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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Second Sunday of Lent Year A

15th/16th March 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

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

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

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 15th March :		Mass Intention
Saturday 15th March 6.00pm	First Mass of the Second Sunday of Lent	People of the Parish
Sunday 16th March 9.30am	**SECOND SUNDAY of LENT**	People of the Parish
Monday 17th March	—	—
Tuesday 18th March 9.30am	of the 2nd Week of Lent	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 19th March 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00 noon	**ST JOSEPH**, *Solemnity* Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 20th March 9.30am After 9.30am Mass -	of the 2nd Week of Lent Lectio Divina	For all the faithful departed
Friday 21st March 9.30am 6.30pm	of the 2nd Week of Lent Stations of the Cross	For all the faithful departed
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Third Sunday of Lent	

WELCOME TO OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Enrolment for the candidates of St.Thomas More Parish preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place at the 9.30am Mass this Sunday,16th March. We pray for Andrea , Jack , Michael , Theo , Jonathan and Mia as they continue their journey to Confirmation on the 3rd May.

Session 5 'The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass' will take place in the sacristy after Mass and will finish at 1.30am.

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.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY…. If anyone has forgotten to bring their envelope back from the Friday 14th March fast day, don't worry - please bring it next week. Many thanks.

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

Bishop Philip's Lent Catechesis 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.

The Second Sunday of Lent Yr A

Lifting the Veil

The gospel is where the veil was lifted slightly, and the apostles got a little glimpse into the real nature of Jesus. Of course, he was human and, up till now, their only experience of him was within that human framework. However, he was also divine, and something of that was seen in this situation. Peter, James and John were close friends of Jesus, and they were the ones who seem to have accompanied him on several occasions. On a human level, they could claim to know him well. The miracles were strong signs, of course, but then, even if only God could effect a miracle, he has been doing that through saints and prophets since the beginning of time. Today was different. There was something unearthly, something other-worldly about it. The natural human reaction in the presence of such is to be afraid, so the apostles were terrified and covered their faces. The face of Jesus became like a mirror, reflecting back the glory of the Father. The appearance of Moses, as the Lawgiver, and Elijah, as the Prophet, were significant figures, because Jesus had come to announce that his mission was to fulfil the law and the prophets.

The apostles had a glimpse of who Jesus really was. Because I am a human being, it is much easier for me to relate to Jesus as a human being, who was also God. The extraordinary is found in the ordinary, is raised above ground level, as it were. In today's gospel, Jesus is raised above ground level, as it were. The next time that will actually happen will be on Calvary. No matter how much of his glory is revealed along the way, his ultimate purpose is to die so that we might live. Redemption does not mean lifting us out of our human condition, nor does holiness mean becoming so heavenly as to be no earthly good. The further down into my humanity I am prepared to go, where I am willing to name, claim, and tame my demons, the more I reflect the face of Jesus, the more glorified I become.

When the vision was over, when Moses and Elijah had gone the apostles opened their eyes and saw no one but Jesus. It was back to reality, to business as usual. Peter had wanted to build some sort of permanent dwelling on the mountain, but Jesus knew that they had to come down off the mountain and face reality, and that is why he even referred to the fact that he was going to die. Martin Luther King referred to his vision of civil rights for his people, with the words, "I've been to the mountain." as he spoke he was back among his people again, and was soon to be killed. It is good to go to the mountain on occasions, in prayer, and get a wider view of life; but it is more important to return to earth, and face the realities of that life.

There are many instances in the gospels where we are told that Jesus went aside, he went up the mountain, he went away to be alone. These were times of prayer, in which he listened to his Father, and that is why he can tell us that I never say anything unless the Father tells me to. Our reality is limited to the horizons of our vision. There is no such thing as a fixed horizon, however, because the higher my point of vision, the further off the horizon. Faith is living with acceptance within my own horizons, and knowing that there are infinite possibilities and realities beyond that. It is living with the certainty of a Higher Power, because my path of life is strewn with obstacles that, on my own, I cannot cross. To face Calvary, Jesus sought and received the assurances of the Father. This was the Father's will, and the Father would see him through. That is why, instead of referring directly to his death, he told the apostles to reveal what they had seen only after he had risen from the dead. That is the kind of faith that comes from going to the mountain in prayer.

Going aside with the Lord would be a good description of prayer. I can do this in the midst of the madding crowd. I can enter my heart and be with him whenever I choose. There were times when Jesus brought his apostles to one side. Those were special moments. It was at one such time that he explained the parables; it was at another that he taught them to pray, and gave them a prayer to say; it was at such a time that they saw him glorified, and on a later occasion they would witness his agony. These were moments of profound formation for them, and they came to know him better, and to understand his message better, as a result of those private moments.

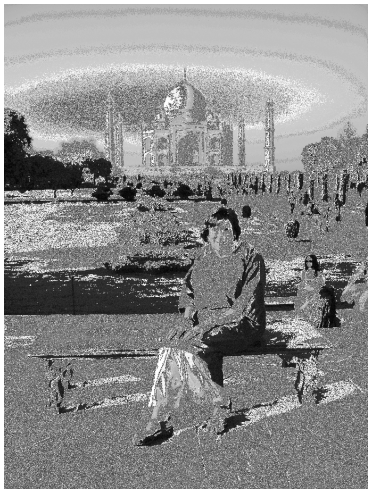
The Bible tells us that when Moses came down the mountain after his meeting with God, that his face shone so brightly that people were unable to look at him. He was reflecting the glory of his encounter, and his face was reflecting the light within him. That is part of the role of a Christian. lf I believe that I am saved, then I have a serious obligation to look saved. A cynical philosopher said one time, "You Christians speak of having a Redeemer, but not many of you look redeemed." Christianity is about attracting, not promoting.

The ideal of Christianity is to see Christ in everyone, and to be Christ to everyone. Not that easy. In fact, I often wonder how the Father can see Christ in some of them. However, have you ever heard the phrase, "Oh, he's really nice when you get to know him." In other words, it is only when you begin to be Christ to the other than you will begin to see Christ in that person. There would be little merit in it if you could see Christ in the other person first. Surely, there's at least one person in your life that you should have another look at.

Holiness is not what happens on the mountain. It's what happens when I am down into the reality and the humdrum of everyday existence. I can think of the mountain, of course, at such times, and I will get courage from the thought. When Jesus came down from the mountain, it was to head for Jerusalem, and face death. Our daily humdrum contains a thousand ways of dying; of all the many dyings we have to do in our loving of others; dying to our pride, our opinions, our biases, our intolerance, our impatience, etc.

Pictures from the trip to **Brother Lionel** in India will be in the newsletter next week!





From our twinned Diocese of Bamenda:
Our member of the Bamenda Committee is recently back from a visit to Cameroon and has sent this picture which was taken at Njinikom Parish with some of the members of the Catholic Women's Association when she joined in their dance of welcome.

THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT COMUMBA say "Come Walking with us!" on our Thirtieth Sponsored Walk on our Thirtieth Sponsored Walk on Sunday 23rd March. We will be walking for five miles to raise money for the Amelia Grace Rainbow Fund. Sponsor forms are at the Church entrance (on the noticeboard).
PLEASE WALK WITH US, OR SPONSOR A WALKER.

Charitable Marathon Sponsorship

Frances (Frankie) the daughter of Ray & Bridie is running in the Brighton Marathon on Sunday 6th April in aid of bladder cancer.
As you may know Ray has been suffering from this type of cancer for some months.
Her aim is to raise awareness, and funds for this form of cancer, which has minimal resources and research.
You can find out more about bladder cancer online at Action on Bladder Cancer (ABC) Charity http://www.actiononbladdercancer.org/ and if you wish to donate to her marathon, please go online to https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/frankierocks Should you want further information or help see Ray & Bridie

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour!
6-7pm at Corpus Christi (757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH7 6AN)
All young people are invited to join us for this beautiful time of quiet prayer & adoration.
For more information on these events and more, contact Will Hince on 07810827606
whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth

Could you volunteer to help with Chaplaincies? The Chaplaincy Team Steering Group (under the direction of Fr. John Lee) is looking for volunteers to help at diocesan level with all the Chaplaincy Departments including Pastoral Care Services. If you are involved with any of the following in your parish or pastoral area and feel you would like to contribute on a diocesan level through the Framework for Collaboration please could you consider volunteering. This would include: services for the sick or housebound, homeless, disadvantaged, bereavement, mental illness, hospital chaplains, prison chaplains, military chaplains and other ethnic chaplaincies (e.g. Filipino, Chinese, Polish, Nigerian, Syro-Malabar chaplaincies, etc). Please contact cvirgo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Important Safeguarding Message

Kerry and Pauline have undergone training as Parish representatives for Safeguarding and are currently reviewing all the Parish records in regard to Disclosure and Barring Checks and any required training that may need to be completed across the different Ministries.
If you are involved in a Ministry where you are volunteering to support children or vulnerable adults there may be a need to complete documentation for what is now known as a DBS check (formerly CRB).
A number of parishioners will already be familiar with this process and Kerry and Pauline are currently reviewing all the information held by the Diocese to determine who may need to complete one of these checks, and also to ensure that our records are up to date and that, as a Parish, we are compliant with all Safeguarding requirements.
They are working through the records as quickly as possible and will be contacting people in the near future. If however, in the meantime, you have any questions in relation to Safeguarding or are aware that you will need to complete a DBS check and undergo training please contact Kerry in the first instance.
Thank-you.

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

EVENT AT WISDOM CENTRE, ROMSEY: LENTEN QUIET DAY 'The Tree' – **Saturday 22nd March** and **Friday 4th April** 10:00am to 4pm (coffee and registration from 9:30am). Suggested offering £25 to include lunch. For more information and to book, please telephone 01794 830206 or email reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk

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

THANK YOU	**for your weekly**	**offerings;**	**8th / 9th March**
Envelopes :	£ 171.73	Cash :	£ 114.10
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93		**Total : £ 430.76**

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Please note that the current set of planned giving envelopes run out on Sunday 30th March. A new set will be ready for collection for the w/e 29th/30th March. This year everyone will retain the same number as on the current envelopes. We do, however, need to keep our records up to date and appeal again to *those who do not have envelopes* to let us know if they would like a set. Also we urge *those who pay tax* and who have not completed a gift aid form to do so. Every pound you give will become £1.25 to the parish. This is vital income to us. Please remember that the envelopes are part of 'planned giving': this means that you are committing a certain amount to the parish every week. The expectation is that you will *make up the missing contributions* when you are unable to attend Mass here when you return. Finally, we really need to increase the number of *standing orders*. Giving this way saves you the need to remember your envelopes and guarantees that the parish receives your offering regularly.

If you currently have a set of envelopes and *do not want a new set* please let us know so that we can 'free up' another envelope number. Those who donate by standing order will automatically receive a new box since they also contain envelopes for special collections.

Thank you all for your continued generosity. Steve (Chair of Fabric and Finance Committee).