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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

17th/18th May 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG.

Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel: 01202 485588

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW

e-mail: djordan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Week beginning 17th May :		Mass Intention
Saturday 17th May 6.00pm	First Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Easter	Maria Weyers, RIP
Sunday 18th May 9.30am	**FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER**	First Holy Communicants and families
Monday 19th May	—	—
Tuesday 20th May 9.30am	of the Fifth week of Easter	Jerry Murphy, RIP
Wed. 21st May 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00 noon	of the Fifth week of Easter Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	'Thanksgiving' for surgeon and team - for helping Teresa with her operation
Thurs. 22nd May 9.30am	of the Fifth week of Easter	Thanksgiving for good health report - Maggie
Friday 23rd May 9.30am	of the Fifth week of Easter	For Brother Lionel's 89th birthday
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Sixth Sunday of Easter	

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
For He whom you were chosen to bear, alleluia.
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.



REACHING THE UNREACHED

We are pleased to welcome Father Antony Paulsamy, the Director of Reaching the Unreached, who is over here on a visit from India, and who will be concelebrating mass with Father Darryl tonight and then giving a talk in the hall after mass. Also this weekend, the latest edition of the RTU newsletter will be available.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Back to the Garden

We had wandered far away from the garden, and Jesus has come to bring us back. There is only one Way to get back to the Father, and Jesus is that Way.

Most of us grew up on promises. We were always making promises to God, renewing baptismal promises, making Lenten and New Year promises, etc. It would, indeed, be a real conversion if we were to turn that around, and begin to give top priority to the promises that Jesus makes to us. Today's gospel contains a wonderful promise. He is going to prepare a place for us and then, one day, he will come to bring us with him so that, where he is, we also will be.

Jesus has two things to say about his promises that are important. Firstly, he says that heaven and earth will pass away before his promises pass away. Secondly, he says that the sin of this world is unbelief in him; in other words, the problem is that people do not believe his promises. Elizabeth said to Mary, "All these things happened to you because you believed that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled."

I should be clear in my mind what my image of God is. Is he still the old man away up in the sky, with the long white beard, who is watching my every move, who is demanding that I meet his expectations of perfection, who is going to get me sooner or later; and, having spent my life trying to keep him happy, I'm still terrified to meet him when I die? Jesus puts the whole thing simply. "I never say anything unless the Father tells me to. If you hear me, you hear the Father, if you see me, you see the Father, if you do what I say, you are obeying the Father. The Father loves you as much as he loves me." I'm afraid that Philip in today's gospel represents a lot of us. Sometimes the message can be so simple that we fail to see it.

Today's gospel certainly calls for a response. "Don't be troubled. You trust God. Now trust in me." That's a simple and direct appeal. Faith and trust are both a response to love. I have to believe that the other person cares about me and my welfare before I can trust that person. That's really what Jesus is asking for in today's gospel. His whole life, and especially his death, was one great act of love.

Faith, of course, is a gift, and I don't believe that Jesus would ask me to believe in him or to trust him, without offering me the gift to be able to do so. This, primarily, is the work of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit completes the work that Jesus began. The first part of the programme of salvation is what Jesus did. The second and final part is the response that the Holy Spirit makes possible within our hearts. This response is what we call faith. It is in our hearts and, hopefully, it can also make its way down into our feet, when we have to step out in faith so often in life.

Jesus, in calling for faith, says, in effect, if everything else fails, then "believe because of what you have seen me do." He goes on to say that if we did that we, too, could do what he did, and even greater things. That is surely a major promise, and it is hardly much of an exaggeration to say that it is among the promises that may be least believed and acted on. Several times in the gospels, Jesus speaks of giving us power and authority. The truth of the matter, of course, is that he offers us everything; rather than gives us anything.

It can help us if we think of prayer as being more a question of listening than speaking. Prayer is not so much us speaking to God who does not hear, as God speaking to us who do not listen. There is a vast difference between, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening," and "Listen, Lord, your servant is speaking." It is almost as if Jesus is annoyed with Philip for not listening. No matter how many times, or in how many ways, Jesus gave the message, Philip still hadn't grasped it. I'm sure we can all identify with Philip. I suggest, however, that we have to do more than that. We have to learn to be still, to listen, and to be with Jesus for periods of time. What I really mean is that we have to pray. I hesitate to define what I mean by this, because it can be a personal thing. I can have a heart that prays all the time while, in actual fact, I may not be saying many prayers. There is a great difference between praying and saying prayers. I could teach a parrot to say a prayer, but I could never teach a parrot to pray.

Jesus compares faith to a grain of mustard seed. For those of us not familiar with the significance of that, it is as tiny as a single grain of sand. Faith must be exercised, or it will never grow.

There is a story told of a tombstone in the cemetery, which bore the inscription: "Remember, stranger, as you pass by, as you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you shall be; so prepare yourself to follow me." To which some wit with a piece of chalk added the words, "to follow you I'm quite content. But how do I know which way you went?" Jesus calls himself The Way, rather than just one of the ways. The early Christians were known as followers of The Way. It is central to the Christian message that, because of Jesus, I have a clear and definite direction in my life. As a Christian, I have a clear and definite Way and Path to follow, and I know that if I follow that Way, it will bring me home.

http://www.biblical.ie/lections/SEasterA.asp#35143

****

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 21st & 28th May 6 - 7pm at Corpus Christi
(757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6AN) Need some peace in the middle of your busy week of school, college, uni or work? Come along and make some new friends at this beautiful time of prayer.

Monthly Area Youth Mass & BBQ! Sunday 1st June 6-9pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace (18 Douglas Road, Southbourne. BH6 3ER)
Come and join us and bring a friend to this Mass which is especially for all the young people of our area! After Mass there will be a BBQ & refreshments!

Talk by Fr Alan Griffiths

24th June 2014, 7.30 pm

St Joseph's Centre, Christchurch

The APC have arranged for Fr Alan to give us a talk on **"The role of lay leaders in Planning and Celebrating Liturgies"**. It would be very helpful to all our Pastoral Area lay leaders! The APC are anxious to produce an Area-wide Contingency Plan and *would appreciate all lay leaders making a real effort to attend.*



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Just a gentle reminder! - There are a few boxes of envelopes remaining on the 'free table' ….. have you taken yours?!

For those who contribute by standing order and who have not taken their box, these are now in the parish office. Please let us know if you do not require them.

40th ANNIVERSARY OF PORTSMOUTH & BAMENDA DIOCESES TWINNING

There will be a Mass at St John Bosco Church, Woodley, Reading on 22nd June at 4pm.

The Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Bamenda.

Afterwards there will be a Bamenda style celebration.

Almighty, ever-living Father,

You are the Eternal Shepherd who never leaves his flock untended.
We thank you immensely for the bond of love and friendship which has existed between the Archdiocese of Bamenda and the Diocese of Portsmouth now for forty years.
We are deeply grateful to you for the spiritual benefits this union has yielded, through which many have come to experience inner conversion and the unfathomable warmth of your love.

As we celebrate forty years of this bond through the proclamation of your Word and the guidance of your Holy Spirit,
may we receive the grace to grow continuously in partnership and understanding.

Bless those who have made selfless sacrifices to sustain us,
especially the priests who have served in our diocese.
May their work be rewarded in the abundance of your grace.

May Mary our Mother, Queen of Apostles and Star of the New Evangelisation, and St Edmund our Patron, intercede for us.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

40th Anniversary

of Link with

Bamenda

This prayer has been composed by the two dioceses on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda.

From the Diocese:

Sign up for Portsmouth Diocese E-News
Keep up to date with what's happening in the diocese. The diocesan e-news comes out once a week – latest events, photos, videos. Sign up on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

THE CALLED AND GIFTED PROGRAMME is a three part discernment process intended to help Catholics discern their charisms. Part one is a Called and Gifted workshop with Sherry Weddell on **Friday 27th June** 7pm to 9pm and **Saturday 28th June** 9:00am to 5pm at Botleigh Grange Hotel and Spa, Grange Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 2GA. Part two is a one hour interview with one of the team whilst at the workshop. Part three is the ongoing discernment process. Please book your place if you wish to attend at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted and fill in the form. Places are free for those in the diocese. If someone outside the diocese wishes to come, please email cvirgo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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 Visit, ***Urgent requests*** (usually for poorly patients who have not been visited in the last 48 hours) please call the chaplain or his substitute ***directly,*** using, ***in order,*** the following numbers: Fr John: Lee 01202 483340 Emergency Mobile: 07850 365897 If these fail, ring St Thomas More's or the Annunciation Church 01202 513369

CONCERT BY THE CADENZA CHOIR: In aid of Zoe's Wish (easing the burden of illness). Wednesday 9th July 7.30pm at St Joseph's Church. Tickets: £6.00 to include glass of wine or soft drink. Available from the Zoe's wish website .

OPEN MORNING AT ST THOMAS GARNET'S SCHOOL

Sarah Breeze, Headmistress at St Thomas Garnet's School, Parkwood Road, Boscombe would like to warmly invite all prospective parents to our open morning on **Tuesday 20th May.** Please contact the school for further information and a prospectus. We look forward to showing you around our lovely school!

MIDSUMMER FAYRE : Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church (15 Salisbury Road, Fordingbridge SP6 1EG). In the church hall and garden. Saturday June 21st, 11am - 2pm. Fun for all the family! Relax in the garden and on the patio with a Pimms or a soft drink. Enjoy something from the BBQ or a cream tea or cake. Stalls include plants, cakes, bric a brac, gifts, tombola, toys and games, bottle stall, raffle and more. There will also be an art exhibition and sale by the church art group.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH SUMMER FETE: Saturday 28th June at 2pm.

OLD SPECTACLES REQUIRED! The Lay members of the ACI family of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart are collecting unwanted spectacles for the Sister's mission in the Cameroon. We meet at 11am every last Monday of the month at the convent at 6 Parkwood Road, Boscombe. All are welcome. Please your old specs in the box on the 'free table'. Thanks.

RUN FOR CAFOD: Could you race against global poverty with team CAFOD at the **Great South Run** in Portsmouth (10 miles) on **Sunday 26 October**? If you are aged 3-8 or 9-15, you can take part in the Mini and Junior Great South Run (1.5km and 2.5km respectively) on Saturday 25 October. For more information and/or to register, please contact the CAFOD Portsmouth Office at portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329385. Many thanks.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: The Bournemouth Ordinariate's pilgrimage to Walsingham is from 27th to 30th June and will be led by Father Darryl and Mgr. Edwin Barnes. The pilgrimage includes half-board accommodation, transport by coach and use of the coach during our stay and a visit to historic Clare Priory on the return journey : cost £215 (child under 16 £155).

Last Call ! There is now just one twin room available ! If you are interested, please ring Madeleine c/o OLQP Church by Tuesday 20th May.

THANK YOU for the offerings 10th/11th May

Envelopes :	£ 165.70	Cash :	£ 123.37
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93		**Total : £ 434.00**