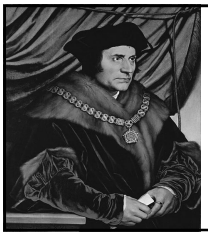
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg'd. Charity No. 246871



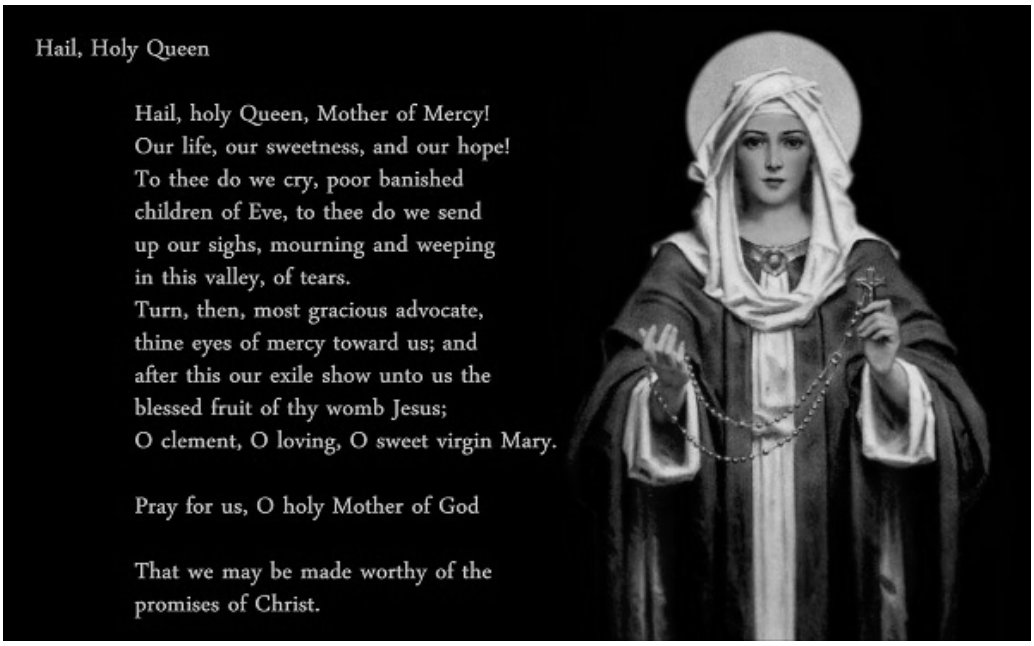
Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

FOURTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME Yr C

30th/31st January 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 30th January		Mass Intention
Saturday 30th Jan. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**	People of the Parish
Sunday 31st Jan. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Choral Evensong & Benediction 4.30pm		People of the Parish
Tuesday 2nd Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am Exposition/Adoration 10.00am	**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE**, *feast*	For all the faithful departed
Wednesday 3rd Feb. Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	**St Blasé** and blessing of candles and throats	————————
Thursday 4th Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Friday 5th Feb. Weekday Mass 9.30am	**St Agatha**, *memorial*	For all the Parish faithful departed
Saturday 6thFeb. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**	People of the Parish
Sunday 7th Feb. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish



In the
YEAR OF MERCY
we are saying the

Hail Holy Queen
(Salve Regina)

in place of the Hail Mary
in the bidding prayers .

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES
….will be meeting at St Joseph's next week on Friday 5th February at 7.00pm for their next Confirmation Session (Session 5)

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Paying the Penalty

Today's gospel is a follow-up on the gospel of last Sunday. Jesus is back in Nazareth, and he is speaking in the synagogue. When he quoted the prophet Isaiah, it was okay, and went down well, but when he began to speak a few home truths about the religious people of his day, he was in serious trouble.

In today's gospel, Jesus is telling them that God cares for all of his people, and that, when it comes to help, he has no favourites. This infuriated his listeners, who considered themselves to have a monopoly on God. They were God's chosen people, and they resented the fact that Jesus was putting them all on the same level. This approach was to get him into a lot of trouble as time went on. He hung around with sinners and outcasts, he touched the untouchables, and he spoke to Samaritans, to pagans, to prostitutes, to anyone he met. He was seen as someone who threatened the basics of their authority and control, and they tried to get rid of him. However, Jesus would only die when his hour had come.

God has no grandchildren! We are all children of God, products of his creation. If the Jews could be called God's Chosen People, it is simply because it was through them, and from among them that the Saviour, Jesus, would come. This is, of course, a privilege, but I cannot accept a privilege without accepting the responsibility that goes with it. Scripture tells us that he came onto his own, and his own received him not. Jesus posed a serious problem to the religious leaders of his day. It was all a question of control. They were in full control. The Scribes studied and taught the law, the Pharisees applied the law, and the people's role was to observe the law. This law covered every single area of their lives; right down to deciding how many steps they could take on the Sabbath. By doing this, they had God boxed into their system, and he was totally on their side. For Jesus to say that God had conferred special graces on non-Jews, and to give examples of that, was nothing short of blasphemy.

We have killed millions in God's name, just because we decided that God thought about them the same way we did. This was the case away back at the time of the Crusades, when we sent armies from Europe to destroy the infidel, or to force non-Christians to accept the Christian faith, or die. This has lasted down to this day. There is not a war in today's world that does not have some sort of religious connotations to it. It's not so long ago since our Catechisms taught us that outside the Catholic Church there was no salvation.

There is a phrase prevalent today when we say that, if you don't like the message, you can shoot the messenger. This is what happened to Jesus in today's gospel.

There is only one God, and that is the God revealed in and through Jesus, and it is important that we learn from him about a God who is a loving Father, and rid ourselves of our false gods, or stop playing God ourselves. One of the saddest sentences in the gospel is that "Jesus walked through their midst and passed them by."

Jesus tells us in the gospel that the truth will set us free. He could also have said that the truth can often get us into trouble! The greatest lies I tell in life are the ones I tell myself. It is said that the essence of proper communication is the ability to combine total honesty with total kindness. Under the guise of being honest, some people can be brutal and destructive. I could meet someone today who asks me how I think she looks, and I could tell her that she looks awful, and will probably be dead by the weekend! I am being totally honest, but not kind. On the other hand, to court popularity, or because of moral cowardice, I can give support to something or someone when I know that the cause or the person is totally wrong, unjust, or immoral. Under the guise of being kind, I can be dishonest.

www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp

A MASS IN YOUR HOME THIS LENT?



Fr Ron Hishon writes: This year, Lent begins very EARLY: Ash Wednesday is on Wed 10th February. With the encouragement of your Parish Priest, during Lent I am willing to come to your home to celebrate a special House Mass, celebrated simply, prayerfully, and in the spirit of Pope Francis's Year of Mercy in the Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium).* All that is needed is for you to gather between 8 and 12 people. If you would like more information before deciding, or if you wish to agree a suitable day and time, contact me as soon as possible.

LEARNING IN LENT Everyone in the Pastoral Area is invited to a series of 4 short DVD films (20-25 minutes) during Lent: **The Sacraments – transforming everyday life.** Each is stand-alone, so come to as many as you can manage. No need to sign up, just turn up on the day.
So that as many people as possible can come, we are running the series BOTH at Our Lady Queen of Peace hall, Southbourne (Thursday early afternoons, 1.30pm, from 25 Feb) AND at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Christchurch (Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm, from 16 Feb, but not on 1st Mar). More details next week.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION FORMATION SESSIONS

The Pastoral Area training will be held at St Thomas More Church hall. Fri. 5th Feb., 7.15pm-9.00 pm & Sat. 6th Feb., 10.00am – 3.00pm (Attendance at both sessions is a strict requirement.) Candidates for this ministry must be nominated by the parish priest.

HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED BY THE FLOWER ARRANGERS! If you could possibly help the flower arranging team (no experience necessary, you will be shown what to do if necessary) that would be very much appreciated. The flowers are arranged most Thursdays after the morning Mass - not during Advent, Lent etc. If you have any questions please have a word with Maggie or contact the parish office. *Thank you!*

30th/31st January. Altar flowers donated in memory of George Vine.

The FABRIC & FINANCE COMMITTEE

have provided a

CASH FLOW UPDATE

CASH FLOW 2015/16

Valid to: DEC 31 2015	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Income	4043.62	4584.85	6957.92	3809.37	
Expenditure	3056.98	2975.40	6481.84	4464.02	
Balance	986.64	1609.45	476.08	(654.65)	
Acc. Balance	986.64	2596.09	3072.17	2417.52	
WEEKLY OFFERINGS					
Wk 1	455.06	475.68	437.68	434.10	
Wk 2	513.29	442.98	447.35	434.02	
Wk 3	489.76	479.52	514.02	428.89	
Wk 4	460.01	494.53	488.75	333.72	
Wk 5			445.14		
Totals	1918.12	1892.71	2332.94	1630.73	
Average	479.53	473.18	466.59	407.68	
S/O	204.15	201.46	201.46	189.92	

BANK ACCOUNTS	**Current**	9463.14	
	St. Edmund	12757.58	
	TOTAL		£22,220.72
	Loan A/C	0	
OTHER FUNDS	**Living Our Faith**		£10,135.00

NOTES

1. Funds include £720 Christmas Offering to be paid
2. £590 to be paid to structural engineer re house
3. S/O drop due to loss of three donors
4. High expenditure in November due to payment of levy and insurance taken for October and November together

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NATIONAL PROJECT

The Parish Pastoral Council have been asked if the parish could start collecting for the local Woman's refuge as part of the Catholic Women's League National Project. This was approved.
Items needed include **toiletries, new children's books and toys, new underwear** etc. There will be a box placed in the church for the items. Many thanks.

From the Ordinariate: There will be no 11.15am Ordinariate Mass this Sunday 31st January. There will however be Choral Evensong & Benediction at 4.30pm with tea and coffee in the church hall afterwards. The Ordinariate would like to encourage all singers to come along and help make up the choir. All that is needed is to just turn up at 3.30pm before Evensong to run through the music.



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.		



Women's World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, we can come to know how our sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. We can hear their concerns and needs and can feel ourselves in solidarity with them as we pray with and for them. This year the service has been prepared by the ladies of Cuba.

In our own area of Iford, the Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held in Cranleigh Chapel, on Friday 4th March.
Prior to this there will be a **planning meeting** at 2pm on **Friday 5th February** and there will be a rehearsal on Friday 26th February. If you would like to be involved please do come along.

SALE OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION WEAR & ACCESSORIES: Corpus Christi Parish Centre, February 14th, 10.30am - 2.30pm. Please see poster for more details.

'**WHAT NEXT FOR THE FAMILY?' TALK :** Please join Bishop Peter Doyle and Fr Daniel O'Leary as they give their thoughts on the recent synod. Saturday 27th of February between 0930 and 1500 at St Peter's Church Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. For further information please phone 07825 392925.

YEAR 6 TEACHER VACANCY: Teacher at St. Thomas Garnet's Independent School required for April 2016. Applications are welcomed from experienced or newly-qualified teachers. Closing date: 15th February 2016 For further details please email: finance@stthomasgarnets.co.uk or write to The Headteacher , Mr Craig Lickley including a letter of application and CV. Visits are warmly welcomed.

THANK YOU

for the offerings 24th/25th Jan.

Envelopes :	£ 182.80	Cash :	£ 228.79
Standing Orders :	£ 189.15		**Total : £ 600.74**

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