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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13th/14th December 2014

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 13th December:		Mass Intention
Saturday 13th Dec. 6.00pm	First Mass of Third Sunday of Advent	Martin MacDonald, RIP
Sunday 14th Dec. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	People of the Parish
Monday	—	—
Tuesday 16th Dec. 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Of the 3rd week of Advent Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 17th Dec.10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	Liturgy of the Day	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 18th Dec. 9.30am	Liturgy of the Day	For all the faithful departed
Friday 19th Dec. 9.30am	Liturgy of the Day	For all the parish faithful departed
Sat. 20th Dec. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation First Mass of Fourth Sun. of Advent	George Hackwell, RIP
Sunday 21st Dec. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	People of the Parish

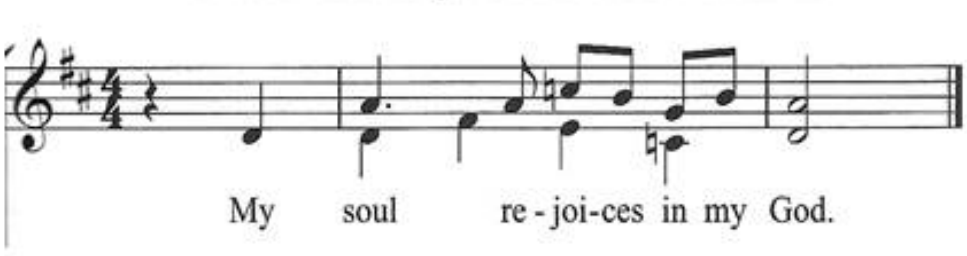
A NEW START FOR CHRISTMAS ….

Avon Stour Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service, with several priests available, at Holy Redeemer, Highcliffe, Thursday 18th December 7.30 pm *All Welcome.*
Advent Reconciliation Service at **Corpus Christi** on Tuesday 16th December at 7pm.

"Light the Advent candle three …."
The third Sunday of Advent is **Gaudete ('Rejoice') Sunday.**



Psalm Refrain: Third Sunday of Advent Yr B



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 1Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

Joy In The Faith

Today's readings glimmer with joyful expectation. Israel radiates as a joyful bride coming to her bridegroom adorned for a lavish, oriental wedding. Paul's words to the Thessalonians continue the theme of hope and joy in a community that lives by the life of Christ. And St John, in the gospel, pictures the work of John the Baptist, who came to witness to God's light upon this earth.

It is not, however, a joyousness without responsibility. It's a joy that is found when people fulfil their true mission in life. Isaiah speaks of one anointed and sent to bring good news to the oppressed - words that were adopted by Jesus to describe his own life's purpose - just as they should also be made real in the life of every Christian. Those privileged to share in Jesus' life must also share in his concerns and desires.

There are therefore two distinct ideas in today's readings, that go well together. One is the spiritual joy that marks the Christian faith, that we are waiting for the coming of the Lord, and our entry into a life of eternal communion with God. The other is the willingness to bear our share of the Christian work-load, to do our bit, in our time, to realise the goals of Jesus in our world.

We have many blessings in our lives, reasons to be joyful - the love we share with our family and friends, the pleasure of meeting new people, of realising our talents by taking on new jobs, a course of adult education, the solidarity we show or experience in our local community when people willingly help their neighbours in their time of need, the consolation to be found in prayer. Many concrete examples can be named, to illustrate God's loving gifts in our lives. C.S. Lewis wrote of being "surprised by joy," a new sense of gratitude, which stayed with him, even in the midst of suffering and bereavement.

The other aspect is our mission to help the needy, to carry on "the project of Jesus" - the vocation he has given us and which is an integral part of his gospel. Those whose lives are peaceful and prosperous should not to be afraid to let the pain of the needy come through and touch them. The sort of carefree joy that depends upon shutting our eyes to the seamier side of life, and "passing by on the other side," is not an authentic joy. Care for the outsider and a personal sense of joy may stand in a certain tension with each other, but the two can and should be blended into the lifestyle of a Christian.

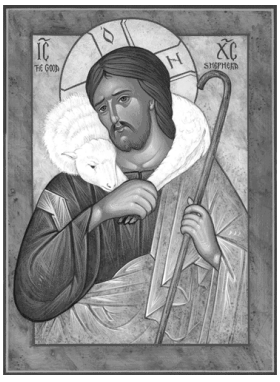
www.biblical.ie/lections

How the Christingle is made up

The children will be given a CHRISTINGLE during the Liturgy of the Word with children on Sunday.

The orange. The orange represents the earth.
What an amazing world we have!
God wants us to take good care of his creation.
The four sticks with fruit and sweets on.
These remind us of the four seasons.
Also, the four corners of the earth.
The fruits and sweets represent the fruits of the earth.
God asks us to give a fair share to everyone.
The red ribbon. The ribbon reminds us of God's great love for us; how Jesus died for us.
Let us remember all the suffering people in the world who need to feel God's love.
The candle. The candle represents the Light of the World, Jesus.
We need the light of Christ in our lives, and we must let that light shine for others to see.





'OUR GOD WHO COMES TO LOVE AND FORGIVE US' IGNATIAN DAY :
Saturday 20th December at St. Joseph's parish centre, Christchurch**.**

As we approach Christmas please join us to consider what the incarnation means for us today. Jesus came to bring love and forgiveness and we will explore these gifts through prayer and sharing, with the help of the New Testament scriptures.
We begin with coffee at 10.30am and finish by 4.15pm. Please remember to bring a packed lunch. Everybody is welcome whether or not you have been to Ignatian days before.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOX **There is a box at the entrance to the church for your Christmas Cards to your fellow parishioners. (Save on postage costs!) Don't forget to check to see if there are cards which have been left for you!**

CHRISTMAS GIFTS



- for a Refuge (toys for children/toiletries for teenage boys)
- for the Salvation Army (socks)
- for the Foodbank

Please bring your wrapped present (with label stating contents - eg. toy for 5 year old girl) to the church **BY NEXT WEEKEND PLEASE** so 'Santa' can deliver! No need to wrap the foodbank donations!



DECORATING the CHRISTMAS TREE & PUTTING up the CRIB
- After Mass next Sunday,21st December.

So, Mums, Dads, Grandparents make a note and come along with your children to help. If any children would like to make a decoration for the tree that would be really lovely. Everyone is welcome — the more the merrier!

Please note, we will be putting it all away after the Sunday Mass, 11th January, so please make a note of this date as well as your help would be appreciated. Thanks.

ADVENT TAIZÉ CELEBRATION **Tuesday 16 December at 7.30pm.** St Joseph's Church, 67 Purewell, Christchurch, BH23 1EH. Refreshments afterwards (tea, coffee, mince pies) in the Parish Centre

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH A candlelit Advent Taizé Service will take place on Monday 22nd 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).

HOSPITAL CAROL SERVICES:

The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Carol Services will be on Thurs. 18th December at 2pm at Christchurch Hospital Chapel (followed by light refreshments) and on **Sunday, 21st December at 3pm in the Royal Bournemouth Hospital Atrium** (followed by light refreshments).

ORDINARIATE SERVICE OF CAROLS AND READINGS Sunday 21st December 2.30pm, St Thomas More Church.

CHRISTMAS CRIB



Crib offerings will go to support Christians in the Holy Land; the collections throughout the diocese will be sent to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.



Christmas Eve Mass 6.30pm
(Carols in the church 6.00pm)

Shepherds….Angels …. Mary…Joseph…… Wise men ….. Kings ……
Children are invited to dress up for the Christmas Eve Mass!

Please remember to come in good time. We will be singing carols in the church from 6.00pm onwards. The children are invited into the church hall before joining the opening procession, carrying down the baby Jesus. We will have a 'dressing up box' in the church hall if needed!

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.

Summary of Area Pastoral (APC) Council Meeting , 29th Nov. 2014 at Holy Redeemer, Highcliffe.
The Council updated plans for events in the Pastoral area [now available on the website under *Pastoral Area Events*]. Individual parishes then updated the Council on recent activities. The Council considered the implications of the Bishop's recent Guidelines, '*Pastoral areas in the Light of the New Evangelisation'*, [now available on the Diocesan website], the formation of PA and Deanery 'Evangelisation Strategy Teams', (replacing APCs), their purpose, make-up and the timescale for their formation. Consideration was also given to the document, 'Celebrations of the Word & Communion …in the Absence of a Priest, Revised edition 2013', (officially approved for use by the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales), which will now be considered on a parish by parish basis. The possibility of youth involvement on the APC/Area EST was discussed, following receipt of a report sent from Bournemouth Youth Council to the APC. The next meeting of the APC is planned for late January, on a date to be agreed by Fr. Tom.

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL ARCHIVE: In 2013, Corpus Christi School celebrated the 125th anniversary of its foundation as, the then, Holy Cross School. During the past year a considerable amount of research has created an archive of material relating to the school's earlier days. If any parishioners have memories, photographs, etc. of their days at Holy Cross School and would like to share them, please send to holycrossmemories@corpuschristi.bournemouth.sch.uk

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS' MEETING: CAFOD Portsmouth will be holding a meeting for all supporters on **Saturday 31 January 2015** from 10:00am 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.

MASS IN 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. The next EF Mass is on 20th December. All are welcome.

THANK YOU **for the offerings 6th/7th Dec.**

Envelopes :	£ 161.70	Cash :	£ 139.00
Standing Orders :	£ 152.99		**Total : £ 453.67**

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