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



Newsletter
of the
Catholic Parish of
St Thomas More

THIRD SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME Yr C

23rd/24th January 2016

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 23rd January		Mass Intention
Saturday 23rd Jan. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**	People of the Parish
Sunday 24th Jan. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Mass 11.15am		People of the Parish —————————
Tuesday 26th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am	St Timothy & St Titus, *memorial*	For all the faithful departed
Wednesday 27th Jan. Ordinariate Mass 10.30am	Feria	For the repose of the soul of Sister Irene Gill, Handmaid of the Sacred Heart
Thursday 28th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am	St Thomas Aquinas, *memorial*	For the repose of the soul of Win Cockburn
Friday 29th Jan. Weekday Mass 9.30am	Feria	For all the Parish faithful departed
Saturday 30th Jan. Confessions 5.15–5.45pm First Mass 6.00pm	**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**	People of the Parish
Sunday 31st Jan. Principal Mass 9.30am Ordinariate Choral Evensong & Benediction 4.30pm		People of the Parish

In the **YEAR OF MERCY** we are saying the Hail Holy Queen in place of the Hail Mary In the bidding prayers .

There will be a SECOND COLLECTION

this weekend for

THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE



CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Welcome to the Confirmation candidates - here at St. Thomas More's for the 9:30am Mass!
There will be a session afterwards in the church hall for further discussion on the liturgy and reflection time.

Hail ! Holy Queen

Hail! Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, O most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit
of your womb, Jesus.
O clement! O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary!

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C

Does Law Matter?

In the First Reading and the Gospel today we have the seeds of an argument which, in the early Church, was to scandalise the Jews and even some Christians, and become the reason why St Paul's journeying was everywhere dogged with controversy and hostility. On the one hand we have the famous priest and scribe, Ezra, who led a contingent of Jews back from exile about the year 400 B.C., setting out to revive the Mosaic Law, translating and explaining it to the people, and these in turn showing their veneration for the Law. On the other hand we have Christ, in his hometown of Nazareth, saying that part of his mission is to bring the good news to the poor and proclaim liberty to captives.

What St Paul, from the beginning, regarded as his most essential task was to help people understand Christ's teaching, and so attain this liberty, which he regarded as freedom from enslavement to the Old Law. "Now we are rid of the Law," he wrote to the Romans (7:6), "freed by death (meaning the death of Christ) from our imprisonment, free to serve in the new spiritual way and not the old way of a written law." No wonder the Jews took offence, for they imagined that the Law by itself conferred life, that one's religion consisted in knowing perfectly the Mosaic code of written laws, as well as the thousands upon thousands of oral laws and regulations added on by the rabbis to explain the code. And yet the Law seems to have failed the Jews: in spite of it they, like everyone else, were sinners. The Law gave information; without it, Paul says, he should not have known what sin is. But the Law did not give spiritual strength. For a law as such, Paul contended, even if it proposed the loftiest ideals, can never transform a being of flesh into a spiritual being, capable of living the life of God. It is not the Law, but grace, which keeps the virtuous person from being dominated by sin.

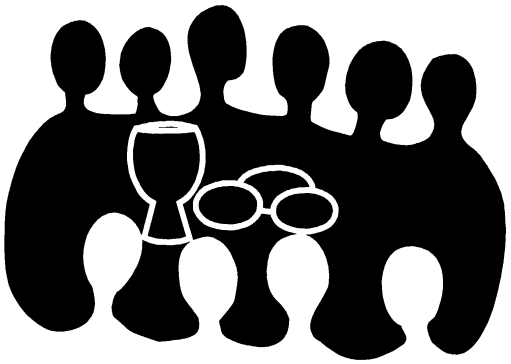
Religion for a Christian, Paul would say, is a question of knowing a person, Christ, and of loving and following him. For if sin has lost its control over a person's life, it is due to something radically different from the Old Law, what we might refer to as the law of the Spirit, a law which is no longer part of a written code, but rather a new spiritual force acting from within. "And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Cor 3:17). The gift of the Holy Spirit is what the Christian "receives under the guise of a law" wrote Cardinal Seripando. Indeed the whole of the Old Law could be fulfilled in one word: "You must love your neighbour as yourself (Gal 5:14). "The only thing you should owe to anyone is love for one another, for to love the other person is to fulfil the law. All these: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and all other commandments, are summed up in this single phrase, You must love your neighbour as yourself (Rom 13:8-10)

The spiritual person will almost instinctively avoid offending God or others. But whoever avoids evil because it is against a law has not attained the freedom Paul spoke about. That person alone is free who avoids sin because sin is wrong in itself. Of course Christianity does contain commandments, moral precepts, the teachings of faith. But these are intended purely to avoid moral collapse. So, as long as Christians in the first centuries after Christ received frequent Holy Communion, the Church never obliged them to receive once a year. But when fervour decreased, in order to remind them that one cannot possess divine life without being nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, the Church laid down the law of Easter duty. This law, however, is not aimed at the fervent, because those who are fervent are guided by the prompting of the Holy Spirit within them, and observe the law without thinking about it. Nevertheless, commandments, such as we find in the Catechism, are something that even the just require from time to time, for we all carry the treasure of God's grace in frail vessels.

Our consciences can be led astray, and the interior call of the Spirit may be drowned out by the urgings of sinful nature. When in doubt we could do no better than follow the advice given to his followers by Fr Charles de Foucauld, the French army officer who, after conversion, became a hermit in the Sahara desert: "Ask yourself in all instances: "What would our Lord have done?", and then imitate him. This is your only rule, but it is your absolute rule."

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

A MASS IN YOUR HOME THIS LENT?



Fr Ron Hishon writes:

This year, Lent begins very EARLY: Ash Wednesday is on Wed 10th February. With the encouragement of your Parish Priest, during Lent I am willing to come to your home to celebrate a special House Mass, celebrated simply, prayerfully, and in the spirit of Pope Francis's Year of Mercy in the Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium).* All that is needed is for you to gather between 8 and 12 people. If you would like more information before deciding, or if you wish to agree a suitable day and time, contact me as soon as possible.

NEWSLETTERS

The newsletters for all the parishes in the Pastoral Area are available on the Pastoral Area Website, www.avonstourpastoralarea Our newsletter is also available on the St Thomas More website www. st.thomasmorechurch.org.uk

THE LINK

Contributions for the Spring edition of the Link should be e-mailed to Julie at olqp@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by

31st January

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

Copies still available

Why not pass a copy on to a friend?

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



New Eucharistic Ministers are needed.

The annual training session for our Pastoral Area is coming up here at St Thomas More's.
It will be held in the church hall on
Friday 5th February, 7.15pm-9.00 pm and
Saturday 6th February, 10.00am – 3.00pm
(Attendance at both sessions is a strict requirement)

Candidates for this very special ministry must be nominated by the priest.
If you think that God might be calling you, then please have a word with Father Darryl.

FABRIC & FINANCE MEETING : This week, Tuesday 26th January, at 7.00pm in the sacristy.

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.
Thanks to those key-holders who have already added your names to the list in the front porch. If you have not already done so, please add your details ASAP.
Linda, Parish Office.

From the Ordinariate:
There will be no 11.15am Ordinariate Mass on Sunday 31st January.
There will however be Choral Evensong & Benediction at 4.30pm.
The Ordinariate would like to encourage all singers to come along and help make up the choir. All that is needed is to just turn up at 3.30pm before Evensong to run through the music.



From the Diocese: 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 (except the last Sunday of the month when there will usually be Choral Evensong & Benediction)
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.		

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' 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(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. For further information see info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org. All welcome.

ST THOMAS GARNET'S CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOL: Open week from 25th to 29th January.
Open Evening Thursday 25th February 5pm to 8.30pm. Open Morning Saturday 12th March 9am to 12.30pm.

'WHAT NEXT FOR THE FAMILY?' TALK : Please join Bishop Peter Doyle and Fr Daniel O'Leary as they give their thoughts on the recent synod. Saturday 27th of February between 0930 and 1500 at St Peter's Church Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY. For further information please phone 07825 392925 or email rob-in@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

SALE OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION WEAR & ACCESSORIES: Corpus Christi Parish Centre, February 14th, 10.30am - 2.30pm. Please see poster for more details.

Teacher For Year 6 required for April 2016
St. Thomas Garnet's Independent School
Applications are welcomed from experienced or newly-qualified teachers.
Closing date: 15th February 2016
For further details please email: finance@stthomasgarnets.co.uk
or write to The Headteacher , Mr Craig Lickley including a letter of application and CV.
Visits are warmly welcomed.

THANK YOU

for the offerings 17th/18th Jan.

Envelopes :	£ 165.48	Cash :	£ 91.62
Standing Orders :	£ 189.15		**Total : £ 446.25**
White Flower Appeal :	£ 100.51	*Thank You!*	