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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT Yr C

12th/13th March 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 12th March		Mass Intention
Saturday 12th March Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th March Principal Mass 9.30am Baptism Gregory Thain and Antoni Leja Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ----------
Tuesday 15th March Weekday Mass 9.30am	of the Fifth Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Wednesday 16th March Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	of the Fifth Week of Lent	----------
Thursday 17th March Weekday Mass 9.30am Sung Mass. Refreshments in sacristy afterwards.	**ST PATRICK**, *feast*	For all the faithful departed
Friday 18th March Weekday Mass 9.30am Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	of the Fifth Week of Lent	For all the Parish faithful departed
Saturday 19th March Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**PALM SUNDAY of the Lord's Passion**	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th March Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ----------

CONFIRMATION Our Confirmation Candidates and their families will be joining the Parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church for their 11am Mass this Sunday, 13th March, as part of their Retreat Day. They will be taking an active part in the Mass helping with various ministries including welcoming, serving and reading. The Candidates will then continue with their Retreat Day in the Parish Centre during which they will enjoy a barbeque lunch and have the opportunity for personal Reconciliation with our priests during the afternoon. At the end of the afternoon, parents will join them for a meeting and final reflection.

PASTORAL AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICE
Wednesday 16th March, 7.30pm
Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Southbourne.
You are warmly invited to this Service of Reconciliation for Lent.
Priests will be available to hear individual confessions.

GOOD FRIDAY CANDLELIT TAIZÉ MEDITATION: 7.30pm, 25th March at Our Lady Queen of Peace church. All welcome.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

John 8: 1 - 11

Pharisaic Motivation

If you read the Bible carefully and reflect on the events described in it, you can gain extraordinary insights into the character and outlook of some of the people whose memory is enshrined in its pages. The feast of St Joseph is on 19th March, and the gospel tells of his reaction to the discovery that Mary was with child. Joseph wanted to spare Mary from public disgrace and shame and decided to separate from her secretly, as the Law permitted. But being warned in a dream, he refrained from doing this.

What a stark contrast there is between the reaction of Joseph and that of the Pharisees in today's gospel story. These latter brought the woman taken in adultery into the Temple precincts, a place much frequented by all kinds of people, and made her stand before everyone in as public a manner as possible. In such cases they insisted that the penalty to be exacted should be strictly in accord with the full rigour of the Mosaic Law, namely death by stoning. But the Pharisees here were not so much motivated by zeal for the Law, as in using the woman merely as a pawn, in a scheme of theirs to discredit Jesus. If, for example, in response to their query, "What have you to say?" Jesus were to reply, "Let the woman go free," then they would feel justified in accusing him of breaking the Mosaic Law as well as condoning adultery. If, however, he were to say, "Let her be stoned to death," then not only could it be claimed that he was lacking in mercy, but also he could be accused of going against the legal restrictions of the Roman authorities, who at this time reserved for themselves alone the right to impose the death penalty. But Jesus saw through their plotting and made them withdraw in confusion.

In the case of the Pharisees, as we see, and indeed in the case of most of us, there is the subtle danger of creating God in our own image and likeness, imagining him to be a stern and demanding God, who takes revenge, who loves to punish, who can be persuaded to forgive only after we have made a great show of repentance. Such of course is a mere caricature of God. At best this kind of religion can be cold and loveless. At worst, as St Paul says in the Second Reading, trying to form a right relationship with God by mere adherence to the Law and all its ways can be as worthless as the rubbish one throws away. It is only when we allow the love of God, as seen in Christ, to encompass our lives, to change our inner being, that we begin to understand Christianity.

Contrary to the thinking of the Pharisees, we must get rid of the tendency to regard ourselves as better than others, no matter what commandments we keep; nor must we judge and condemn others. Rather should we be generous, forgiving and loving towards others. From the gospel story we see that the worst of the seven deadly sins is not lust as so many think. Indeed, Christ's harshest condemnation was reserved for those who, like the Pharisees, in their pride and self-righteousness shut themselves off from God, who felt no need to ask God for help and grace. We cannot be true followers of Christ unless we acknowledge our frailty, our sinfulness, our need for his help which alone can save us. When we do fall we gain a deeper understanding of the extraordinary mercy God is prepared to extend to the sinner. For our sins make no difference to God's enduring love for us.

St Paul says that all things work together for the good of those who love God (Rom 8:28), and St Augustine adds, "Yes, even sin." And St Augustine, from bitter personal experience, knew all about the false allure of sin, how difficult it is often to break away from it, and how God's love alone can help us conquer it.

www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp

FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
ends on 13th March.

A PRAYER FOR FAIR TRADE

As I enter the street market
Wheel my trolley at the supermarket
Leaf through a catalogue,
or log onto the internet
Be with me and help me
To see the market place as you see it
As wide as you see it
As wide as the world you love so much
Be with us and help us
To share the markets we share
For all people.
As we live under your steady gaze,
So we can change, by your gracious love.
Amen

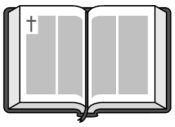
The latest copies of our Pastoral Area magazine, 'the Link', are now available!

LENT REFLECTIONS - 'Channels of God's Mercy' Reflections for Lent at St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Christchurch. The next reflection is ***this*** Sunday 13th March, 3.30pm - 4.30pm. Please see poster for details.

'PRAYING THE PASSION' Saturday 19th March, 10.30am - 4.15pm at St Joseph's Parish Centre.
If you are staying for the whole day don't forget to bring a packed lunch. This will be an opportunity to focus on our journey into Holy Week, everybody is welcome!

PASTORAL AREA "LEARNING IN LENT" DVD series: The Sacraments – transforming everyday life *THIS WEEK: "THE EUCHARIST" TUESDAY (15th March) 7.30 – 8.45 pm* at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch ***or THURSDAY (17th March) 1.30 – 2.45 pm*** at Our Lady Queen of Peace hall, Southbourne (Why not bring your lunch and join us from 1pm?) Each session is stand-alone, so it doesn't matter if you've missed previous sessions. 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)

HOLY WEEK READERS' ROTA Please put your name on the list pinned up on the church notice board if you can read during Holy Week. Thank you.



EASTER GARDENS The Liturgy of the Word with Children team plan to decorate the Easter Garden again this year. If anyone could bring along a little pot of flowers to help with this please leave it in the flower room - that would be very much appreciated. Thank you!

HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Parish Pastoral Council meet approximately once a month. If anyone wishes to raise a matter for the PPC to consider then please either contact the Secretary, Sue Morris, or the Chair, Neil Dawson. Alternately there is a box on the 'free table' for letters.
The Liturgy Group's Secretary is Barry Sherwin. If you have an item to be raised at their meeting please contact him. Barry and Paul Tabor are also contact people for the Music Ministry.
The Fabric and Finance Committee's meeting on Tuesday 15th March has been postponed. Please contact the Chair, Steve Ferris if you have any items for the agenda of the next meeting. Suggestions on the 'Living Our Faith Funds' are still needed please.

When available, minutes from these meetings will be pinned on the church notice board .

THANK YOU on behalf of the Catholic Women's League, for the donations to the Women's Refuge appeal. It has been a great response so far! Many thanks for your generosity.



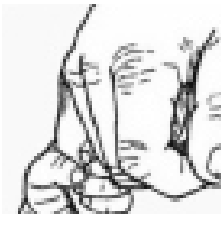
TAKE A BREAK …….

Teas and coffees, squash and biscuits are served in the church hall after the 9.30am Sunday morning Mass.
Why not pop in?

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REACHING THE UNREACHED (Brother Lionel)
COFFEE MORNING

17th April in the Church Hall.
After 9.30am Mass and after 11.15am Mass. Finish approx. 1.00pm.
Bring and buy, Cake Stall, Sale of work



If anyone would like to be involved in the preparation for this, or on the day, please contact Annie c/o parish office. There will be a box in the church for donated items on 3rd April.

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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.		

PASTORAL AREA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Tuesday 12th April: Called & Gifted – all those who have been involved in the Called & Gifted Process are invited to gather together for one final time to share good news stories about what has been happening, to pray together and to discuss what might happen next.
Tuesday 26th April: Pastoral Area Network Event: First Holy Communion Catechists 7.15-9.15pm at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch.
Thursday 28thApril: First Pastoral Area *"Welcome to Worship"* event – for teenagers and adults of all ages: contemporary praise & worship, scripture, reflection, choice of ways to respond in prayer. St Joseph's Church, Christchurch 7.00-8.00pm, followed by refreshments.

BARN DANCE: St Joseph's church Christchurch is holding a Barn Dance on Friday 18th March at 8.00pm to celebrate St Patrick's night & St Joseph's feast day. We have booked a live band, Murphy's Lore and tickets cost £7.00 each. Please bring a plate of food to share and your own drinks.

DIVINE MERCY – DAY OF REFLECTION : Saturday 2nd April 10/10.30am – 4pm. At St. Joseph's, 8, Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 7DU. Lunch & Mass incl. Led by Fr. Des Connolly. Cost £18. Please register on 02380 292337 or to frdes@montfort.org.uk

SPECIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING: Corpus Christi Church, 8th April at 7.00pm. This is in Thanksgiving for Fr Denis Blackledge, who leaves for pastures new in Liverpool soon.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION*:* 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 here at St Thomas More's on Saturday 11th June at 6.00pm , followed by a buffet in the church hall afterwards.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Saturday 21st May, Annunciation Church Hall, 218 Charminster Road, Bournemouth BH8 9RW. Child Protection Safeguarding session 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding session 1.30pm to 4.00 pm. Refreshments of tea, coffee, biscuits will be available but not lunch.

THANK YOU

for the offerings **12th/13th March**

Envelopes :	£ 190.30	Cash :	£ 100.42
Standing Orders :	£ 186.85		**Total : £ 477.57**