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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9th/10th January 2016 Yr C

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

Week beginning 9th January		Mass Intention
Saturday 9th Jan. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**	Rena and Anna MacDonald
Sunday 10th Jan. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ————————
Tuesday 12th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT&ADORATION 10.00am	Feria	For the repose of the soul of Kath Bigg,
Wednesday 13th Jan. Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	Feria	————————
Thursday 14th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am .	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Friday 15th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am	Feria	For all the parish faithful departed
Saturday 16th Jan. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**	Pat Wilson's 90th Birthday (17th Jan.)
Sunday 17th Jan. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		Ponnamma Simon, RIP (8th Anniversary) ————————

White Flower Appeal The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal weekend this weekend, 9th/10th January. In common with the Catholic Church, SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

The Society's work covers a wide spectrum of pro-life, pro-family issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools.

From Fr Darryl.... Lisa, Catherine and I have been overwhelmed with all the beautiful Christmas cards and gifts we received over the Christmas holiday. We have been very blessed by your prayers, kind thoughts and generosity. Thank you for sharing your Christmas with us. We pray you have a happy and healthy 2016 full of God's blessings. Happy New Year!

The Baptism of the Lord

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas.

The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world."



Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolic of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul.
At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us.

www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2016-01-10

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul.



The 2016 material was prepared for worldwide use by the Christians of Latvia, and adapted by the Britain and Ireland writers group, based around the verses 1 Peter 2:9-10. Peter's first letter is an encouragement to the newly baptised to live holy lives and to answer the calling shared by all the baptised to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord.

Today, Latvia is a crossroads where Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox regions meet. Because of this unique location, it is home to Christians of many different traditions, but no single one of them is dominant. Gathered together by the Archbishop of Rīga, members of a variety of church communities and projects in Latvia were asked to reflect on the chosen theme and the experience of their work.

WELCOMERS NEEDED!

We want our church to be a welcoming place, and the first point of contact is really important. Could you help the stalwarts who are currently our Welcomers?

You will need to get to church a few minutes early so as to be ready to greet people as they arrive and then make sure that they have a hymn book and Mass book and perhaps the latest copy of Portsmouth People or the Link. In addition it would help if you could just make sure the hymn books and Mass books have been put away tidily after Mass. If you feel you can help that would be much appreciated.

Can you help? If so, please either have a word with one of the current Welcomers, or contact Linda in the parish office. Thanks!



PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE Out now! Please take a copy!

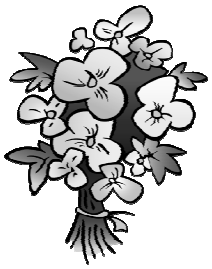


THE LINK

Copies are still available Have you taken your copy?
Articles for the next edition should be e-mailed to Maureen c/o St Joseph's, Christchurch.
If you have photos so much the better!

Tony M. writes:
Many of you will know Pat W., a well respected and much loved long time parishioner.
Pat is renowned for her creative and beautiful flower arrangements and displays spanning weddings, church celebrations and many other events over a long period.

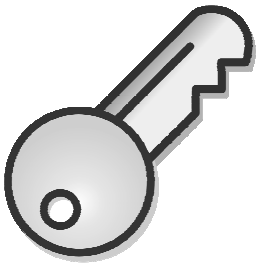




Pat celebrates her 90th birthday on Sunday January 17th (2016)

Presently, Pat is unable to attend church so therefore would welcome friends and old colleagues round about noon for a cup of tea and a reminisce, and of course to wish her a happy birthday. Hopefully, it will be a memorable occasion for somebody who gave so much to so many for so long.

God Bless you Pat and Happy Birthday. Multos Annos.



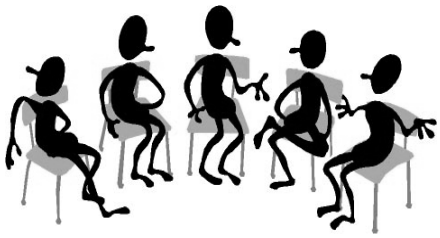
KEY LIST

The parish office keeps a list of all those parishioners who are keyholders. This is needed for insurance purposes. We need to compile an up-to-date and accurate list. If you are a key-holder please add your name to the list in the front porch and state which keys you hold. Many thanks. Linda, Parish Office.

MEETINGS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL The next meeting will be 7.00pm, Wednesday 20th January.

FABRIC & FINANCE MEETING The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th January at 7.00pm, in the sacristy. The minutes from the last meeting are pinned up on the notice board.



CALLING ALL GRANDPARENTS

Are you interested in meeting up with other grandparents to pray for, and share about, our families? We are planning to set up a local branch of the 'Catholic Grandparent's Association' in this area. The inaugural meeting will be held in St Joseph's parish Centre, Purewell, Christchurch, on Thurs. 28th Jan., starting with the parish Mass in the church, at 9.20am, followed by refreshments, and the meeting will be finished by 11.30 am. The Pope has given his blessing to the association and Bishop Philip has invited us all to Portsmouth Cathedral on 12th February at 12.15 pm to formally inaugurate the association into this diocese. We look forward to seeing many of you on 28th at St Joseph's. After Mass, the founder of the Catholic Grand Parents Association, Catherine W. will address those present. All welcome.

info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

From the diocese: **Jubilee Year of Mercy** Bishop Philip has now opened the Door of Mercy at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. There is a second Door of Mercy at Our Lady and St Edmund's, Abingdon. All are invited to go on pilgrimage to these Holy Doors during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. A plenary indulgence may be obtained. To find out more, including about indulgences, go to: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/holyyearofmercy. **Keep in touch with the latest news!** The Diocese of Portsmouth now issues a weekly e-news with photos, news, and information from around the Diocese. Go to www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk and add your email address to receive these updates.

Pastoral Area No. 20: AVON STOUR. Co-ordinating Pastor – Fr. Tom Grufferty.

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
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 **For Poole Hospital**, please contact Deacon McConville on 01202 442167.		

POETS, PIKELETS AND PETTICOATS: An afternoon of words & music with a Scottish themed afternoon tea at 2pm Saturday 23rd January at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Purewell in aid Of Kabanana Care (Zambia), charity which provides food, shelter & education for over 80 orphaned children/vulnerable adults. James Manlow, Bournemouth's 2014-15 Poet Laureate will be reading his poems & answering questions. Music by The Happy Heart Singers, plus young local performer. Tickets £5 (inc afternoon tea)

CAFOD: Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting Join us at our next meeting on Sat 23 January 2016 from 10am until 1.30pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX) where we will explore our Lenten resources and hear more about CAFOD's water programmes in Uganda. To book a place, please ring 01252 329385 or email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk by 15 January 2016.

'LAUDATIO SI' PRESENTATION: At 2pm and again at 7.30pm, on Thursday 21st January at the Church of Our Lady Immaculate, Westbourne, there will be a presentation and discussion of how we can and should respond the pope's encyclical "Laudato Si". The event will address how we can reduce our environmental impact, and avoid or at least reduce our financial involvements associated with social injustices such as child slavery. The presentation will be by Tony Bickley, a practising architectural designer, and David Weight, a recently retired chartered surveyor and award-winning sustainability consultant. The event will last around one and half hours, including a short Q & A session

TALK ON PRAYER: Would you like to join with some like minded Catholics and others over a bowl of Home made soup for a talk on Prayer by an excellent speaker, followed by informal chat about what we have heard and prayer? If so you will be most welcome on MONDAY 11th JANUARY at 12 noon. There is free parking in the road 12 - 2 pm. EVERONE WELCOME but if it is your first of these monthly meetings phone first. For further details please contact the parish office.

THANK YOU

for the offerings 3rd/4th Jan.

Envelopes :	£ 160.45	Cash :	£ 64.74
Standing Orders :	£ 201.85		**Total : £ 427.07**

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