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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Seventh Sunday of Ord. Time Year A

22nd/23rd February 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 22nd February :		Mass Intention
Saturday 22nd February 6.00pm	First Mass of the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	Thanksgiving for the parishioners of St Thomas More. From the Macdonald family
Sunday 23rd February 9.30am	**SEVENTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME**	Gerald King, RIP
Monday 24th February	—	—
Tuesday25th February 9.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 26th February 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Feria Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 27th February 9.30am	Feria	Elizabeth Scanlan (Foundation Mass)
Friday 28th February 9.30am		For all the faithful departed
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Saturday 1st March, 6pm & Sunday 2nd March. 9.30am	Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time	

Please note: The hymn numbers board now also displays the Eucharistic Prayer (I-IV) the Proper Preface (I-VIII) and the Memorial Acclamation (A-C)

Could you host a HOUSE MASS in your home during Lent?

Fr Ron has offered to say House Masses for any family or group hoping they will include others "on the fringe" in a missionary spirit of welcome.

If you would like to consider this contact Claire in the first instance to discuss dates, times etc. or to answer any queries.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

24th February to 9th March

This year, Fairtrade Fortnight is all about bananas... did you know that one in three bananas sold in British shops is Fairtrade? But there's still a long way to go! Please visit www.fairtrade.org.uk for more details.

Thoughts for the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time Yr A

Not Vengeful

In the teaching of the catechism, about a generation ago, there was a much-used image of God symbolised by an ever-watchful eye, with a warning finger in front of it, and written underneath, the words, "God sees you." It may well have been an attempt to express visually the feelings of job in the Old Testament, where he became obsessed and frightened by the thought that God was scrutinising his every action. "Will you never take your eyes off me, long enough for me to swallow my spittle?," he cried (Job 7:19). Or it could have been an illustration of a saying in the Book of Ecclesiasticus, "Their ways are always under his eye, they cannot be hidden from his sight" (17:15).

But such a concept of God, instead of drawing souls to him, can also have disastrous results, as for example in the person of the French writer and philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980). He stated in his autobiography that, in the middle of an innocent boyhood prank, he suddenly realised that, in his own words, "God sees me." And this so frightened him that, by deliberate choice, he cursed God, and became a bitter atheist for the rest of his life. In his writings, for part of which he refused the offer of a Nobel Prize, he painted a picture of man as a responsible but lonely human being adrift in a meaningless world, with a terrifying freedom to choose, that brought with it anguish or enduring anxiety. But God, from whom we come and to whom we go, instead of fixing a cold and calculating eye on us, bestows life and joy and, if we but have faith in him, a sense of being cared for - cared for, not because of what we do, or indeed the choices we make, but for our own sakes. God, we might say, even turn a blind eye on our faults, as shown by the Parable of the Prodigal Son; he is indiscriminating in his compassion; he is a Father who is prodigal in his forgiveness.

Never should we see God as a threat to our lives. Rather does he want us to live, to grow, to come to maturity and fulfilment. To err is human; to forgive divine, and this readiness to forgive is the unique attribute of our God. "Father forgive them," Christ prayed for his executioners, "because they know not what they do." As the gospel points out, God treats all alike. He causes the sun to rise on the bad people as well as the good, his rain - a blessing in parched Israel - to fall on honest and dishonest alike.

And in our attitudes too, Christ tells us, there must be no spite, no hatred, no vindictiveness towards others. "Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect," he tells us. "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy," the first reading says. Strange as it may seem, the principle of "an eye for an eye" was not a barbaric practice, but rather a call to the people of the Old Testament to exercise restraint towards those from whom they differed. It became known as the Law of Recompense or Retaliation (Lex talionis). But if we read the story of the creation in the book of Genesis, we see how quickly the disorders in society, caused by sin, spread after the fall of our first parents, recounted in chapter three. Chapter four describes for us the first murder; and the spirit of hatred and feuding between families and clans that spread amongst mankind is exemplified by the reference to Lamech saying in the same chapter: "I killed a man for wounding me, a boy for striking me. Sevenfold vengeance is taken for Cain, seventy-seven-fold for Lamech."

The pursuit of such vendettas - which by the way we have witnessed in our own times also in the wiping out of whole villages, even cities, by way of retaliation - brings about the virtual collapse of society. We have seen it in our own country, in the sectarian violence promoted in the name of religion, in the collapse of the fabric of community life within certain areas of our cities, with the resulting unhappiness and longing to get away from it all on the part of many. It is striking how quickly even the first Christian communities became divided and partisan, some taking Paul's side, others that of Apollos, and so on, as described in the second reading from the Letter to the Corinthians. But tensions, it can be said also, seem to give more purpose to a community. They oblige people to spend more time in prayer, in dialogue, in working at the restoration of unity. "As the Lord has forgiven you," St Paul warns, "so you also must forgive. Put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And le the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (Col 3:12-18).

CONFIRMATION Enrolment for the candidates of St.Thomas More Parish preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 16th March 2014. All candidates should attend with their family (and sponsor if possible). Session 5 'The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass' will take place in the sacristy after Mass and will finish at 11.30am. Please pray for: Andrea, Jack, Michael, Theo, Jonathan and Miall as they continue their journey to Confirmation on the 3rd May.



Monthly Area Youth Mass! Sunday 2nd March 6-9pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace (18 Douglas Road, Southbourne. BH6 3ER) The Mass is for all the young people of our Pastoral Areas and will be followed by a movie, tuck shop and free popcorn & coke.
For more information on these events contact Will Hince on 07810827606 whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 6-7pm at Corpus Christi
(757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH7 6AN)
We invite all young people to join us for this beautiful time of prayer. You will be given a free rosary, and after, (for the over 18s) we will be going to the pub :D"To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ. I look to you, young people: confidently take up the Rosary once again." John Paul II (Rosarium Virginis Mariae) For more information on these events and more, contact Will Hince on 07810827606

Formation of Eucharistic Ministers

St Thomas More Church Hall, Iford

Friday 14th March, and Saturday 15th March

The Friday session is from 7.15pm – 9.00pm, and Saturday from 10.15am – 3.00pm (a packed lunch will be needed for Saturday)

These are 'training' sessions for those who would like to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Please speak to the co-ordinator for the Eucharistic Ministers, Jan or to Fr Darryl. If you would then like to attend the formation meetings, please put your name down on the list on the Eucharistic Minister's table (names are needed by 2nd March please.)

Lenten talk for Avon Stour Pastoral Area

An exploration of the importance & relevance of one of the key documents of the second Vatican Council – the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church – 'Lumen Gentium' ('Light of the Nations'), first published in 1964 .

Dr Bridie Stringer (Catechist & Visiting Lecturer, St Mary's University, London) Tuesday 11 March, 7.30 pm at St Joseph's Centre

If anyone is able to provide transport or needs transport, please contact PPC Chair, Neil.



AN APPEAL FOR HELP WITH THE CHURCH CLEANING:

Could you spare HALF AN HOUR a week to join the group who CLEAN OUR CHURCH?



Many thanks to the parishioner who has already come forward! Is there anyone else? - Many hands make light work!

The cleaning is done on a Friday morning - straight after the 9.30am Mass, but if you are not able to come at this time, something could be worked out. If you think you could help, have a word with Marysa, Ann, Maggie or Mariel. *THANK YOU VERY MUCH!*

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Parish Secretary/ Administrator to work in the Parish Office of Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon.
For an application form and job description on line, please go to:- www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/vacancies
Closing date for applications:- Wed. 12th March 2014 Interview date:- Tues. 18th March 2014

The Knights of St Columba The Knights offer practising Catholic men the opportunity to be part of a fraternity dedicated to Serving God by Serving Others by working in our Communities and Parishes, helping Young People to grow in their Faith and looking after those less fortunate than ourselves. It is an excellent way for Catholic men to become more involved in the Lay Apostolate. If interested, please contact: The Knights of St Columba, http:// www.ksc.org.uk

Significant Wedding Anniversaries The Diocese's sixth Significant Anniversaries Mass and Reception will be celebrated at 11 am 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 contact the Bishop's Office on 023 9282 0894 or by email at: bishopspa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Support the Holy See You may have heard recently that a UN Committee launched criticism against Catholic moral teaching. Please support the Holy See, in particular its presence at the UN, by signing the online petition at http:// defendtheholysee.org/

Heaven's Road fm Catholic Radio www.heavensroadfm.com is a new internet Radio broadcasting prayers, interviews and features to appeal to a Catholic audience. The Radio, seeks enthusiastic people to help make programmes, techies to operate the Radio and administrators to hold it all together. Much can be done over the internet – they have people in 10 different dioceses contributing. They also webcast up to 40 Masses daily and have over 200+ podcasts available. The Radio is run on a shoestring by unpaid volunteers, so any donation, however small, would be very welcome. Cheques should be made payable to Heavens Road fm Catholic Radio and sent to them at St John's Seminary, Wonersh, Guildford, GU5 0QX. Further info at http://www.heavensroadfm.com/vols/.

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

WESSEX YOUTH ORCHESTRA: Gala Concert at the Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts. Saturday March 15th. Tickets available from the Lighthouse Box Office, tel. 0844 406 8666.

IRISH EVENING: The Ringwood and Fordingbridge CAFOD Group warmly invite you to join them for an evening of good company, music, raffle, bar, dancing, quiz, tasty food and fun at 7pm on Saturday 15th March at Trinity Hall, Ringwood. Only £6 per person (£15 for a family ticket) (Veggi option available - please let us know) Proceeds will go to CAFOD's 'Hungry for Change' campaign.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM : Please join the Bournemouth Ordinariate on this year's pilgrimage to Walsingham from 27th to 30th June, led by 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.

INTERNATIONAL PRO-LIFE YOUTH CONFERENCE: Fri 7th – Sun 9th March 2014 for students and young adults, which takes place at the University of Wolverhampton, Telford Campus Conference Centre. This conference is a unique opportunity for young Catholics to spend a weekend together, hearing from many pro-life champions, including Dr William Newton (Franciscan University, Steubenville) and Dr Helen Watt (Research Fellow, Anscombe Bioethics Centre). For more information, go to www.whyiamprolife.org.

RETREAT: Grief to Grace Retreat, April 11th-16th Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a 5-day psychological and spiritual programme for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. It is appropriate for those who have endured sexual abuse, rape, incest, or other forms of traumatic violation in childhood, adolescence, or as an adult. This retreat takes place at Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH and is facilitated by Dr. Theresa Burke, author of 'Grief to Grace' and the internationally acclaimed 'Rachel's Vineyard' Retreat for healing after abortion. For more details and registration, phone 020 8947 6420 or email grguk@yahoo.co.uk.

THANK YOU for your weekly offerings; 15th / 16th Feb.

Envelopes :	£ 161.98	Cash :	£ 105.44
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93		**Total : £ 412.35**

If anyone has anything for publication in the newsletter, please leave a note in the black post box by the parish office door or e-mail stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk