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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

12th/13th December 2015 Yr C

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

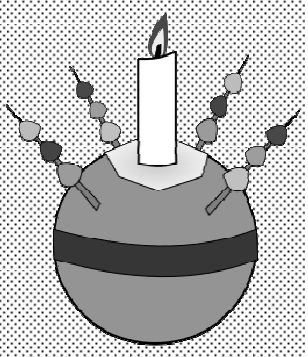
Week beginning 12th December:		Mass Intention
Saturday 12th December 6.00pm	**First Mass of Third Sunday of Advent**	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th December 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT ('Gaudete')**	For the well-being of Geoff Hadden
Monday 14th December	–	–
Tuesday 15th December 9.30am	**of the 3rd week of Advent**	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 16th December 10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	**of the 3rd week of Advent**	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 17th December 9.30am Reception of body Mr Challis to church. Vigil. 4.00pm	**Liturgy of the Day** ['O Wisdom']	For all the faithful departed
Friday 18th December 9.30am **11.30am**	Mass **Funeral Service for Mr John Challis**	John Challis, RIP
Saturday 19th Dec. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) **First Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent**	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th December 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	For the repose of the soul of Maria Britton

The **THIRD SUNDAY** of **ADVENT** is also known as ***'Gaudete' (Rejoice) Sunday.***



CHRISTINGLES

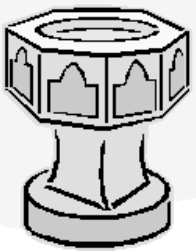
The children at Liturgy of the Word for children will be collecting their Christingles today.



WE WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY

JOSHUA ELLIS

- Baptism this Sunday on
13th December at 9.30am



Third Sunday of Advent Year B

Gaudete!

The liturgy of this Third Sunday in Advent is full of reassurance and comfort for us. In the past it was known as "Gaudete Sunday," the Latin word "gaudete" meaning "rejoice." The liturgy then tells us to be happy, not to worry, that the Lord is near. And if we want the peace of God to be in our hearts, and in our thoughts - our hearts that are always seeking to possess the things of this world - our thoughts which are so often filled not only with fears, worries and anxieties about our present circumstances, but moreover about our future - then, that peace will be ours, if we simply and trustfully ask God for it. Scripture tells us to do precisely this where it says, "There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving" (Phil 4:6). Note as well that it tells us not to wait until after God grants our requests before thanking him. Even as we ask, we should be giving thanks. One of the things we should thank God for at the end of this year has been the Christian witness given by so many good people in our time.

Wherever there is evil, God will ensure that resolute and saintly souls will rise up to combat it. Such was the call, the prophetic witness associated with the person of St John the Baptist, as described in the readings for this Christmas preparation period. People were prepared to walk all the way from Jerusalem down to the vicinity of Jericho in the deep Jordan valley, on the edge of the desert - all of fifteen miles each way - in order to see John, this charismatic figure who till then had lived the life of a recluse in the wilderness around the Dead Sea. Having seen him, many moreover wanted to stay and listen to his message and be baptised by him. But the reaction also of many of them to John was one of uncertainty, that uncertainty which surfaces in all of us when we take time to cast a critical eye on the kind of life we are leading.

"What must we do?," they asked him. And John spelt out the answer for them in no uncertain terms. While their seeking for guidance showed their willingness to change, it also showed that they were lacking in the Holy Spirit, in that fire with which, according to the Baptist, Christ when he comes will baptise. For not only does the Holy Spirit guide us, he pleads for us with sighs too deep for words. "Love and do what you will," was to be the motto of St Augustine, meaning that if people have total inner commitment to God, then they will be incapable of doing wrong, they will know instinctively what is right from the promptings of the Spirit within them.

Spirit guide us, he pleads for us with sighs too deep for words. "Love and do what you will," was to be the motto of St Augustine, meaning that if people have total inner commitment to God, then they will be incapable of doing wrong, they will know instinctively what is right from the promptings of the Spirit within them.

John the Baptist, however, attempted to effect this inner change in his listeners' hearts by telling them not to be grasping, not to exact from others more than a just return for their services, but rather to help those in need. "If anyone has two cloaks, he must share with the man who has none." Give your blood," the ancient monks in the desert used to say, "and you will possess the Spirit." The society to which John was addressing himself - as indeed Jesus did later- was to collapse within a generation - was to collapse, because of its lack of spiritual depth, its over concern with externals, as evidenced by the Pharisees, its pursuit of a narrow-minded nationalism, as seen in the Zealots who were willing to resort to violence and assassination in their hatred of the Romans.

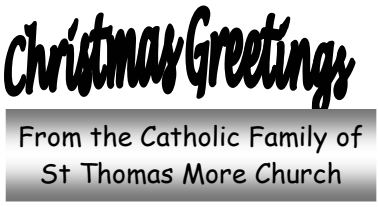
The greatest danger to the continuation of any society becomes a reality when most of its members become motivated by selfish concerns, greed and covetousness. The message that our own society invariably highlights is not, alas, that of sharing cloaks, but of wearing outfits that are better, more comfortable, more in keeping with the size of one's pay differential. The sad thing is that all this unbridled seeking for earthly comforts, this concern with the cares of life, pulls us further and further away from the yearning for himself, that God has placed within all of us. It turns us away from the things of the Spirit, and from the pursuit of religious idealism. Prayerfully then, and in the presence of God, let us give thanks to the Father in this Mass, for the gift of his divine Son, who in its celebration makes us one with himself. Let us ask for the peace of God, as Sacred scripture urges us, for that abiding peace which is so much greater than we can ever understand, so much greater than anything this world can ever offer us. And we can be assured that for all who faithfully do this the reward will be everlasting.

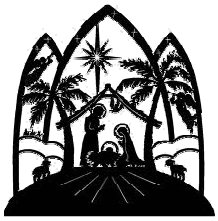
Taken from http://www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp

ADVENT - a time of preparation …..

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE
St Joseph's, Purewell, Christchurch.
Thursday, 17th December at 7.30pm.

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Douglas Road, Southbourne.
Monday 21st December at 7.30pm. After the candlelit Advent Taize Service there will be mulled wine and mince pies served in the Parish Centre.





Please take your copy of our **'Christmas Card'** which lists details of the Advent and Christmas services at St Thomas More's - and please see **'Welcome Home'** below

WELCOME HOME

A project has been initiated by the Evangelisation Strategy Team which will help us reach out as baptised and confirmed disciples of Christ to those 'inactive Catholics' we might know.

Christmas is a time when many people come to church even if they don't come any other time. Some feel lonely, or are bereaved and come for comfort.

The Christmas Masses will be 'Welcome Home' Masses. At the service on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm (with carols in the church at 6.00pm) there will be a chocolate gift for the children!

We have a 'Christmas card' (see above) which lists the services over the Christmas period.
Could each parishioner distribute this to people who have perhaps stopped practising their faith or who have distanced themselves from the church? It may be a family member, friend, colleague or neighbour.

Please pray for the success of this initiative. Thank you.

PPC chair and our members of the Pastoral Area Evangelisation Strategy Team.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Please leave your presents for the Women's Refuge and the Apostleship of the Sea in the boxes provided towards the front of the church on the left hand side.



It would be helpful if the gifts for the Women's Refuge could be labelled with the type of gift, eg. Present for Mum, Present for boy aged 8 years old.

The Apostleship of the Sea would like chocolates, sweets, dairy, notebook, toiletries. More expensive gifts such as jumpers would be good too (- average crew size on a ship is 22) If possible, could they be wrapped in Christmas paper and perhaps with a card with something like " Merry Christmas from X, thank you for all you do for us."

CHRISTMAS TREE We will be decorating our Christmas tree after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 20th Dec. We will have to bear in mind that the Ordinariate Mass starts at 11.15am, so need to make a prompt start!
CHRISTMAS CRIB If there is time we will bring the crib figures down from the gallery at that time too. Crib offerings this year will be donated to Friends of the Holy Land for the poorest Christian families in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.
CHRISTMAS CARDS Why not leave your Christmas cards to your fellow parishioners in our box on the table at the front of the church? Save on postage costs! There are still some lovely Christmas cards available in the repository (- open after the weekend Masses).

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, 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.		

MARRIAGE CARE

Marriage Care is a national Catholic charity which seeks to promote healthy happy marriages. One aspect of our work is the provision of a professionally trained counselling service for couples experiencing difficulties. **Bournemouth and Poole Centre** is urgently seeking a **volunteer counsellor** to help us deliver this service. You need to be fully qualified, and willing to train further with Marriage Care in Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy.

For further information please contact: Deacon Roger or Jackie Carr-Jones on 01202 428451, or e-mail: marriagecare@hotmail.co.uk. **Closing date for applications - Wednesday 16th December.**

TREE OF LIGHTS CAROL SERVICE: 6.30pm in the Oasis restaurant at RBH on Thursday 17th December with the Boscombe Salvation Army Band. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served following the service.

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS' MEETING: Join us at our next meeting on **Sat 23rd January 2016** from 10am until 1.30pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX) where we will explore our Lenten resources and hear more about CAFOD's water programmes in Uganda. To book a place please ring 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk by 15th January 2016.

POETS, PIKELETS AND PETTICOATS: An afternoon of words & music with a Scottish themed afternoon tea at 2pm Saturday 23rd January at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Purewell in aid Of Kabanana Care (Zambia), charity which provides food, shelter & education for over 80 orphaned children/vulnerable adults. James Manlow, Bournemouth's 2014-15 Poet Laureate will be reading his poems & answering questions. Music by The Happy Heart Singers, plus young local performer. Tickets £5 (inc afternoon tea)
Email annie.winiecki@hotmail.co.uk or phone 07986625087

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