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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20th/21st December 2014

TWO WEEK EDITION

Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

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 20th December:		Mass Intention
Saturday 20th Dec. 6.00pm	First Mass of Fourth Sunday of Advent	George Hackwell, RIP
Sunday 21st Dec. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	Maria Britton, RIP
Monday	—	—
Tuesday 23rd Dec. 9.30am	Liturgy of the Day	Repose of the soul of Mary Wilding
Wed. 24th Dec 6.30pm 10.00pm	**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD** **Midnight Mass** (Ordinariate)	Joseph Claire Cunningham, RIP
Thurs. 25th Dec. 9.30am	**CHRISTMAS DAY**	People of the Parish
Friday 26th Dec. 10.30am	**St Stephen,** *feast*	For Altar Servers and their families
Sat. 27th Dec. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation First Mass of the Holy Family	Ville-Vernen Vaisanen, RIP
Sunday 28th Dec. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THE HOLY FAMILY**	Sylvia Esposti, RIP

HOSPITAL CAROL SERVICE
this Sunday, 21st December at 3pm
in the Bournemouth Hospital Atrium
Service followed by light refreshments.

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

Psalm Refrain

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Year B



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38

AS NATHAN PROMISED

Today we have in the Reading from the Book of Samuel one of the most important prophecies of all time, for the chosen people of the Old Testament - the prophecy of Nathan. It was stated in the form of a contrast. David is not to build a house (a temple) for God, but on the contrary God is to build a house (a dynasty) for David, and this house will never fall. "Your house will always stand, and your throne will be established for ever," was the definite promise. From that time on, the Jewish people firmly believed that the royal line of David had a lasting place in God's plans for Israel, that the monarchy would never collapse.

But collapse it did, before the forces of Babylon, and Israel's hopes were shattered. How could God go back on his promise to David? This test of their faith in God led to deep reflection on whether other interpretations of Nathan's prophecy were possible. So there were some individuals who saw God's promise being fulfilled by means of the people themselves carrying on the tradition of Temple worship and sacrifice, without any ruling king. They saw themselves as being a priestly people, a kingly people, God's holy people.

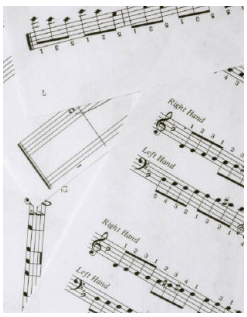
Others maintained that the promise would be fulfilled by a Messiah, an anointed one, a descendent of King David, who would restore Israel to a position of prestige once more among the nations. In the light of Christ's coming, we are inclined to look back and see how prophetic were these our ancestors in faith, and yet in ways how mistaken also they were. For most of them God's plan of redemption for the whole world was never grasped. Before we begin to feel superior in any way, we should ask ourselves what the significance of Advent is for us, what are our expectations, what are we looking forward to. We might say that we are waiting for the coming of Christ, but surely Christ is here already. Yes, indeed, but for us, as well, he is here in a hidden way. We too are being asked, as were the Jews, to make an act of deeper faith, to make God present in a more compelling way in our everyday lives.

"To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be convinced of the things we cannot see" (Heb 11:1). And nowhere is such faith more in evidence than in the Annunciation as recorded in the gospel reading today.

A simple young woman, the virgin Mary, is told by the Archangel, Gabriel, that she is going to be mother of the promised Messiah, the Son of God and descendent of King David, the one foretold by the prophets of Israel, over the centuries. To add to the mystery of this announcement is the definite promise that while becoming a mother she will remain a virgin, and that compliance with God's plan is to be left to her own free choice. "Rejoice so highly favoured," the angel said, implying that from her conception Mary had been the recipient of God's grace and favour, and had been chosen for a long time past for the part she was being called upon to play in the redemption of the human race. She had received the perfection of holiness, and was transformed by the grace of God, purified and sanctified.

St Paul said of the Corinthians, "You are a letter from Christ, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Cor 3:3). Mary also, we can say, is a letter from the Holy Spirit, a letter that has come down to us, not in written documents, so much as in the veneration of millions of Christians, ever since those moments when the Apostle St John, at the foot of the Cross on Calvary, accepted her as his Mother and ours, and took her into his own house.

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ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church

A candlelit Advent Taizé Service will take place *this* Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace church, Douglas Road, Southbourne.

There will be refreshments served afterwards in the church hall.

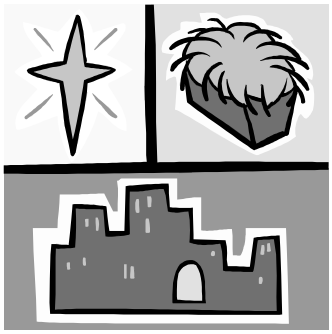
Christmas Eve Mass 6.30pm (Carols in the church 6.00pm)

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!

CHRISTMAS CRIB



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

CHRISTMAS CARD BOX

Don't forget to check to see if there are cards which have been left for you!



Songs of Praise

Hosted by *BBC Radio Solent*
Sunday Morning Presenter

Tim Daykin

here at St Thomas More's on
Sunday 8th February 2015 at 3.00 pm

Choose your favourite hymn, then tell us what it means to you and come along and sing it on the day. More details about how to submit your hymn will be released immediately after Christmas.

THANK YOU for the offerings 13th/14th Dec.

Envelopes :	£ 195.50	Cash :	£ 80.68
Standing Orders :	£ 146.45		**Total : £ 422.63**

ROYAL BOURNEMOUTH HOSPITAL CHAPEL : Please note that there will no Mass at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital on Christmas day or New Year's day. In the New Year, starting on the 7th January the Mass in the hospital chapel moves to Wednesday (same time, 6.00pm)

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.

Week beginning 27th December:		Mass Intention
Saturday 27th Dec. 6.00pm	First Mass of the Holy Family	Ville-Vernen Vaisanen, RIP
Sunday 28th Dec. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THE HOLY FAMILY**	Sylvia Esposti, RIP
Monday	—	—
Tuesday 30th Dec.	*No Mass today*	—
Wed. 31st Dec.	*No Mass today*	—
Thurs. 1st Jan.	*No Mass today*	—
Friday 2nd Jan	*No Mass today*	—
Sat. 3rd Jan. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord	Rena MacDonald
Sunday 4th Jan. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**	People of the Parish

THE HOLY FAMILY

Genesis 15: 1-6, 21:1-3 Hebrews 11: 8, 1-12, 17-19 Luke 2 :22-40

Genesis 15: 1-6; 21:1-3. God gave assurance to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child, to pass on the family inheritance. After long delay, the promise is fulfilled, when Isaac is born.

Heb 11: 8,ff. Continues the theme of promise and inheritance, but adds that Abraham's rugged and obedient faith played an important part, as his response to God's promise.

Luke 2: 22-40. The presentation of Jesus in the Temple shows how Joseph and Mary were faithful to Jewish religious law. With joy, old Simeon makes his prophecy about Jesus' future mission.

Today's feast of the Holy Family invites us to meditate on our own place, both in our domestic family and in the family of the Church.

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Psalm Refrain:



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