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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

24th/25th May 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG.

Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel: 01202 485588

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

e-mail: djordan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Week beginning 24th May :		Mass Intention
Saturday 24th May 6.00pm	First Mass of the Sixth Sunday of Easter	Bob Broom, RIP
Sunday 25th May 9.30am	**SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER**	People of the Parish
Monday 26th May	—	—
Tuesday 27th May 9.30am	**St Augustine of Canterbury**, *feast*	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 28th May 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00 noon	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For those in pain, for those suffering in hospitals that they will be healed.
Thurs. 29th May 9.30am	of the Sixth week of Easter	For all the faithful departed
Friday 30th May 9.30am	of the Sixth week of Easter	For all the parish faithful departed
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	The Ascension of the Lord	

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

FOR

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS

"It's no good trying to communicate the Gospel if we are not open to encounter the lives and the truth of others" is the theme at the heart of the message from Pope Francis for World Communication Day.

The message will be printed out and copies left on the 'free table' for those who would like to take one next week.

The Sixth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Looking me straight in the eye

Today's gospel is a good example of Jesus looking me straight in the eye, as he holds both my hands, and in simple and straight language, makes some wonderful promises to me. People need to have someone to trust, someone on whom they can rely, and someone who will be there for them when needed. This particular dimension of my relationship with Jesus is very important to me.

We often make promises. There have been no end of promises I made to God over my lifetime. I made promises in thunderstorms, or when a plane was being tossed about, as it passed through turbulence. I must confess that my track record in keeping the promises was not too good, because I always seemed to be making many of the same promises I had made before! Call it maturity, common sense, or simply quiet desperation, but recently I have stopped making promises. I have now turned my attention to the promises Jesus makes to me, and that has had a profound effect on my life.

In today's gospel, Jesus promises to send the Spirit, and he also promises that he will never abandon us, or desert us in the storm. "Heaven and earth will pass away before my word passes away." Elizabeth said to Mary, "All these things happened to you, because you believed that the promises of the Lord would be fulfilled." Later on, as the apostles waited with Mary in the Upper Room, I can easily imagine she could have had a real problem getting them to stay there. It would not have been easy to get Peter to sit around for nine days, while there was nothing happening. The Spirit, of course, did come, because Jesus had promised that he would send the Spirit. It is possible that Mary was the only person in that room who was certain that the Spirit would come.

Original sin was one of disobedience. Therefore, the whole purpose of Jesus' mission was to do the will of the Father in heaven. He considered obedience as a real way of loving. In today's gospel he goes so far as to say that if we love him, we will obey him. His instructions are clear and uniquely simple. He speaks of forgiving others, of not condemning, of having compassion, and of trying to love others as he loves us. He gives us a simple and clear programme for living, and part of his promises is that this programme will work. All we have to do is to trust him, and to obey him.

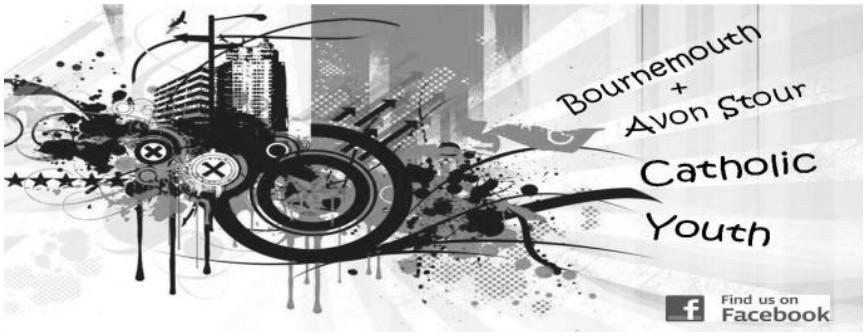
Only God can do a God-thing. Jesus promises the Spirit, but it is only that same Spirit that can enable us to be open that truth, and to avail of that offer. In other words, God makes the offer and he supplies the grace to be able to accept and avail of the offer. Even when Jesus asks us to obey him, he knows that, of ourselves, we don't have what it takes to do that. There is some sort of basic rebelliousness within us that often expresses itself as self-will run riot. What I am saying here, quite simply, is that the whole thing, from beginning to end, is total and absolute free gift.

If I am to accept, believe, and act on the promises of the Lord, it is evident, then, that I should know what those promises are. The same applies to the whole question of obedience. If I am to obey him, I should be in no doubt about what he wants me to do, or how he wants me to live. I don't agree that this is simply a question of being taught, or of education per Se. I suggest it has much more to do with my own openness and willingness to obey. I personally believe that the Spirit will be more than willing to enlighten me if I have the goodwill and the open disposition that wants to know, to believe, and to obey. If simply knowing what Jesus says were sufficient, then, of course, we could say that Satan knows every single word that Jesus has said.

Jesus promises to reveal himself to each of those who obey him. His whole purpose was to do the will of the Father and, by joining him in that attitude of obedience, we are assuming the whole ethos and life of the Trinity. The road back to the garden is one of obedience. It is not an easy road; because of original sin, obedience doesn't come naturally to us. It involves the cross, which is not heavy, but rather it is made up of the splinters of everyday living. Obedience is about following Jesus, about walking in his path. He is the Way and it is only by following him that we can make our way back to the garden.

In today's gospel, Jesus is near the completion of his work. He will soon be leaving us, and then the Spirit will come to complete the work, which he began.

Prayer is something that I always hesitate to define. It is such a personal thing, because it involves the action of God's Spirit within your heart. Without prayer, I am completely malnourished, and I don't have the spiritual energy to respond to any word that comes from God. "Not on bread alone does man/woman live, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." How, when, or where you pray is entirely up to you, but you should never have any doubt whatever about the why you pray.



(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour!
28th May, 6 - 7pm, Corpus Christi
(757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6AN)

Need some peace in the middle of your busy week of school, college, uni or work? Come along and make some new friends at this beautiful time of prayer.

Monthly Area Youth Mass & BBQ! Sunday 1st June 6-9pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace (18 Douglas Road, Southbourne. BH6 3ER) Come and join us and bring a friend to this Mass which is especially for all the young people of our area! After Mass there will be a BBQ & refreshments!

NINE DAYS OF PRAYER

TO PREPARE FOR

PENTECOST



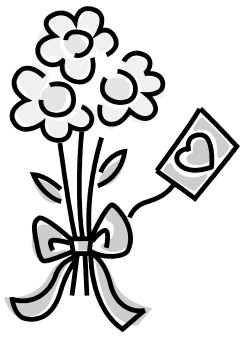
Prayer resources are always available in our Repository.

There is plenty of material available on-line too. Eg. www.scborromeo.org/prayers/novenahs

The Pentecost Novena
is the first of all novenas.

The Novena to the Holy Spirit has a long history. After Jesus' Ascension into heaven, he commanded his disciples to come together in the upper room to devote themselves to constant prayer (Acts 1:14). They prayed for nine days before receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. So, a novena is a nine-day prayer recalling this time when Mary and the Apostles were gathered together in prayer between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday.

When Christ ascended into heaven, he told them that he would send his Holy Spirit, and so they prayed for the coming of the Spirit.
This novena is an expression of the desire of the faithful to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and although it is often prayed between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost, it can be prayed at any time of the year.



Supporting and being supported at different stages in our journeys …….

Thank you to the **Liturgy of the Word with children team**. Thanks to the parents.
Thank you to the **First Holy Communion Team; Kathy, Peter and Ceri.**
Thanks to the Pastoral Area **Confirmation** catechists and especially to our own Parish catechists, **Anne, Marysa, David and Julia** and to all the sponsors of the confirmed young people.

Talk by Fr Alan Griffiths 24th June 2014, 7.30 pm, St Joseph's Centre, Christchurch
The APC have arranged for Fr Alan to give us a talk on **"The role of lay leaders in Planning and Celebrating Liturgies"**. It would be very helpful to all our Pastoral Area lay leaders! The APC are anxious to produce an Area-wide Contingency Plan and *would appreciate all lay leaders making a real effort to attend.*

CAFOD
Just one world

A leaflet was sent through to the parish office with details of the CAFOD Candlelight fund and this has been put up on the noticeboard. Further information is also available on the website at www.caford.org.uk.

In addition there is lots more!
Did you know that for children and young people there are World Cup activities? There's information on lifestyle choices, food , the climate and environment, AIDS etc etc. Get clued up!!

Appeal for helpers and VIP's The Myrtle Turner Memorial Fund (MTMF) are a local group in Poole who run pilgrimages to Lourdes using the Across Jumbulance. This year we are travelling between the 7th and 16th of August. Due to several people now being unable to travel with us we are urgently seeking 6 helpers and 2 VIP's for this year's trip. The cost is £800 and includes all meals, hotel accommodation and travel insurance plus trips out whilst in Lourdes. We are also desperate for a nurse and a priest.

From the Diocese: Sign up for Portsmouth Diocese E-News
Keep up to date with what's happening in the diocese. The diocesan e-news comes out once a week – latest events, photos, videos. Sign up on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. There is a copy of the Portsmouth e-news on the notice board - along with the weekly newsletters from our neighbouring parishes.

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 or the Annunciation Church

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES MASS, SATURDAY 28th JUNE : Every year the Diocese hosts a celebratory Mass for those celebrating 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th wedding anniversaries. If you or someone you know is celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please sign up at portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. You will then receive an invitation from Bishop Philip. **The deadline to put forward names is the end of May.**

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH SUMMER FETE: Saturday 28th June at 2pm.

MIDSUMMER FAYRE : Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church (15 Salisbury Road, Fordingbridge SP6 1EG). In the church hall and garden. Saturday June 21st, 11am - 2pm. Fun for all the family! Relax in the garden and on the patio with a Pimms or a soft drink. Enjoy something from the BBQ or a cream tea or cake. Stalls include plants, cakes, bric a brac, gifts, tombola, toys and games, bottle stall, raffle and more. There will also be an art exhibition and sale by the church art group.

CADENZA CHOIR CONCERT: Raising funds for Zoe's Wish (easing the burden of illness) Wednesday 9th July 7.30pm – St Joseph's Church. Tickets: £6.00 to include glass of wine or soft drink. Available from the Zoe's wish website.

CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY: ARUNDEL 19th June. Please see poster on notice board for details.

THE BLESSED JOHN PAUL II PILGRIMAGE: 7th -10th August. 50 mile walk from Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham, led by the Dominican Sisters from Sway. The cost is £55 each - £45 a head for families. It includes everything (food and lodging) from Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham. For more information, contact Sr Hyacinthe, OP at Sway.

CATHOLIC CELEBRATE WEEKEND: 27th & 28th September at St. Mary's College, Bitterne Park, Southampton. Speakers are Charles & Sue Whitehead, David Matthews and John Vaughan-Neil. There will be daily Mass and a variety of seminars and workshops as well as the main talks. The theme is "Jesus, the hope of all the world". Full details are on the Celebrate Website from where booking forms can be downloaded.

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.

THANK YOU for the offerings 17th/18th May

Envelopes and Cash:	£ 366.25	
Standing Orders :	£ 144.93	**Total : £ 511.18**
Clergy Training Fund:	£ 111.45	*Thank you!*