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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

29th/30th March 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG. Tel: 01202 485588

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

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

Please note: There will usually be someone in the parish office Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you are unable to speak to anyone please leave a message on the office answerphone. The parish office will be closed on Mondays, Father's day off.

Local Catholic Youth Worker: Will Hince 07810827606 whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth

Week beginning 29th March :		Mass Intention
Saturday 29th March 6.00pm	First Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Sunday 30th March 9.30am	**FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT**	People of the Parish
Monday 31st March	—	—
Tuesday 1st April 9.30am	of the Fourth week of Lent	Theresa Mary Connolly (Foundation Mass)
Wed. 2nd April 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00 noon	of the Fourth week of Lent Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 3rd April 9.30am After 9.30am Mass -	of the Fourth week of Lent **Lectio Divina**	Winnie Kitson, RIP
Friday 4th April 9.30am **6.30pm**	of the Fourth week of Lent **Stations of the Cross**	Katherine Teresa James (Foundation Mass)
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Fifth Sunday of Lent	

THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR THIS SUNDAY 1AM!

There will be a Second Collection this weekend for the
CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND

Laetare ('Rejoice') Sunday
is a name used to denote the fourth Sunday of the season of Lent.
This Sunday is also **Mothering Sunday.**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



The Fourth Sunday of Lent Yr A

Reflection on the Gospel.

Jehovah's Witnesses are great at house to house evangelism. I remember this man who used to frequent our neighbourhood. He was blind. He usually began by raising up his red-edged Bible and shouting, "I was blind but now I see." This way he would attract a group of people around him and begin witnessing to them. If you needed a distinction between physical and spiritual blindness, this is it. Physically he was blind, but spiritually he was clear sighted, or at least so he believed.

Today's gospel centres on the analogy and distinction between physical and spiritual blindness, as do most of the Gospel miracle stories where Jesus heals blind people. The early Christians saw physical blindness as a metaphor for the spiritual blindness which prevents people from recognizing and coming to Jesus. These stories testify, therefore, to the power of Jesus to heal not just the blindness of the eye but, above all, the blindness of the heart.

The clue that the evangelist intended this story to be read on these two levels, physical and spiritual, is found at the tail end of the narrative.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." (John 9:39-41)

The mission statement that Jesus gives here is valid not only for the Pharisees but also for the men and women of our time. To learn from Jesus we must first admit our ignorance, to be healed we must first acknowledge our blindness, to be forgiven we must confess our sins. The I'm-OK-you're-OK mentality so prevalent today may in fact not be too far from the mentality of the Pharisees. The great archbishop Fulton J. Sheen used to say that in the past only Catholics believed in the Immaculate Conception but today everybody thinks they are immaculately conceived, i.e. sinless. From earliest times today's gospel story has been associated with baptism. Just as the blind man went down into the waters of Siloam and came up whole, so also believers who are immersed into the waters of baptism come up spiritually whole, totally healed of the blindness with which we are born. For, like the blind man in the gospel, we are all born blind - spiritually, that is.

Another reason why this story was used in the preparation of catechumens for baptism is that it spells out in a dramatic way what it takes to be a disciple of Jesus. It is, in fact, a story of how a blind man who used to sit and beg became a disciple who went about witnessing to Jesus. As in last week's story of the conversion of the Samaritan woman by Jacob's well, this story of the healing of the blind man shows that the one thing you need to qualify to bear witness to Jesus is not doing a certain kind of studies but having a certain kind of experience. The crisis of faith in our time is not different from the crisis of faith of the Pharisees, namely, thinking that true piety means knowing and following the Book. But Christianity has a lot more to do with knowing and following the Person, the person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The problem of membership and attendance we have in our churches today is the result of the understanding in the past that being a Christian was a matter of following certain doctrines and forms of worship. The most important thing, bringing people into a relationship with Jesus was neglected. The irony of the situation is that it is only after such a personal relationship with the Lord that people can begin to appreciate the importance of church worship and doctrine for the life of faith. Faith experience comes before theology. That is why the blind man arrived at the true faith in Jesus before the learned Pharisees. So, when in our ministry we stress doctrine and worship over personal encounter with the Lord, one begins to wonder whether we are not putting the cart before the horse. Let us today admit our spiritual blindness and pray with St Augustine of Hippo in the spirit of Lent and today's gospel: "Lord that we may see." The Lord will give us light and spiritual insight.

LENT NOTICEBOARD

MUSIC …. Please take a copy of the musical setting for the Mass!

LECTIO DIVINA …. Thursdays, in the sacristy after the 9.30am Mass. Lectio Divina literally means 'divine reading'- It is a praying of the Scriptures. Everyone is welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS …. Every Friday at 6.30pm in the church.

PASTORAL AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICE…. St Thomas More's, Tuesday 8th April 7.00pm.

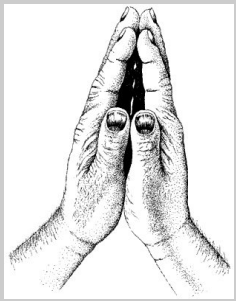
MAUNDY THURSDAY …. Looking ahead a bit, there is a 'sign-up' list on the noticeboard. Please add your-name if you wish to have your feet washed.

Bishop Philip's Lent Catechesis: The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Bishop Philip reflects on the meeting of Jesus with Nicodemus. Online catechesis is offered each week to help you take a spiritual pilgrimage with Christ this Lent. The video is available on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk each Monday which includes the Gospel for the coming Sunday, followed by Bishop Philip's catechesis. There are also accompanying discussion questions which can be downloaded. You may wish to use these materials individually, or in small groups within the parish. For more information, see the poster.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
In addition to the 6.30pm Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 2.30pm. Please note that there will also be a special **Stations of the Cross for children** in the church hall at the same time (- could a parent or guardian accompany their children for this please.)

A Week of Accompanied Prayer

11th -17th May 2014



A Week of Accompanied prayer Sunday 11th – Saturday 17th May

Please make a note of the dates Sunday 11th – Saturday 17th May when there will be the opportunity to take part in a week of individually accompanied prayer based around St.Joseph's Christchurch. This week will be an opportunity to experience a guided retreat in the midst of your daily life, without the need to stay away from home. If you would like to know more contact Chris Bryden 01202 488556

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 2nd & 9th April 6-7pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AN) We invite all young people to join us for this beautiful time of prayer. You will be given a free rosary, and this Wednesday (2nd April) we will be going to the pub for a meal after our Holy Hour :D

Monthly Area Youth Mass! Sunday 6th April 5-8pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AN) Come and join us for our Monthly Area Youth Mass which will be followed by a movie on the big screen! "From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others" -Blessed John Paul II

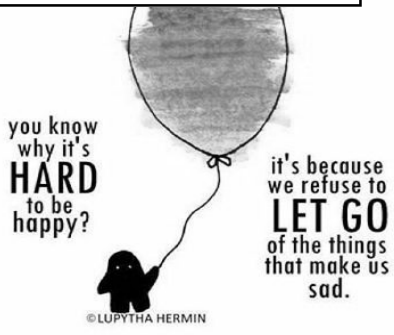
DIOCESAN CHAPLAINCY TEAMS: Pastoral Care Services, Hospital Chaplaincy, Prison Chaplaincy, Ethnic Chaplaincies
Purpose The mission of the chaplaincy teams can be best summed up in the words of Jesus: *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. – Matthew 24:34 - 36*
The two fold purpose of the teams is both to bring Jesus to our neighbours who need our care and to also encounter Jesus in the ones that we care for. There is an evangelistic element to our work in that we are called to bring the suffering the good news that they are loved and help them to deepen their spirituality as they more deeply reflect the redemptive suffering of Jesus.
Who is my neighbour? We prove ourselves to be neighbours to all peoples by the love that we show to them, however the particular part of the "vineyard" allotted to the Chaplaincy team is those in need of pastoral care. This includes not only vulnerable groups of people but also their families and others who offer them support. The Chaplaincy team cuts across all nationalities and faiths including those who have no faith or are angry with God in the face of their suffering.
Scope There is already much good work taking place in our diocese and the relatively small diocesan chaplaincy team with limited resources cannot hope to directly undertake the chaplaincy work across the entire diocese. However, most team members are directly involved in this work in their particular locality. The scope of the chaplaincy team work will therefore be more about encouraging and enabling chaplaincy work through the diocese.
Could you volunteer to help our teams? The Diocesan Chaplaincy Teams need volunteers to help develop a program of work. Would you be interested in offering your expertise? We would also be pleased to hear from those working locally so that we can build up a database of chaplaincy volunteers. Please contact cvirgo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk if you fall into either category.

STM QUIZ NIGHT

A note for your diaries!
Quiz Night: May 10th, 7pm.
In the church hall.
Shared supper.
Tickets will be on sale weekends:
5th/6th April, 26th/27th April and 2nd/3rd May



Picture from an e-mail received -



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 01202 485588 or the Annunciation Church 01202 513369

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: Calling all married couples. A weekend of discovery and renewal for your marriage. Interested? A Marriage Encounter weekend is an opportunity for couples of any age to enrich their relationships in a relaxed and caring atmosphere. Places available on the weekend starting Friday 20 June.
For details and dates of other weekends please visit the website wwme.org.uk

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: The Diocese's sixth Significant Anniversaries Mass and Reception will be celebrated at 11.00am and on Saturday 28th June 2014 at St Bede's, Basingstoke for those celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th and 60+ wedding anniversaries in 2014. Bishop Philip will preside at the Mass. Attendance is by invitation; if you are celebrating one of these anniversaries, please fill out the online form available on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by clicking 'Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass 2014' or alternatively, email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM : Please join the Bournemouth Ordinariate on this year's pilgrimage to Walsingham from 27th to 30th June, led by Fr 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). Booking forms are available in church. For more information, please ring Madeleine c/o Our Lady Queen of Peace church.

MEDJUGORJE 2014 – An Avon Stour/Bournemouth area PILGRIMAGE. 15-22 September 2014. From Gatwick. £529 (twin room), £649 (single room) + insurance. See poster in porch. Contact: Barry and Jo c/o Corpus Christi church.

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH GOLF DAY: This popular event returns this year and will take place again at the Royal Winchester Golf Club on Tuesday 20 May. Full details and applications forms can be obtained from CAFOD Portsmouth on 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

THANK YOU for your weekly offerings; 22nd / 23rd March

Envelopes :	£ 184.48	Cash :	£ 150.09
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93		**Total : £ 479.50**

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA SPONSORED WALK

After an initial sunny start, Rosemary and Jo battled through high winds and hailstones to complete the sponsored walk this year! Any outstanding sponsorship will be gratefully received and if anyone wishes to sponsor retrospectively that would be welcome!