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



Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of

St Thomas More

THE EPIPHANY

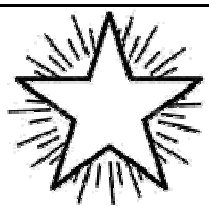
3rd/4th January 2015

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

Week beginning 3rd January:		Mass Intention
Saturday 3rd Jan. 6.00pm	Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord	Rena MacDonald
Sunday 4th Jan. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**	Brother Edmund (Foundation Mass)
Monday	—	—
Tuesday 6th Jan. 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Liturgy of the day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	For all the faithful departed
Wed. 7th Jan. 10.30am *Ordinariate Mass*	Liturgy of the day	For all the faithful departed
Thurs. 8th Jan. 9.30am	Liturgy of the day	For all the faithful departed
Friday 9th Jan. 9.30am	Liturgy of the day	For all the Parish faithful departed
Sat. 10th Dec. 5.15–5.45pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation First Mass of the Baptism of the Lord	Anna MacDonald
Sunday 11th Jan. 9.30am *Ordinariate Mass* 11.15am	**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**	People of the Parish

The Epiphany

'Epiphany' means to show, to make known or to reveal.
The Epiphany looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity.
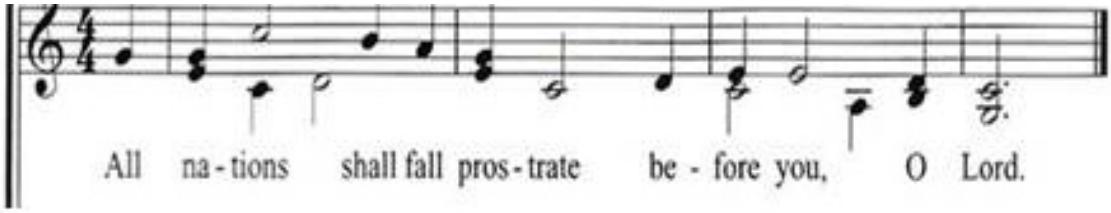




A reminder ....

…. that **teas and coffees** are available in the church hall after Mass on a Sunday.

Why not pop in for five minutes?

Psalm Refrain:



THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12

SEARCHERS FIND HIM

"Shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come; the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the people. The nations come to your light. Everyone in Sheba will come bringing gold and incense." These sayings of the prophet Isaiah must have been in the mind of St Matthew when he described the coming of the Magi to worship the new-born Saviour of the world in Bethlehem. So too must have been the words, which were recorded by Matthew but uttered by Jesus during his public life, when he praised the Roman centurion, a gentile, a foreigner, for his great faith, "I tell you solemnly, nowhere in Israel have I found faith like this. And I tell you that many will come from the east and the west to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of heaven, but the subjects of the kingdom (meaning the Jews) will be turned out in the dark" (8:10+).)

Roughly twenty-five years after his death on Calvary, this acceptance of Christ by the gentiles was described in his gospel by Matthew, in his beautiful story of the Wise Men from the east being drawn to Bethlehem by a star that shone especially bright in the darkness of the night sky, resulting in the epiphany or revelation to them of God in the person of the infant Jesus. The Apostles when trying to understand the events of Christ's life had been taught by Christ himself to look for their meaning in certain passages of the Old Testament, and so it is more than likely that Matthew linked the star of Bethlehem, shining serenely in the sky while night covered the earth and darkness the peoples, with a prophecy in the Book of Numbers, which promised, "A star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel" (24:17).

Originally, this was seen as a reference to the founding of the royal house of David from which the Messiah would come. But Matthew went on to link the star with Bethlehem, which was the city of David, and moreover the town foretold by another prophet (Micah) as being the place chosen by God where the promised Messiah would be born. Since the royal line of David had long since vanished, the Messiah would not be a political leader but rather a spiritual one, and his coming, to a large extent, would be ignored by his own people.

It was mainly the gentiles, represented by the Wise Men, who were to be drawn to this Star of Bethlehem, and came to believe in God's greatest self-revelation, through the person of Jesus Christ. We are told nothing of what the Magi said, but the gospel, in a concrete way, describes the sublime act of their perfect faith in him, whom they sought, "Falling to their knees they paid him homage." Then they offered him gifts, gold as befitting a royal person, frankincense reserved for the worship of God, and myrrh, a substance used in dressing wounds and embalming bodies, signifying that this child was truly man, capable of suffering, and destined one day to die.

You may perhaps say that we have no gold, or frankincense, or myrrh. That is true, but we have something more valuable, precious treasures that we can present to Christ, our Saviour and our King. We bring gold to Christ when we try and make him king of our hearts. We offer frankincense when by our worship and prayer we proclaim his divinity. And we can, in some small way, alleviate the pain of the wounds he suffered for us by applying the myrrh of our own sufferings, our sorrow, our humiliations and tears.

The departure of the Magi from their own country is symbolic of every response of faith. When we make an act of faith, we abandon something, the kind of outlook which urges us to rely only on the tangible material world, and we allow ourselves to be drawn, as were the Magi, by someone who, although invisible, is more real than the world of sense around us. But we must always remember that we could never begin to seek God, draw nearer to God, unless God had already found us. The desire for God, the secret thirst for salvation that arises within us, is not begotten of any human emotion, but rather kindled by God himself.

www.biblical.ie/lections

White Flower Appeal

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend.

In common with the Catholic Church SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. 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 and offers pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals.

Please give generously to this worthy cause.

My church is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes,
If I am a generous giver.
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,
If I invite and bring them.
It will be a church of loyalty and love,
Of fearlessness and faith,
And a church with a noble spirit,
If I, who make it what it is,
Am filled with these same things
Therefore, with the help of God,
I shall dedicate myself to the task of *being*
All the things that I want my church to be

– In the New Year!

The Christmas collection this year, which, as always, is given to our Parish Priest, has amounted so far to
£733.53
A very big *Thank You* from Fr Darryl!

CHRISTMAS TREE & CRIB

We will be putting the tree, crib and the decorations away after Mass Sunday, 11th January, if anyone would have a bit of time to help! Thanks.



Christmas Cards.
Please check that you have not got any uncollected Christmas cards on the free table; any remaining after Mass next Sunday will be re-cycled.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE
The new edition for January 2015 is now available.
Make sure you pick a copy up after Mass today!

BOXING DAY MASS
Friday 26th December saw the presentation of two medals of the Guild of St Stephen to two of our altar servers, a bronze and a silver.
We congratulate them and we give our thanks to all the altar servers for their dedication.

Induction of Fr. Tom Grufferty as Parish Priest of Christchurch
This is a formal appointment which will take place on Friday 23rd January.
Fr. Tom has also received a letter appointing him Dean of Avon Stour, Bournemouth and New Forest Pastoral Areas with immediate effect.



Songs of Praise

Hosted by *BBC Radio Solent*
Sunday Morning Presenter

Tim Daykin

here at St Thomas More's on
Sunday 8th February 2015 at 3.00 pm

Choose your favourite hymn, then tell us what it means to you and come along and sing it on the day. More details about how to submit your hymn will be released immediately after Christmas.

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 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.		

SKITTLES EVENING: 31st January. at 7pm. Avonway Community Centre, 36, Shaftsbury Street., Fordingbridge SP6 1JF There will be a bar, also soft drinks, and the food is on a 'Bring & Share basis. You are warmly invited to join in this fund raising event for CAFOD. Tickets only £5 adults (16yrs +) or £12 for a family ticket.

FLAME 2: Sat. 7th March 2015. This event is for young people from Year 10 - young adult. 5000 tickets have been sold, and the young Catholics of Portsmouth Diocese are going to be a big part of it, as they travel with Bishop Philip on our diocesan coach to Wembley for Flame 2. Places cost just £45 which will include transport, tickets and a hoody! For more information and to book a place, contact Will Hince whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 07780221686.

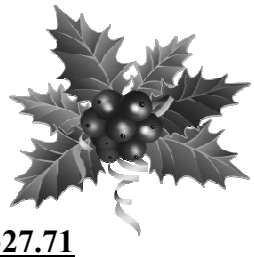
WORLD YOUTH DAY, THURSDAY 21ST JULY - TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2016:
We are delighted to announce that we will be taking a coach of young people from our diocese to Poland for the next World Youth Day in 2016 with Pope Francis. We'll be travelling across Europe with Bishop Philip to join with over a million young Catholics. With accommodation in the heart of Krakow facilitating full participation in the whole event, this is going to be epic! Guide price £995.
See www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for more information. Limited places.

THANK YOU for the offerings 20th/21st Dec.

Envelopes :	£ 169.78	Cash :	£ 105.52
Standing Orders :	£ 146.45		**Total : £ 421.75**

THANK YOU for the offerings 27th/28th Dec.

Envelopes :	£ 108.60	Cash :	£ 72.66
Standing Orders :	£ 146.45		**Total : £ 327.71**



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