Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

THE EPIPHANY

2nd/3rd January 2016 Yr C

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Tel: 01202 485588
Parish Priest: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW

Week beginning 2nd January		Mass Intention
Saturday 2nd Jan. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**THE EPIPHANY**	Nora MacDonald
Sunday 3rd Jan. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ————————
Tuesday 5th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Wednesday, 6th Jan. Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	Feria	————————
Thursday, 7th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am .	Feria	For all the faithful departed
Friday, 8th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am	Feria	Timothy and Mike Harrington
Saturday, 9th Jan. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**	Rena and Anna MacDonald
Sunday, 10th Dec Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish ————————

The feast of **The Epiphany** principally commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child - Jesus' manifestation to the Gentiles.





Congratulations to
Liz Lahoud and Carl Turton,
married here on
Saturday 2nd January

The Epiphany

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"

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."

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 kindled by God himself.

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



CONFIRMATION MEETING

The next meeting (Session 5) will be on 8th January at 7.30pm

in St Joseph's Church, Purewell, Christchurch.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

Out now!

Please take a copy.

THE LINK - *Copies are still available Have you taken your copy?*



Thank you

to everyone who helped with all the preparations for Christmas and ensured that everything ran smoothly. You are stars!





MEETINGS

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

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.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

We have recently been audited by Hays Macintyre, the diocese's firm of accountants. This is part of the usual financial inspection carried out on all parishes over a period of approximately ten years.

A full written report is awaited, but the auditor present on the day was generally very complimentary about our accounting procedures and record-keeping.

A very big thank you to the two members of the Fabric and Finance committee who have particular responsibility for this and who maintain all the records and accounts over the year. In addition, thanks are due to them for preparing for this audit and for giving up their time on the day.

WELCOMERS ….

….. do a very important job!

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.

So, not a difficult or time-consuming job - but a very important one. If you feel you can help that would be much appreciated. This is a lovely thing for a family to do. **Can you help?** If so, please either have a word with one of the current Welcomers, or contact Linda in the parish office. Thank you!

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 23rd 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 15th January 2016.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE: why not consider a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, also known as the confessional of the world. Judy is leading a group from May 18th -25th. Canon Dominic Golding will be the Spiritual Director. Contact Judy on: pellattj@hotmail.co.uk

THANK YOU **for the offerings** **19th/20th Dec.**

Envelopes :	£ 130.10	Cash :	£ 108.87
Standing Orders :	£ 201.85		**Total : £ 440.82**

THANK YOU for your Christmas Offerings, which have amounted to

£688.29



THANK YOU **for the offerings** **26th/27th Dec.**

Envelopes :	£ 89.10	Cash :	£ 54.70
Standing Orders :	£ 201.85		**Total : £ 345.65**

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