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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



The Epiphany of the Lord Year A

4th/5th January 2014

Weekday Masses this week: Wed. & Fri., 9.30am
(with Morning prayer at 9.10am)

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG. Tel: 01202 485588
Priest-in-charge: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW, BSc, MDiv.
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 4th January :		Mass Intention
Saturday 4th January 6.00pm	**Vigil Mass of the Epiphany**	All the Holy Ghosts
Sunday 5th January 9.30am	**THE EPIPHANY**	People of the Parish
Monday 6th January	—	—
Tuesday 7th January	No Mass today	—
Wed. 8th January 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00	Liturgy of the Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Rena and Anna Macdonald
Thurs. 9th January	No Mass today	—
Friday 10th January 9.30am	Liturgy of the Day	Private Intention of Paul Young
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	The Baptism of the Lord	

Please note: the Epiphany has been transferred from Monday 6th January to Sunday 5th January.

This Sunday morning we welcome Mgr Edwin Barnes,
who will be Concelebrant at this Mass.

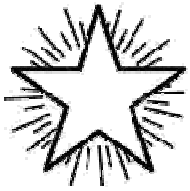
Monthly Area Youth Mass!

Next Saturday, 11th January, 6-8pm at Saint Thomas More's

Come and join us for our first Area Youth Mass of 2014 and our first ever Area Youth Mass at St Thomas More's! The Mass is for all the young people of our Pastoral Areas and will be followed by a social time with music & refreshments! Check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth for more info.

From Father Darryl : Many thanks for the very warm welcome you have given Lisa, Catherine and myself as we transition into our new parish at St Thomas More. We appreciate all the thoughtful welcome cards and well wishes as well as all the beautiful Christmas cards and goodies. We wish you all God's blessings and peace for a happy and healthy 2014.

The Epiphany (.. "to show" .. "to make known" .. "to reveal"..)
The Epiphany looks ahead to the mission of the church to the world in the light of the Nativity.



www.biblical.ie/lections

Meditation on the Epiphany

We imagine ourselves in the presence of baby Jesus, and Mary and Joseph. We are surprised to see men of eastern appearance come. They see baby Jesus and fall on their knees. They offer him homage and give him presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh, gold because Jesus is king, frankincense since Jesus is divine and myrrh prefiguring his passion. They tell us about the star and about Herod who knew nothing about Jesus' birth. After their stay they set out on their return journey eastwards but not via Jerusalem since they want to avoid Herod. After their departure we spend time with baby Jesus. Jesus, we do not have gold, frankincense and myrrh to give you but we can give you our love.

Jesus, even while you were only a little baby you experienced both acceptance from the wise men and rejection from Herod. The wise men and Herod had two opposing attitudes, searching for God and being closed to God. Jesus, we see that the wise men were blessed in their search for you by finding you. We are searching for you too, we want to come ever closer to you. Help us to draw ever closer to you and if we are closed to you like Herod, help us to open so that we can find you.

Jesus, not only had the wise men and Herod different attitudes to you, they also had different attitudes to life. The wise men were generous, Herod was selfish wanting to hold on to his throne. The magi gave you gifts, Herod killed all boys under two years of age. The wise men were willing to put energy and goodness into life, Herod wanted to get all he could from life. The magi who sacrificed to put into life were happy, Herod who took all he could from life was unhappy. Jesus help us to foster a healthy attitude towards life, giving and caring, instead of grasping, and being selfish and possessive.

The magi were lucky. They were given the guidance of a star. In the darkness of this world we have all been given help on our journey to God; the beauty of nature, the Word of God in Sacred Scripture, Spirit-filled witnessing and preaching, the faith of others and our own faith. For a moment let us thank God for giving us stars to lead us to him.

When the wise men arrived in Jerusalem, it seems they no longer had the guidance of the star, otherwise they would not have had to ask Herod for advice. Sometimes we too feel as if we're in the dark, like the magi. Sometimes what or whom we relied on is not there any more. Sometimes we see only darkness around us. But we know that you are there and that eternal life awaits us even if sometimes in this world there is no star for us.

Lord in our moments of darkness without a star, help us not to give up but to keep searching, hoping and praying because that would be the best way forward. Let us pray now for strength to remain steadfast when there is no guiding star.

ROTAS

ALTAR SERVER ROTAS - Can all Altar Servers please pick up a copy of the new rotas for 2014. If you cannot make your week please swap with someone. Also please remember that you need to turn up at least 20 minutes before serving - not run in at the last minute. Thank you for all your commitment during the year. :)

WEEKEND MINISTRY ROTAS - Copies of the new rota are in the grey trays on the 'free table', at the back of the church.

MAGAZINES

'PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE': Copies still available - please take one. Thank you!

LIVING OUR FAITH : Copies of the **'Living Our Faith'** newsletters are available on the 'free table'. These have been produced on the occasion of the donors reaching ***Ten Million Pounds*** in pledges! Thank you!

THE LINK Please e-mail articles for the Spring edition of the Link **by 31st January**. Thanks.

MEETINGS

FABRIC & FINANCE MEETING: Tuesday 14th January at 7.00pm, in the sacristy.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd January.

REACHING THE UNREACHED (R.T.U)

Phone : 04546 - 236230
04546 - 236645
E-mail : rtu@rtuindia.org
brojkrtu2004@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.rtuindia.org

G. Kallupatti, Periyakulam Tk., Theni District-625 203. INDIA

7 December 2013

Dear all at St Thomas More,

We give our sincere thanks to you for your kind contributions this year for our services among the poor and for the children in our Children's Villages. Your generosity and concern for our work is very much appreciated.

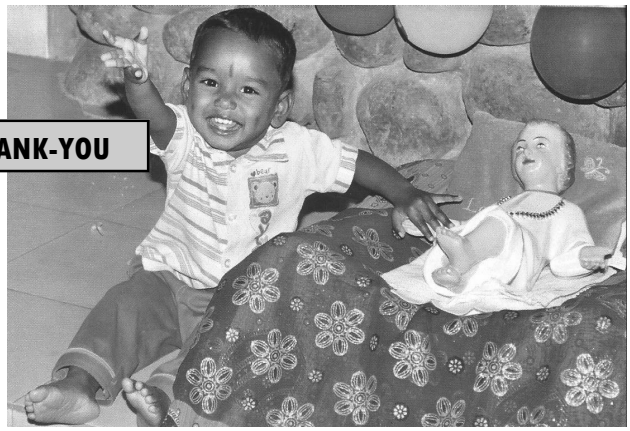
May the new Born Baby Jesus bless you and His radiating peace and joy of the crib may also be in your house and in your community. Let the New Year 2014 bring you His choicest showers of blessings upon you and you may experience the power of his guiding hands every moment of your life. Let all your generous thoughtfulness of needy be rewarded in 100 fold.

Christmas is time of great joy for our children, as they are going to gather together for four days. There would be lot of fun and games and the children remember this day for long time even till the next Christmas. I am happy to note that you also become a source of joy for our Children by your generous contributions. May God bless you.

Wish you very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2014.

Fr. J. Antony Paulsamy
Secretary.

THANK-YOU



The latest copies of the **'Reaching the Unreached'** newsletter will be available this weekend.
- St Thomas More parishioners have a mention!

AN INVITATION.....

MSP Day

Friday 24th January

The MSP day will be held at St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY.
If anyone would like to go. please contact the parish office for details.

ANOTHER THANK YOU ; for .....



RED MISSION BOXES

Many thanks to all box holders!

This year the parish collected £519.58 in the red boxes - please note the total amount collected was actually higher as some parishioners donate by standing order. If anyone does not currently have a box and would like one, please contact the APF secretary.

PASTORAL AREA BARN DANCE

Saturday 18th January, 7.30pm to 10.30pm
St Joseph's Parish Centre, Purewell, Christchurch
Quiz, Raffle and a Bring and Share Supper.
Doors open at 7pm and entrance is free.
Everyone is welcome.

PORTSMOUTH RC DIOCESAN WEBITE
www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bishop Philip Egan recently filmed a video in which he speaks about why he announced the Year of Faith in Action, and what he hopes will be the fruits of it in our Diocese. Also, there are lots of photos that were taken at Fr Darryl's ordination ... and more! - Why not visit the website?



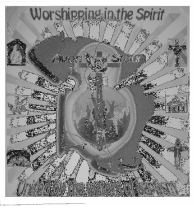


Pope Francis
has been declared
Time's Person Of The Year.

Looking back on 2013, he has done some incredibly progressive things to lead the Church.

http://distractify.com/people/reasons-why-pope-francis-is-the-person-of-the-year/

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

THE DEPARTMENT FOR NEW EVANGELISATION : PARISH CATECHESIS INFORMATION EVENING Tuesday 28th January, 7.30pm – 9.00pm, at St Joseph's, Purewell, Christchurch.

CONFIRMATION MEETING : *This Thursday*, 9th January, 7.30pm in St Joseph's Church.
For candidates and parents,of students in Year 8, and also for those in Year 9 who were not confirmed last year and wish to be confirmed in 2014.

DON BOSCO YOUTH CLUB - takes place on **Fridays in term time** at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Church in the church hall, from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.
For those in school years 3 to 6. New members are very welcome to attend. The Youth Club restarts after the Christmas holidays on Friday 10th January.

(MOST) WEEKLY YOUTH HOLY HOUR! 8th 15th 22nd & 29th January… 6-7pm at Corpus Christi All young people are invited to join us for this beautiful time of quiet prayer & adoration :) "From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others." - Pope John Paul II
Check out www.facebook.com/bournemouthandavonstourcatholicyouth for more information.

IGNATIAN PRAYER DAYS St Joseph's Church Hall, Christchurch. 10.30 for 11.00 - 4.15pm Fr Tony will be continuing his Ignatian Days on the third Saturday of each month, starting on Jan 18th - More Work on Our Picture of Jesus. Then Feb 15th - Our Prodigal Father and March 15th - Lent.

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

THANK YOU **for your weekly offerings; 28th Dec. / 29th Dec.**

Envelopes :	£ 147.20	Cash :	£ 96.03
Standing Orders :	£ 155.31		**Total : £ 398.54**
CAFOD (Nov/Dec)	£ £29.85	Thank you	

CAFOD PHILIPPINES : An extra £100 has been received, making the total **£860.53!**

Christmas Collection : £ 662.31 ***With grateful thanks!***