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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



The Holy Family Year A

28th/29th December 2013

Weekday Masses this week: Wed. & Fri., 9.30am
(with Morning prayer at 9.10am)

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

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

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

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

Week beginning 28th December :		Mass Intention
Saturday 28th Dec. 6.00pm	**First Mass of the Holy Family**	Michael O'Hara, RIP
Sunday 29th Dec. 9.30am	**THE HOLY FAMILY**	Maureen McDermott
Monday 30th Dec.	—	—
Tuesday 31st Dec.	No Mass	—
Wed. 1st January 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	People of the Parish
Thurs. 2nd January 9.30am	No Mass	—
Friday 3rd January 9.30am	Liturgy of the Day	Brother Edmund (Foundation Mass)
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Vigil Mass of the Epiphany & The Epiphany of the Lord	

January 1st:

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God;
Pray for Peace.

God of perfect peace,
violence and cruelty can have no part with you.
May those who are at peace with one another
hold fast to the good will that unites them;
may those who are enemies forget their hatred
and be healed. Roman Missal



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD 'Mary treasured all these words, and pondered them in her heart.'

Lord God, you chose Mary to be the mother of your Son. As she pondered your Word in the events of her life, may we contemplate your Word in our own and see you at work in the daily events of our lives.
As she bore your Word in her body, may we too be willing to carry your Word into the world. *Amen.*

The Holy Family

THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH

The Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are put before us by the Church this weekend as a model for our families.

We call them the holy family but that does not mean that they did not have problems.

Just as every family has to face problems and overcome them, or to put it another way, has to carry a cross, so also the holy family had to carry crosses. Their many crosses come to mind from reading the Scriptures. We can easily imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been when Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Their story would never be believed. Even Mary herself had it very rough early in the pregnancy when Joseph was planning to divorce her before the angel intervened in a dream. When the time for Jesus delivery came it took place in an animals shelter since Bethlehem was already so crowded. Then the family had to flee to Egypt as refugees because Jesus life was in danger due to Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war-torn countries are now entering other countries. Mary and Joseph suffered the awful experience of losing Jesus for three days when he was twelve years old and the only satisfaction they got from him was that he had to be about his Fathers business. We do not hear of Joseph any more so we presume that before Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee Joseph had died, the holy family suffering the greatest pain of all families, the pain of bereavement and separation through death. Jesus' public ministry must have taken its toll on Mary. Simeon had predicted in the Temple that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul. We can imagine one such occasion was as we read in Mark 3:21 that when Jesus returned to Nazareth one day his relatives came to take him by force convinced that he was out of his mind. Not a pleasant experience for any family, no matter how holy. There was also the pain caused by the rhyme made up about Jesus: Behold a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners (Luke 7:34). And there was the growing hostility to Jesus by the Jewish authorities have caused huge pain to both Mary and Jesus, especially as it became increasingly obvious that Jesus would have to pay for his mission by dying. The saddest moment of all came when Mary watched her son die on the cross.

What kept the family together and sane throughout all of these trials and crosses? The answer is Love for each other and God. Jesus love for Mary and Mary's love for Jesus, and the love of both of them for God the Father or we could say faith in God. What holds our families together also in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, even if for a while love may have to take the form of some honest talking. When discipline needs to be given, if it is not given in love it is reduced to abuse. If ever our families fail in any way, it is because of a lack of love on someone's part. Whenever our families are successful, it is because they are places of love.

I believe that the greatest threat facing families now is simply that we don't spend enough time together. We are so busy working, or socialising, or on the computer that we have less and less time for each other. There is a story about a solicitor who lived a considerable distance from her elderly father. Months had passed since they had been together, and when her father called to ask when she might visit, the daughter detailed a list of reasons that prevented her from taking the time to see him, e.g., court schedule, meetings, new clients, research, etc., etc. At the end of the recitation, the father asked, “When I die, do you intend to come to my funeral?” The daughters response was immediate, “Dad, I can't believe you'd ask that. Of course, I’ll come.” To which the father replied, “Good. Forget the funeral and come; I need you more now than I will then.”

Just as the holy family survived all its crises through love for each other and faith in God, let us pray that our families will conquer all difficulties through love for each other and faith in God.

FAMILY
Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days.
But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives.
And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think?
So what is behind the story? Do you know what the word FAMILY means?
FAMILY = (F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER (I) (L)OVE (Y)OU

From Father Vitalis:

I write to express my gratitude and appreciation to all the parishioners at STM and to thank you so much for all you were to me and did for me. It was not planned but it happened that I stayed with you exactly for three years and three months from September 10, 2010 to December 10, 2013. In this short time you really made me welcome and overwhelmed me with your open hearted yet humble generosity.



I needed more time to open my cards and to read all the messages from you before sending this message. And I thank you for all the cards and your parting gifts in cash and kind. Wishing that this Christmas brings you all much happiness and joy to usher you into the new year. Thinking of you all and praying for you. Remain blessed in The Lord.

Vitalis Vaakwagh Kondo, MSP
From Horndean, Waterlooville, Hampshire.

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL - PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP PHILIP.

Our Bishop has issued a Pastoral Message to welcome Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation 'Evangelii Gaudium'. There are some copies on the 'free table' if you do not have access to a computer - the message can be read on our website (or the Diocesan Website).

Please check the box at the back of church to make sure you haven't missed a Christmas card addressed to you!

ROTAS There are now copies of the Counters' Rotas and the Tea/Coffee Rota available in addition to the recently produced Weekend Ministry Rotas. They are in the usual place - in the grey trays on the 'free table'.

ST THOMAS MORE WEBSITE



If you have not yet logged on to our new website, do log on to **st.thomasmorechurch.org.uk**!

Monthly Area Youth Mass! Saturday 11th January 6-8pm at Saint Thomas More's
(42 Exton Road, Iford BH6 5QG)

Come and join us for our first Area Youth Mass of 2014 and our first ever Area Youth Mass at St Thomas More's! The Mass is for all the young people of our Pastoral Areas and will be followed by a social time with music & refreshments!

CONFIRMATION MEETING

For candidates and parents, on **Thursday 9th January 2014 at 7.30pm in St Joseph's Church.** For Students in Year 8 and also for those in Year 9 who were not confirmed last year and wish to be confirmed in 2014.

THE DEPARTMENT FOR NEW EVANGELISATION PARISH CATECHESIS INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 28th January, 7.30pm – 9.00pm, at St Joseph's, Purewell, Christchurch.

LIVING OUR FAITH : Copies of the **'Living Our Faith'** newsletters are available on the 'free table'. These have been produced on the occasion of the donors reaching ***Ten Million Pounds*** in pledges! Thank you!



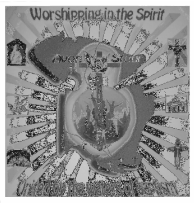
'THE LINK'

If you have an article for the Spring 2014 issue of our Pastoral Area magazine, please submit this by **31st January**. Thank you.

A Farewell …. Laveena and family are moving! We wish them all the best in this new chapter of their lives. On a practical note, could you use some of their furniture? There is a chest of drawers, a wardrobe, a single bed and mattress and a three piece suite. Please contact the parish office.

LIFT REQUIRED. Is there anyone who could offer a lift to Mass for a gentleman who lives in Amesbury Road? He usually attends Mass on a Saturday evening but would be equally happy to attend on a Sunday morning. Please contact the parish office if you could help. Many thanks!

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

IGNATIAN PRAYER DAYS St Joseph's Church Hall, Christchurch. 10.30 for 11.00 - 4.15pm Fr Tony will be continuing his Ignatian Days on the third Saturday of each month, starting on Jan 18th - More Work on Our Picture of Jesus. Then Feb 15th - Our Prodigal Father and March 15th - Lent.

(MOST) WEEKLY YOUTH HOLY HOUR! 8th 15th 22nd & 29th January… 6-7pm at Corpus Christi All young people are invited to join us for this beautiful time of quiet prayer & adoration :) "From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others." - Pope John Paul II Check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth for more information.

PASTORAL AREA BARN DANCE : **Saturday 18th January** 7.30pm to 10.30pm in St Joseph's Parish Centre, Purewell, Christchurch, with a quiz, a raffle and a bring and share supper.
Doors open at 7pm and entrance is free. Everyone is welcome.

DON BOSCO YOUTH CLUB - takes place on **Fridays in term time** at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Church in the church hall, from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. For those in school years 3 to 6. New members are very welcome to attend. The Youth Club restarts after the Christmas holidays on Friday 10th January. For more details, please contact Romys c/o Our Lady Queen of Peace church.

'HOMECOMING' RETREAT: 'Homecoming' Retreat for 16-30 year olds! 29th December to 1st January (Maria Fidelis Lower School, North Gower Street, London, NW1 2HR) Following on from our youth retreat, Swell@Bournemouth, you are invited to the next Youth 2000 retreat, Homecoming! For more information, contact Will Hince on 07810827606 whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth

YEAR OF FAITH IN ACTION VIDEO - Bishop Philip Egan recently filmed a video in which he speaks about why he announced the Year of Faith in Action, and what he hopes will be the fruits of it in our Diocese. This video can be viewed on the diocesan website (www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or http://vimeo.com/81748659

THANK YOU for your weekly offerings; 21st Dec. / 22nd Dec.

Envelopes :	£ 176.90	Cash :	£ 83.44
Standing Orders :	£ 155.31		**Total : £ 445.65**