Roman Catholic Diocese of



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT Yr C

5th/6th 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 5th March		Mass Intention
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 ----------
Tuesday 8th March Weekday Mass 9.30am	of the Fourth Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Wednesday 9th March Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	of the Fourth Week of Lent	----------
Thursday 10th March Weekday Mass 9.30am	of the Fourth Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Friday 11th March Weekday Mass 9.30am Toddler group (led by Fr Darryl) after Mass Stations of the Cross 7.00pm	of the Fourth Week of Lent	For all the Parish faithful departed
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 Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ----------

There will be a Second Collection this weekend for <u>The Clergy Assistance Fund</u>



This Sunday is **LAETARE ('REJOICE') SUNDAY or 'ROSE SUNDAY'**

"Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow.."



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

We are grateful to the Children's Liturgy team for organising the handing-out of daffodils

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-2, 11-32

Is this fair payment?

No matter how often I read this parable of the Prodigal Son I am left with a vague dissatisfaction. Rather than being delighted with the mercy of God as shown to the Prodigal, I'm somewhat irked by his partiality, which is suggested by his exchange with the elder son. Could it be that the Prodigal was the favourite?

Most of us probably identify with the elder son. The monotony of our lives make us resentful of the Prodigal Son's wild escapade of freedom. We grudge the sinner his good times. It is probably why we accept the doctrine of retribution so unquestioningly. What makes our lives a little more tolerable is the thought that our good times are all before us and part of them, which we can savour now, is that the playboys of this world will pay in full for their pleasures. So in this story the elder son is carrying the standard of all the solid citizens, all the responsible members of the community, "the salt of the earth', while behind the banner of the Prodigal huddle all that tattered mob of misfits, drop-outs, lame-ducks and the rest of the world's rejects.

The really puzzling thing about this parable is, why did Christ bother with this epilogue on the elder son at all? Surely if the message of the parable is the boundless mercy of God towards the sinner, then by the time the festivities for the returned Prodigal are in full swing, we've got the message. The remainder adds nothing except to divert some of our sympathy towards the resentful elder son.

Of one thing we can be sure, knowing the storyteller, it must have a point. He was a master of his craft. Look again at it, but this time if you can, through the eyes of one of the world's rejects, a drop out, a misfit, or one of the many physically, mentally or socially handicapped. Perhaps this is Christ's answer to their agonised cry: "Why me? Why was I singled out for a life of frustration? Why should I have been a faulty creation?" What the grudging elder son failed to see was that the world's prodigals are victims more often than not and have more claims on God's love and forgiveness.

www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp

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.

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)

PASTORAL AREA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 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 – contemporary praise & worship, scripture, reflection, choice of ways to respond in prayer. St Joseph's Church, Christchurch 7.00-8.00pm, followed by refreshments.

PASTORAL AREA "LEARNING IN LENT" DVD series: *THIS WEEK: "CONFIRMATION"*
TUESDAY (8th March) 7.30 – 8.45 pm at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch
or THURSDAY (10th 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 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)

CONFIRMATION Our Confirmation Candidates and their families will be joining the Parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church for their 11am Mass next 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.

LENT REFLECTIONS - 'Channels of God's Mercy'

Reflections for Lent at St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Christchurch,
The next reflection is on 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!

We are halfway through **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** (29th February to 13th March).
Please visit
www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2016

FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION

APF Mill Hill Donations 2015



St Thomas More's: £491.21
Amount from Diocese: £148,762
(Please see the noticeboard for details.)
Nationally: £2,994,816.

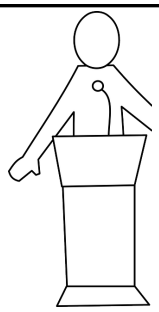
The contents of all those red boxes certainly adds up! A big thank-you to all of our red-box holders. If anyone would like a red box, or would like to be a collector, please see Steve Ferris or contact the parish office.

*Another **THANK YOU!** - This time from **CAFOD** , who thank us very much for our generous donations to CAFOD's Lenten appeal. We collected the grand total of £500.85, which means CAFOD will receive **over £1000** as the government are matching the donations received. If you would like to be involved with helping CAFOD at a local level, please contact portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329385.*

FLOWER ARRANGING TEAM

The flower arranging team would like to put out another appeal for helpers.
Please have a word with Maggie Hornby or any other member of the team, or with the parish office, if you think you could help.
Previous experience not necessary!

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.



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).

The next **FABRIC and FINANCE MEETING** will be on **Tuesday 15th March at 7.00pm.**
The Living our Faith funds will be discussed at this meeting so if you have not yet submitted your suggestions please do so.

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.		

ST PETER'S SCHOOL QUIZ NIGHT: St Peter's School, Holdenhurst Avenue. **Friday 11th March** at 7.30pm. Entrance only £2.50 per person. Entrance & fish/sausage & chip supper only £6.50 per person (pre-order only).

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.

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

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 This would be a very appropriate prayer theme during this Year of Mercy.

SPECIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING: Corpus Christi Church 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.

THANK YOU

for the offerings 5th/6th March

Envelopes :	£ 141.20	Cash :	£ 100.86
Standing Orders :	£ 189.15		**Total : £ 431.21**