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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

15th / 16th August 2015

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG.
Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Tel: 01202 485588
Parish Priest: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW

WELCOME TO MONSIGNOR BARNES who will be celebrating the Masses here this week.

Week beginning 15th August:		Mass Intention
Saturday 15th August 6.00pm	Vigil Mass of the Assumption of Our Lady	People of the Parish
Sunday 16th August 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY**	People of the Parish
Monday 17th August	_	_
Tuesday 18th August 9.30am	No Mass today	_
Wed. 19th August 10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	Feria	Barbara Mary Anthony (Foundation Mass)
Thurs. 20th August 9.30am	No Mass today	_
Friday 21st August 9.30am	No Mass today	_
Sat. 22nd August 5.15 – 5.45pm 6.00pm	First Mass of 21st Sun. of Ordinary Time	People of the Parish
Sunday 23rd August 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME**	Repose of the soul of Polly Stedmon

The Assumption looks to eternity and gives us hope that we, too, will follow Our Lady when our life is ended.

"All-powerful and ever-living God: You raised the sinless Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, body and soul, to the glory of heaven.

May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory."



The Assumption of Our Lady

"God created man in his own image and likeness." On the feast of Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven, it is good to consider this great statement from the inspired creation story. Trouble is, mostly we tend to reverse the meaning of it, and try to shape God in our own image and likeness. Each of us has a limited concept of the Creator. How we cling to the notion of a docile God, who will grant our wishes if only we ask him in the right way; or an indulgent God who will turn a blind eye on the double standards in our lives; or a vengeful God, whom we serve out of fear, in order to buy ourselves into his good graces. To test the quality of our religion we might wonder, Do my ideas in any way reflect Mary's vision of God, especially when she says, as in today's gospel, "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

Our blessed Lady combined humble worship of God with deep joy in his presence, foreshadowing the advice later given by St Paul to the early Christians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17f). In her Magnificat, Mary is not concerned about herself, she does not ask anything for herself, she is not worried about the future; she thinks only of the positive things that God has done for her up to the present moment, and of the debt of gratitude she owes to God. Self-forgetfulness is a prerequisite for true love, and in Mary we have the supreme example of a person totally captivated by the love of God. No one apart from Mary has ever lived, suffered, died, in such simplicity, in such deep, uncomplicated love of her Maker. Indeed, she is the fairest of all God's creatures.

Mary saw herself as simply a handmaid, a willing servant, of the Lord. She lived solely for God, and God, who cannot be outdone in generosity, conferred on her the fullness of grace; he blessed her in a most exceptional manner, through the merits of her Son, Jesus Christ. By his passion and resurrection, Christ conquered the powers of evil, and overturned the ultimate power of death. And if Mary, untouched by the least stain of sin, was intimately associated with her divine Son on Calvary in his victory over sin, it was fitting that she should also be given a special role to play in his victory over death.

It is also true that just as Christ suffered death, so Mary also had the human experience of dying. But as the Preface of today's Mass says, "You would not allow decay to touch her body, for she had given birth to your Son, the Lord of all life." So it is that we recall today, how shortly after her death, our Lady was reunited with her Son in anticipation of the final resurrection of the dead. She was taken up, body and soul into heaven, to be enthroned above the saints for ever. This is what we mean by her glorious Assumption.

And just as Jesus did not abandon us by his Ascension, but continually guides and sustain his Church, so Mary in the Assumption has not been separated from the Christian community, but remains, for each one of us, a sure sign that we too are called, like her, to share in the fullness of Christ's glory. She is the model, and indeed guarantee, of all that the Church hopes to become in heaven. We can pray today that Mary may plead for us with her divine Son, so that we too may be found worthy to come to that place in heaven which God has prepared for all those who love him, and place all their trust in him.

http://www.biblical.ie/lections/SC3.asp



CONFIRMATIONS

for the **Avon Stour Pastoral Area** will be on Saturday 16th April next year. Applications are invited from anyone who will be twelve years old or over on 1st September 2015. Adult candidates are welcome to register also.
Please complete an application form (on the 'free table' in the church porch) and return it to the Parish Office.

Legalisation of Assisted Suicide Bill

On Friday 11th September the House of Commons will debate and vote on a Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please contact your MP, urging them to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. You can send an e-mail to your MP via the Catholic Bishops' Conference website (www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide) or send a letter by post, a draft of which can be found at the back of church.

Interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith?

In our Pastoral Area, St. Joseph's Christchurch and Christchurch Priory are once again hosting an

Alpha Course

(non-denominational basic course in Christianity aimed at non-Christians, but open to Christians seeking a refresher of faith roots) September – New Year.
This will be followed by **Catholic Alpha**,
which will add topics on the Sacraments and other Catholic topics – New Year to Easter.

All happening in Christchurch but open to the whole Pastoral Area.

Catechists' Retreat

Saturday 26th September 2015

A retreat day for Catechists at St Dominic's Priory, in the New Forest, to start the new school year with the Lord.
This retreat day will take place from 10 am to 4 pm and will include Mass, a talk and times of quiet prayer.
It is open to anyone involved in passing on the faith to adults and children, in catechesis or children's liturgy.

You can register online on the diocesan website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/formation or by calling the Dominican Sisters: 01590 681 874. Attendance is free. Bring a packed lunch.

New to the Parish? **- WELCOME!**

Parishioner Details Forms

are to be found on 'free table' (the table on the left hand side when entering church). Please fill in a form if you are new to the Parish - or if you have had a change of details, eg. change of address or telephone number - and hand it in to the Parish Office. Please take a Parish Finance Pack as well if you wish to join our planned giving scheme.

A Message from the Flower Arrangers **-**

Did you know that it is possible to **sponsor a special flower arrangement** in our church for a special occasion? For example, the birthday of a loved one - or maybe a special Anniversary?
Just have a word with any member of the flower arranging team - they are usually here arranging the flowers on a Thursday morning after the 9.30am Mass. Alternatively, just drop a note into the parish office.



ST PETER'S OPEN EVENINGS

There will be two sessions. Parents/carers and children are welcome to attend on either **Thursday 17th September 2015** Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm Head Teacher's talk: 7.00pm Venue: De La Salle Theatre, St Peter's School, Southbourne, St Catherine's Rd.,
or on **Tuesday 22nd September 2015** Time: 6.00pm to 8.30pm Head Teacher's talk: 7.00pm Venue: De La Salle Theatre, St Peter's School, Southbourne, St Catherine's Rd.

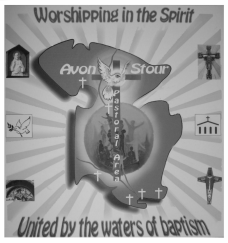
ST PETER'S SCHOOL OPEN EVENING (PRIMARY SCHOOL)

Date: 8th October 2015 Time: 6.00pm. Refreshments 6.30pm. Headteacher's talk Venue: St Peter's School (Iford Site), Holdenhurst Avenue, Bournemouth.
Please see notice board for more details.

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

Pastoral Area No. 20: AVON STOUR.

Co-ordinating Pastor – Fr Tom Grufferty.



HOSPITAL VISITS: Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals For non-urgent requests please contact the Chaplaincy Office on 01202 704221. They also have an answerphone. For more urgent requests/ out of hours, the duty RC chaplain may be contacted via the switchboard on 01202 303626
Poole Hospital, please contact Deacon McConville on 01202 442167.

TIMES OF WEEKEND MASSES in other Parishes/Bournemouth Ordinariate Mission in the **AVON STOUR PASTORAL AREA**

Ordinariate Mass St Thomas More, Exton Rd., Iford	01590 610133	Sunday 11.15am
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

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EXTRAORDINARY FORM MASS at Westbourne: Unfortunately, Fr Glaysher is unable to come over next Sunday, 16th August, so there will be **no** Extraordinary Form Mass at Westbourne.

CAFOD : Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting - 12 September. Join us at our next meeting on Saturday 12 Sept. 10am - 1.30pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX) where we will explore our new Laudato Si' study guide for parishes and hear more about CAFOD's work in Niger. To book a place please ring 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk <mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

MIGRANT SLAVERY CONFERENCE: 26th September 2015 The diocesan Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Team is hosting this conference on at St. Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX, 9.30am – 3.30pm. There is an excellent line-up of speakers including Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti Slavery Commissioner, Fiona Cunningham, Centre for Social Justice, Jess Gealer, Medaille Trust and Laura Franklin, Assistant Commissioner, Police and Crime Commissioner, Isle of Wight. Booking is essential: the day will cost £10. Priority booking for members of diocesan parishes until the end of June when booking will be open to all. The day is likely to become fully booked very quickly so please book now. Bookings at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bookings or cvirgo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SOUTHAMPTON CELEBRATE WEEKEND: 26th & 27th September. Full details can be found on www.celebrateconference.org and booking forms can be downloaded. Last year we unfortunately had to turn away a few families who wanted to book on at the last minute because the children's streams were full. We cannot emphasize enough the need for early booking.

YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS WEEKEND AT AYLESFORD 2015: Saturday 31st October to Sunday 1st November. For more details and to book, please see www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk

THANK YOU	**for the offerings**	**8th/9th August**	
Envelopes :	£ 81.00	Cash :	£ 129.67
Standing Orders :	£ 213.38		**Total : £ 424.05**
Aid to the Church in Need bottle:	£ 30.63		
CAFOD (July):	£132.00	*Thank You!*	