made selfless sacrifices to sustain us, especially the priests who have served in our diocese. May their work be rewarded in the abundance of your grace.

May Mary our Mother, Queen of Apostles and Star of the New Evangelisation,
and St Edmund our Patron, intercede for us.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A note for your diaries!

Senior Parishioners' Christmas Lunch/Party



Please make a note in your diaries that the Annual Senior Parishioners' Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 14th December, 12.00 for 12.30pm.
If anyone is able to help with organisation, in the kitchen or with transport, please contact Neil Dawson or Linda Cunniffe, c/o the parish office.
There will be lists put out next week for those wishing to attend, and also for those who might wish to donate food for the party.

A NOTE TO ALL ENVELOPE BOX HOLDERS:
Please collect the envelope addressed to you at the back of the church. This contains your annual statement of offerings made for the tax year 2012/13. Thank you to all who contribute via planned giving.
Steve Ferris (Chair of Fabric & Finance Committee)

HALL BOOKINGS : We are fortunate to have our church hall, and it is used for different functions. Most of the time the hall is used by our regular hirers, but some of the time the hall is used for parish and pastoral area events and it is also used for birthday parties etc.
Catherine Boardman has faithfully (and well!) undertaken the duties of being the contact person for these occasional hall bookings, but now has to stand down. Is there anyone who could volunteer to take over? If so, please either contact Catherine (contact details top of front page of newsletter), who will be happy to explain what is involved, or have a word with Fr Vitalis or contact the parish office. Many thanks.

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Deacon Darryl Jordan's Ordination to the Priesthood will be at Portsmouth Cathedral on Sun. 8th December at 3.00pm. If you would like to travel on the coach being hired by the Bournemouth Ordinariate Mission, please contact them. Families welcome: Adults £17max., children free.

HOLY HOUR: Most Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 20th November… 6-7pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6AN) "The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life... For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself" CCC1324 All young people are invited to join us for this time of quiet prayer & adoration. **Free rosary!**

Questionnaire in Preparation for the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops.

Across the dioceses of England and Wales a Questionnaire is being circulated that will allow many to actively participate in helping the preparations for the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in October next year to consider questions surrounding the proclamation of the Gospel in the context of "Pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization". ***Do take the time to look at the questionnaire*** which is available by going online **https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FamilySynod2014.** If you are able to make this personal contribution to the preparations for the Synod please complete the questionnaire and return it by using the Surveymonkey online version of the questionnaire. **The closing date for submissions is 13th December.**

PLEASE DO MAKE AN EFFORT TO DO THIS - THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CHURCH!

Framework for Collaboration. Volunteers are now being recruited for the first batch of teams of the Framework for Collaboration. Please visit the website http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/frameworkforcollaboration
More information will be included in the next edition of Portsmouth People.

Confirmation 2014 The first meeting for Confirmation Candidates will take place on Tuesday 7th January 2014, 7.30 pm at St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Christchurch. The Sacrament of Confirmation for candidates of the Avon Stour Pastoral Area will be celebrated at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth on Saturday 3rd May 2014 at 3pm.



Participants at the St Thomas More Parish Day of Recollection held on Saturday, 9th November 2013.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION.
Father Vitalis thanks all who were able to participate in this day.
Every retreat or day of recollection is an opportunity for us to PRAY, REFLECT, RECOLLECT, BE RENEWED and to REST.
'Be still and acknowledge that I am God.' (Psalm 46, v10)

KIDS IN CHURCH:

A wife invited some people to dinner..
At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,
'Would you like to say the blessing?'
'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.
'Just say what you hear Mummy say,' the wife answered.
The daughter bowed her head and said,
'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

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 01202 485588 or the Annunciation Church 01202 513369

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH: A date for your diary! - A candlelit Advent Taizé Service will take place on **Monday 23rd 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). Everyone is welcome.

ST THOMAS GARNET ADVENT MASS / CHRISTMAS SERVICE: St. Thomas Garnet's Catholic Independent School, Parkwood Rd, Boscombe would like to warmly invite members of the community to our Advent Mass on Mon. 2nd Dec., 2pm and Christmas Service on Wed. 11th Dec. at 7pm both at Corpus Christi Church, Boscombe. Mrs. Sarah Breeze, Headmistress

ST PETER'S SCHOOL production of MISS SAIGON: 28th, 29th & 30th Nov., 7.30pm. (Sat matinee 2.30pm) Tickets £8 (£6 concs) Call 01202 421141.

CATENIAN BURSARY FUND: Are you volunteering for a community-based project at home or abroad? If you are a Catholic and aged between 16 and 24, you may be eligible for an award from the Bursary Fund. Each project must have a clear benefit for others as well as widening the life experience of the volunteer. Visit the Catenian website at http: www.thecatenians.com and click on Bursary Fund.

CABRINI: Join Cabrini's Brighton Marathon Team - This year we have 12 gold bond places on offer for Brighton Marathon taking place on 6 April 2014. For a limited time only there is no registration fee. Fundraising target £500. As a member of the Cabrini team you'll receive great support to prepare you for race day.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS : If you're stuck for ideas this Christmas or want to try and give your friends, colleagues and loved ones something really meaningful, why not consider buying a CAFOD World Gift? *Catalogues available on the 'free table'.*

VACANCY: *From the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales*. **Discipleship Promoter**, National Office for Vocation (NOV) Based in London SW1, this post is for 4 days a week with salary circa £24,600 (full time equivalent £30,750) Please see notice board for details. The closing date is 24th November.

JOB OPPORTUNITY : **St Swithun Wells Parish** require an Office Manager/Administrator for the administration of the six churches in the parish covering Eastleigh, Fair Oak, Chandlers Ford, Bishops Waltham, Romsey and North Baddesley. The job is part-time (21 hours - three days per week) with a salary of £10,400 per annum (FTE £17,290). Please see the Diocesan website at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more details and an application form. For informal enquiries please email or call Deacon Paul Owen at powen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel: 02380 658251

THANK YOU **for your weekly offerings; 9th / 10th Nov.**

Envelopes :	£ 185.47	Cash :	£ 91.60
Standing Orders :	£ 148.38		**Total : £ 425.45**
Bamenda Collection :	£ 147.26	*Thank you for your generous donation!*	