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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT Yr C

27th/28th February 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 27th February		Mass Intention
Saturday 27th Feb. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**	People of the Parish
Sunday 28th Feb. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Choral Evensong & Benediction 4.30pm		For the Repose of the Soul of George Vine
Tuesday 1st March Weekday Mass 9.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am - 11.00am	**ST DAVID,** *feast*	For all the faithful departed
Wednesday 2nd March Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	of the Third Week of Lent	----------
Thursday 3rd March Weekday Mass 9.30am	of the Third Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 4th March Weekday Mass 9.30am Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	of the Third Week of Lent	For all the Parish faithful departed
Saturday 5th March Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**	People of the Parish
Sunday 6th March Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ----------

Winifred Tartaglia RIP Sadly, Winifred Tartaglia (mother of Ann Vanbuiten and Sue Lester) passed away on Tuesday 16th in the Bournemouth Stroke Unit. Her funeral is at Our Lady Queen of Peace on **Monday 29th February at 10.00am**. Ann writes that it would be lovely to see anyone who knew her mother.

CAFOD
Just one world

Lent Fast Day envelopes: Any envelopes not handed in last week will still be gratefully received! The UK government has promised to match every pound and penny you give to CAFOD (from 10th February to 9th May) up to the value of £3.5million.

LAETARE SUNDAY ('ROSE SUNDAY') : Because the midpoint of Lent is the Thursday of the third week of Lent, Laetare Sunday has traditionally been viewed as a day of celebration, on which the austerity of Lent is briefly lessened. The passage from Isaiah continues, "rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow," and on Laetare Sunday, the purple vestments and altar cloths of Lent are set aside, and rose ones are used instead. Laetare Sunday, also known as Rose Sunday, has a counterpart in Advent: Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, when purple vestments are exchanged for rose ones. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as we progress toward the end of each respective penitential season.

Third Sunday of Lent Year C

Into the Middle of Things

In today's gospel, Jesus tries to draw his hearers into the middle of things. Rather than looking on, and debating why this is happening, or why that happened, he asks them to look at themselves, at their own situation, and become more concerned with what's happening or not happening there. He uses an illustration to show them how many chances they are getting, how patient and tolerant God is with them. He goes on to say that this will not go on indefinitely, and that, sooner or later, they will be held responsible for what they have done, and for what they have failed to do.

Salvation is a word that is often used in connection with the work and mission of Jesus. It is not exactly the same as Redemption, which means to buy back something or someone who is enslaved, owned, or in bondage to another. Salvation is not something I get when I die. It is the grace I get to start again any time I so choose. This is a vital concept for us, because, as humans, we will always continue to fail and to fall. If there was no such thing as salvation, then when we fall, we would stay down, and there would be no comeback. St Augustine says that our glory consists not in never falling, but in getting up every time we fall. To get up and start again is heaven; to stay down is hell.

Jesus compares himself to a vine, and we are the branches. The branches draw their life from the vine, and it is the branches that produce the fruit. He said that we didn't choose him, but he chose us, and he appointed us to bear fruit, fruit that would remain. Today's gospel speaks about a fig tree that did not produce fruit. Producing fruit was the whole reason and purpose of it being planted in the first place. God gives me nothing for myself. He doesn't give me my gift of speech to go around talking to myself. As a Christian, I am called into the service of others. It is in giving that I myself receive.

There are three groups in every society. There is a small group that cause things to happen. There is a larger group that watch things happening. And then there's the largest group who haven't a clue what's happening. Christianity is more about walking the walk than talking the talk. It is about action, and not just ideas. It is never too late for God. The only "yes" in my life that God is interested in is my "yes" of now. He is totally a God of now. "I am who am." In today's gospel, the fig tree is given every opportunity, and more and more time, in the hope that it might produce fruit, and give some return for the work put into its cultivation. The gardener asks for one more year, for one more chance. Earlier we are told that the owner of the farm had come again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but each time he was disappointed. Remember this is a parable, and not a true story. The reference to time is stressing a lengthy time; something like a lifetime. If the Father is the owner, and Jesus is the gardener, and we are the fig tree, then we can view the situation from three different viewpoints. While the Father is looking for some response, Jesus is pleading for one more chance, and we, on the other hand, may be happy to go along with the idea that, yes, we must do something, but not yet. Why do today what I can put off till to-morrow? All diets begin on Monday. Jesus tells other parables, like the one about the servants or the foolish virgins who were caught unawares when their master returned.

The gospel is an invitation, with RSVP written all over it. Not to respond is, in itself, a response. Jesus says "I will not have to judge them. The word I have spoken to them will be their judge. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have an excuse for their sins." By coming to church here this morning, there is some evidence of response on our part. Mere presence, of course, as you know, would not be enough, but at least we have made a start.

Christianity is about walking the walk, and not just about talking the talk. Faith is not some sort of mental concept up in my head, like, for example, knowing that Jesus is God. Satan knows that too. Faith has more to do with my feet than with my head, when the message has come through the heart, down to the feet, that inspires some sort of stepping out, leading to Christianity in action. Remember, I am responsible for what I do, and for what I have failed to do.

www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp

<u>Website Addition - Readings of the Day courtesy of Universalis</u>.

Please note that there is now a new page added to the avonstourpastoralarea.org website. This page is entitled Universalis Readings of the Day. Courtesy of Universalis, there is now a link on that page that, on clicking on the hand on the headline Banner, gives you a download of the Readings of the Day. Please inform all the people whom you visit who may be housebound as this may prove to be a valuable resource for them.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT ('Watching')

This is now the first Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise announced.
Exposition will be from after the end of Mass until 11am.
'Stay with Me ….. Watch and Pray'

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which has been prepared this year by the ladies of Cuba.
In Iford, the Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held in Cranleigh Chapel, **this Friday 4th March, at 2.00 pm.**

COLLECTION FOR WOMEN'S REFUGE (Part of the Catholic Women's League national project) Items needed include toiletries, new children's books and toys, new underwear etc.
There is a box placed in the church (near the baptismal font) for the items. Thank you!

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT is 29th February to 13th March. If you would like to get involved, please visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2016

FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

Aid to the Church in Need



Following on from the highly enjoyable Social Evening last Saturday, when Tony Adams entertained us with his Frank Sinatra evening, the total proceeds from the sale of tickets and raffle tickets was the magnificent amount of £370! We are so grateful to Tony and to everyone who helped to make the evening so enjoyable - those who organised the event, prepared the buffet, donated the raffle prizes, set up and tidied away etc, etc.
All the money raised will be sent to Aid to the Church in Need. The focus at the moment with this charity is supporting Christians in Syria. We will also be arranging for several Masses to be said on behalf of our Parish.

For more information on Aid to the Church in Need, please visit the website www.acnuk.org

LIVING OUR FAITH FUNDS

Now that the campaign started in 2010 has finished it is time to consider how best to use the money raised. The Finance Committee and the PPC have agreed that the parishioners should be invited to make suggestions.

There is about £10,000 available which can be used for virtually any major project which would directly benefit the parish. Suggestions already put forward include new front doors, new outside notice boards and general refurbishment of the hall. There is no set timescale but we need your input.
Please put your ideas on paper and leave them with the office (either in the post box in the sacristy or through the outside letter box). You do not need to put your name on them but please mark the envelope "Living Our Faith Funds".

Thank you to everyone.
Steve Ferris (Finance Committee Chairman).

All are welcome to join the Bournemouth Ordinariate Mission today at St Thomas More for Choral Evensong & Benediction at 4:30pm. Anyone who would like to sing in the choir just needs to arrive at 3.30pm to run through the music. Light refreshments will follow the service in the Parish Hall.



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 at 6pm on Saturday 11th June here at St Thomas More's, followed by a buffet in the church hall.

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 (except the last Sunday of the month when there will usually be Choral Evensong & Benediction)
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.

LENT REFLECTIONS - 'Channels of God's Mercy' Reflections for Lent at St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Christchurch, Sunday 28th February and Sunday 13th March, 3.30pm - 4.30pm. See poster for details.

PASTORAL AREA "LEARNING IN LENT" DVD SERIES: The Sacraments – transforming everyday life
THIS THURSDAY (3rd March) 1.30 – 2.45 pm "Baptism" - the second lunchtime session at Our Lady Queen of Peace hall, Southbourne (Why not bring your lunch and join us from 1pm?)
NO SESSION THIS TUESDAY (1st March) at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch. Each session is stand-alone, so come to as many as you can manage. No need to sign up, just turn up on the day.
More details on the fliers available in the church porch or on the Avon Stour Pastoral Area website or contact Richard Martin (rmartin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, 07990 826934)

DAY OF PRAYER IN LENT : 'Praying with the Passion' St Joseph's Church, 19th March. Everyone is welcome to come and spend the day together listening, praying and sharing as we explore. 'Praying with the Passion'. We begin with tea/coffee at 10.30am and finish at 4.15pm. If you are looking for a time for quiet prayer and reflection during Lent please come and join us.

LENT TALK : 'A Day on Discipleship' with Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R and David Wells Saturday 19th March at St. Mary's, Poole 10.00am – 2.00pm. Fr Denis will be speaking about Jonah – the awkward disciple who struggles with his identity, his direction and his outlook. His story celebrates the beauty of the indiscriminate mercy of God. He is stunningly modern, a challenge for our time. David Wells will be talking about modern-day discipleship, and through story telling he will invite us to open our eyes and hearts to God, and enjoy our own moments of grace in daily life. To book: email marketing@rpbooks.co.uk

YEAR OF MERCY: GOD'S MERCY IN SCRIPTURE - INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING TO STUDY THE BIBLE - 12th MARCH 10am-4pm A day to discover the four senses of Scripture in depth and to learn a method of Scripture study. These will be put into practice in workshops by exploring the Mercy of God in the Gospels. The day is open to anyone in the diocese and aims at equipping us in reading, understanding and proclaiming the Scriptures, and is especially suitable for catechists. It will include Mass and times of prayer. The day is free. Bring a packed lunch. Run by the Diocese Formation for Mission Team. When: 12th March 2016 – 10 am to 4 pm Where: St Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh SO53 2DU. Please **BOOK ON THE DIOCESE WEBSITE** www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/formation It may be possible to arrange a lift - please contact Richard Martin if interested (rmartin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, 07990 826934)

DIVINE MERCY – DAY OF REFLECTION : Sat. 2nd April 10/10.30am – 4.00pm. At St. Joseph's, 8, Lyndhurst Rd. Ashurst, SO40 7DU. Lunch & Mass incl. Led by Fr. Des Connolly. Cost £18. Please register on 02380 292337 or to frdes@montfort.org.uk

THANK YOU **for the offerings 20th/21st Feb.**

Envelopes & Cash:	£ 295.43
Standing Orders :	£ 189.15

Total : £ 484.58