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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Sixth Sunday of Ord. Time Year A

15th/16th February 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG. Tel: 01202 485588
Priest-in-Charge: 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 February :		Mass Intention
Saturday 15th February 6.00pm	First Mass of the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Margaret McMahon, RIP
Sunday 16th February 9.30am	**SIXTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME**	People of the Parish
Monday 17th February	—	—
Tuesday18th February 9.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 19th February 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Feria Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 20th February 9.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Friday 21st February 9.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	

INVITATION to a SPECIAL GATHERING MASS, followed by a shared supper. Fri., 21st Feb.7.15- 9.30p.m. Organised by the house groups at St Joseph's. All ages welcome.



EDUCATION SUNDAY (16th February)

Education Sunday is a day of celebration for all those involved in the world of education. For over a century it has been part of an ecumenical celebration in which the Catholic Church participates.

The ecumenical theme for Education Sunday 2014 is 'Going Above and Beyond...'

Education Sunday is an opportunity for schools and parishes to come together to celebrate and give thanks for all the students, staff and parents who work so hard in and for Catholic schools. It is also a chance for us to reflect upon the contribution that Catholic education makes to our communities.

There will be a Second Collection this weekend for the
CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE

The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Yr A

Not like Animal Farm

Today's gospel contains five teachings of Jesus, on law, anger, adultery, divorce, and vows.

In Animal Farm by George Orwell, there were no rules, no laws, nobody in positions of authority and responsibility. This was to be Utopia, where everything would go along, as things should be, and nobody would dream of upsetting or rocking the boat, and everybody would live happily ever after. Unfortunately, the story doesn't turn out that way. Although the story is about animals, the point of the story is that, without structures, without rules to guide behaviour, without somebody taking responsibility to animate and lead the group, we also can descend into anarchy and self-destruction.

Jesus doesn't want to do away with the law; rather he wants to fulfil it. He does not, however, want the law to become an end in itself. The law is there to serve the people, to guide and protect them, and it must not be used to control them and to oppress them. Jesus is more in favour of a law of love, rather than a love of law.

Whether his teaching has to do with anger, adultery, divorce, etc., what he is really speaking about has to do with love. He lays great stress on forgiveness. That's a powerful word, when he speaks of bringing your gift to the altar, and then you remember that there's someone out there hurting because of you. Leave your gift to one side, go off and be reconciled with that person, and then come back to offer your gift. If we speak about loving God and loving our neighbour, then there must not be any contradiction here. It would surely be a contradiction to be reciting lovely prayers to God, while I'm not speaking to my neighbour. "Whatever you do to the least of these, that's what you do onto me."

He is clear and definite when it comes to giving one's word. There's no need for solemn oaths, etc., if I am a person of my word. This was important to Jesus. "You are either for me or against me. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."" He himself is emphatic about the sincerity of his promises to us. He gives his word, and he says that "heaven and earth will pass away before my word passes away." It is difficult to speak about adultery or divorce. I don't imagine any couple who got married with the intention of getting a divorce later on. I credit them with the highest and best intentions and, as can easily happen, things just don't work out the way they had hoped. No alcoholic ever set out to become an alcoholic. This was something that crept up on him, as it were. Adultery can be wrong on grounds other than morality and sex. It can be a lie, because it can imply a commitment that is not there, and that one party, at least, has no intention of there ever being a commitment. The whole subject of today's gospel has to do with honesty, integrity, and genuine love.

A sin is a sin. If God wanted a permissive society he would have given us Ten Suggestions instead of Ten Commandments. The law of God is written in our hearts in such a way that we know rightly whenever we are wrong. We sometimes hear the saying "My word is my bond." It is good to be a person of your word. One of the most insightful comments of Jesus is that "the truth will set you free." The liar has to have a good memory! The facts are always friendly, because they never change. There is a saying of much wisdom which states that "When everything else fails, try the truth, because it always works." The essence of proper communication is to combine total honesty with total kindness. There are times when total honesty can be brutally destructive, and when total kindness can be totally dishonest. It's quite a struggle to get it right. It is an extraordinary gospel principle to strive to become authentic, to become genuine, to live and to speak the truth. Because original sin had to do with a lie, the antidote for that is the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus calls "The Spirit of Truth."

Sin, by definition, is a lie. Whether it is adultery, perjury, or self-righteous adherence to law, it can masquerade as virtue, as truth, as something other than the reality. Sin is not so much an act as the reason or motive behind the act. I could visit someone in hospital today because I feel sorry for him; or I could visit him because I want to rejoice in the fact that he is suffering. I could do the same thing for different reasons.

Today's gospel has a lot to do with honesty and integrity. The Spirit of God is a Spirit of Truth. Only the truth will set me free. It is a wonderful thing to strive to be authentic and genuine: to be a person of my word. That, of course, must begin with myself because, as I have already said, the greatest lies I tell in life are the ones I tell myself. To paraphrase a sentence from Shakespeare, "Be true to yourself, and then you won't be untrue to others."

One of the most practical things I can do today is to check on my relationships, to ensure that I am not in a totally contradictory situation as I approach the altar. I often think that others should hear me say "I'm sorry; please forgive me" more than God does.

The Christian life is a sign that should be seen from far and near. It is a sign of contradiction in that it insists there is another way of living than living with the values of a materialistic world. The only way to preach this message is to live it. "You write a new page of the gospels each day, by the things that you do, and the words that you say. People read what you write, whether faithful or true. What is the gospel according to you?'

Lenten talk for Avon Stour Pastoral Area

'Lumen Gentium – still shining 50 years on?' 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.

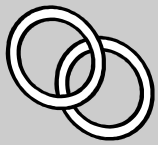
Dr Bridie Stringer (Catechist & Visiting Lecturer, St Mary's University, London)

Tuesday 11 March, 7.30 pm at St Joseph's Centre

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

Additional Authorised Person for Marriages required.

Please see Fr Darryl or Parish Office for details.
Training will be given if necessary.



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.)

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 contact Will Hince.

CONFIRMATION A Diocesan Retreat will take place at Oaklands school in Waterlooville from the 4th - 6th April 2014. This weekend will be led by priests, catechists and youth workers from across the diocese in partnership with Youth 2000. Further details will be given later.

SUMMARY OF APC MEETING 1st February 2014 at Iford
This was the first meeting attended by Fr Darryl Jordan [Co-Pastor at Iford and member of the Ordinariate] and Fr. Bernardine from the Archdiocese of Bamenda. Discussion was held on the composition of the Council and some changes were agreed to encourage fuller representation, such as inviting members of the recently-formed Youth Council to report on their activities each year; it was also agreed that Fr Darryl would represent the Ordinariate on the APC. The venue for the APC's 'Away Day' for 2014 was confirmed – Wisdom House, Romsey, to be held on 24 May. The Council discussed progress to date with regard to agreed priorities and how we could respond to Bishop Philip's call for a 'Year of Faith in Action'. The Council agreed that we should explore the possibility of setting up a Pastoral Area branch of the SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society); to this end, contact had already been made with the SVP's district president. Members were also brought up to date on youth activities and plans by Will Hince, the pastoral area youth worker.

AN APPEAL FOR HELP WITH THE CHURCH CLEANING:



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

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 any member of the cleaning team.
- 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 at 1 Radley Road, Abingdon.
Hours of work 15 per week – to be worked Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.00 noon. Commencement Date: As soon as possible after interview. Experience and Qualifications required for the role: Experienced Secretary/Administrator with excellent secretarial, interpersonal, time management and prioritisation skills. Computer literate, skilled in word processing, spreadsheets and data management as well as use of the internet and good all-round office skills. Recognised Secretarial qualifications. Personal Attributes: Sympathetic to the Ministry and Mission of the Catholic Church. Strong team player. Self-Motivated and very flexible, with ability to work on own initiative and judgement without supervision, able to work under pressure, cope with change and deal with conflicting work demands. Diplomatic and discreet with a sympathetic nature and emotional resilience
For an application form and job description on line, please go to:- www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/vacancies
Closing date for applications:- Wednesday 12th March 2014 (12 noon) Interview date:- Tuesday 18th March 2014

Primary Catholic Partnership
Education Sunday is a good time to reflect on a well-kept secret. How many of you realise the Diocese of Portsmouth is home to one of the most successful teacher training providers in the country?

The Primary Catholic Partnership was set up by diocesan primary schools in 2000 to help secure future Catholic teachers and leaders. Since then, the PCP has trained over 350 people. More than 200 are employed in Catholic schools; over 100 in our own diocese. Several are now entering leadership positions.
The PCP is a partnership of 35 Catholic schools with a well-equipped training centre on the edge of Southampton. Recruits are graduates, working towards a PGCE for the primary age range. Most are Catholic and have a strong vocation to teach. The PCP aims to help them become the best new teacher they can within their year with us. We achieve this through a personalised programme with high quality mentoring, which has been graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted for almost nine years.
Schools are always keen to employ PCP graduates. Around thirteen a year are joining our diocesan primary schools and every successful one from the last two years has secured a post.
So, if you have a friend or relative considering primary teaching, why not get in touch with us through our Website www.pcp-scitt.org.uk or by phoning 02380 779753.

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		

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 19th & 26th February 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)

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). 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.

THANK YOU for your weekly offerings; 8th / 9th Feb.

Envelopes :	£ 143.20	Cash :	£ 75.42
Standing Orders :	£ 155.31		**Total : £ 373.93**