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

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St Thomas More



Third Sunday of Easter Year A

3rd/4th May 2014

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday, 9.30am

42 Exton Road Bournemouth BH6 5QG.

Parish Office e-mail: stmiford@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel: 01202 485588

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Father Darryl M. Jordan, OLW

e-mail: djordan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Week beginning 3rd May :		Mass Intention
Saturday 3rd May 6.00pm	First Mass of the Third Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish
Sunday 4th May 9.30am	**THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER**	People of the Parish
Monday 5th May	—	—
Tuesday 6th May **2.00pm**	**Requiem Mass**	**Ray Rocks**
Wed. 7th May 9.30am 10.00am - 12.00 noon	of the Third week of Easter Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Ray Rocks, RIP *(C&R Head)*
Thurs. 8th May 9.30am	of the Third week of Easter	For all the faithful departed
Friday 9th May 9.30am	of the Third week of Easter	Ray Rocks, RIP *(P&A McGargle)*
Saturday: 5.15 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Masses Sat. 6pm & Sun. 9.30am	Fourth Sunday of Easter	



Congratulations

to our young people who were confirmed at

Portsmouth Cathedral

this Saturday!

Next Sunday is **Good Shepherd Sunday**.

The **Rt. Revd Keith Newton PA Ordinary**, of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, will be here as well as Fr Darryl next weekend. (Mgr Keith will give the homily on Saturday and Sunday, and will celebrate the Mass on the Sunday.)
Immediately after each of the weekend masses there will be a Q & A session in the nave of the church.

The Third Sunday of Easter Yr A

Gospel within a gospel

Today's gospel is like a gospel within a gospel. This story is often used to highlight the core teachings about Jesus and his mission.

There is a clear contrast here between how we see things and how God may look at the same situation. Failure or impossibility are words that are not in the language of God. For these disciples it was all over. For the previous few years they were on to a good thing. Life had been exciting, and they were in the middle of it all. It is unfair to blame them, but they just didn't grasp a great deal of what Jesus had said. Nothing happened that Jesus had not already warned them would happen. We can empathise with them, because most of us find ourselves in turmoil or in difficulties, because we forgot or we failed to take seriously the promises of the Lord. He promised that he would be there for us, that he would never abandon us in the storm, that he would walk every step of the road with us, and that he would bring us safely through the desert and the Red Sea of death into the Promised Land of the Father.

It is more than interesting that Jesus used scripture as his way of enlightening them. Scripture is the word of God. It contains the promises of the Lord, and it reveals the heart of God. The words of scripture are not at all like the words in our daily newspaper. The word of God is empowered, it is inspired, and it is shot through with the Spirit of God. With God's word comes the power to respond to that word, and to carry it out. Because of various factors, the study of scripture was not greatly emphasised or appreciated within Roman Catholic circles. It was seen as more of a Protestant thing, and it was something that ordinary lay persons could not be trusted with interpreting properly. That trend, thankfully, is now reversed, and this is an important part of the whole process of church renewal.

It is significant that they recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread. Breaking of bread among friends was a living symbol of friendship and belonging. What was special about the way Jesus broke the bread is something at which I can only hazard a guess. It must have been the whole atmosphere of self-giving that he invested in the act that revealed to them who he really was. There was a level of sincerity, of giving, of sharing, of sacredness that must have been unique to Jesus, and it must have been something they had experienced on previous occasions. This unique something touched their deepest hungers, and the nourishment provided was no longer just a physical thing. It was food that required them to open their hearts as well as their mouths to receive.

The only real sin for the Christian is not to have hope. Because of Jesus we already have the victory. We are a risen people, a people of power, and a people to whom Jesus has entrusted full authority over all the power of the evil one. Once again, all of this makes no difference whatever, unless I personally take possession of what Jesus offers me and makes possible for me. Again and again and again I am called on to repeat my own personal yes. The only yes in my whole life the Lord is interested in is my yes of now. Today's gospel is for today, and it is today that I need to become aware of his presence with me on the journey of life.

To what extent do I experience my presence at the Eucharist as being a genuine breaking of bread? As you know, familiarity can breathe contempt or, at best, can bring about a sense of routine where there is no great personal involvement, and where the actions and words can become lifeless and nothing more than superficial routine. (There is a story told about a bishop who dreamt he was preaching a sermon, and he woke up to discover that he was.) Like the disciples in today's gospel, the journey should bring me closer to revelation and to the experiential knowledge of the Lord. Life is a mystery to be lived rather than a problem to be solved. It is in the travelling of the journey that the revelation takes place. Life is a journey towards completion. We are a pilgrim people and, in the words of Paul, "We have not here a lasting city, but we wait for one that is to come."

Today's gospel is something that should be read and reflected on again and again. You can read it as often as you wish, but it will come alive for you only when you put yourself into the story; when you identify those areas of failure and discouragement in your life; when you face up to those areas and times of loneliness that you experience. There is a hole in the heart of each human being, and different people try different ways to fill that emptiness. Some try drugs, others try money, while others try to fill the emptiness by living it up. One of life's most costly lessons is to learn that these ways just don't work.

Supposing you were asked, by someone who knows nothing about Jesus or his message, what exactly the resurrection of Jesus means to you in your own life, and on a personal basis. What would your answer be? It would be a great blessing to be able to give a ready and convincing reply to such a question. Peter writes that we "should always have an explanation to give those who ask us the reason for the hope that we have." Both in life, and in facing up to the reality of death, I can give witness to Christian hope. I know a person who will not read a newspaper or listen to a news bulletin before midday, because the news is usually bad news, and he doesn't want to begin his day by taking on board all the bad news from around the world. I'm not advising or advocating that anybody should do this; because it is precisely in the midst of all this that the Christian is expected to give witness to hope, to good news, to victory.

What would it mean to you if I challenged you to take full and personal responsibility for what happens within you as you come here to Mass? How do you think you would do that? Where would you begin? In what way do you think your eyes could be opened, and that you would personally recognise the presence of the Lord? Jesus is a personal God. He asks personal questions. "Who do you say that l am? Will you also go away? Do you love me more than these?" I cannot continue to presume that Jesus is present somewhere within the community if I myself do not personally experience that presence. Mary and Joseph made that mistake one time. They presumed that Jesus was somewhere in the crowd, and they were home before they realised that he had remained back in Jerusalem. It's so easy for any of us to take things for granted, but, when it comes to Jesus and his message, that possibility must be faced up to with sincerity, with a sense of personal mission and commitment.



STM QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday, May 10th at 7pm.

In the church hall.

Shared supper.

Tickets will be on sale again after both Masses this weekend

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Monthly Area Youth Mass! Saturday 10th May 6-8pm
Here at Saint Thomas More's.
Come and join us for our Monthly Area Youth Mass and social!
"From the Eucharist comes strength to live the Christian life and zeal to share that life with others" -Blessed John Paul II

(Most) Weekly Youth Holy Hour! 14th, 21st & 28th May 6 - 7pm at Corpus Christi
(757 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH7 6AN) Need some peace in the middle of your busy week of school, college, uni or work? Come along and make some new friends at this beautiful time of prayer.

Big Church Day Out! 24th & 25th May at Wiston House, West Sussex
Get in touch if you're interested in joining 20,000 people at this Christian music festival! They're looking to get more Catholics involved and are offering half price tickets to our group! www.bigchurchdayout.com
From Will Hince 07810827606 whince@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A Week of Accompanied prayer **Sunday 11th – Saturday 17th May**
Please make a note of the dates **Sunday 11th – Saturday 17th May** when there will be the opportunity to take part in a week of individually accompanied prayer based around St. Joseph's Christchurch. This week will be an opportunity to experience a guided retreat in the midst of your daily life, without the need to stay away from home. If you would like to know more contact Chris c/o St Joseph's church.

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The next **Fabric and Finance meeting** will be on Tuesday, 6th May, at 7.00pm. (Change from original date.)

Parish Financial Update

	Jan 2014	Feb 2014		Mar2014
Income	4592.03	3644.20		4058.14
Expenditure	3205.42	5363.92		6577.07
Balance	1386.61	(1719.72)	(2518.93)	
Acc.	1386.61	(333.11)	(2852.04)	
WEEKLY OFFERINGS				
Wk 1		414.65		441.46
Wk 2	496.69	363.54		430.75
Wk 3	397.85	412.34		414.79
Wk 4	422.74	439.37		479.49
Wk 5				505.09
Average	442.31	407.47		454.32
Totals	1769.24	1629.90		2271.58
S/O	144.92	144.92		144.92

BANK ACCOUNTS	**Current**	**£9,666.68**
	St. Edmund	**£1,613.67**
OTHER FUNDS	**Living Our Faith Funds**	**£6,605.00**

From the Diocese: Sign up for Portsmouth Diocese E-News

Keep up to date with what's happening in the diocese. The diocesan e-news comes out once a week – latest events, photos, videos. Sign up on www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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 or the Annunciation Church		

ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY BANK HOLIDAY OPEN DAY : 5th May 10am - 4pm
Food …. Stalls …. Games …. Activities….. *Come with your family and meet the Sisters.*
St Dominic's Priory, Shirley Holms Road, Lymington, SO418NH

MUSICAL MANIA 5 : A concert of songs from stage & screen, plus St Thomas Garnet School Choir. Sunday 18th May at 7.30pm The de la Salle theatre, St Peter's School, Southbourne. Tickets £15 & £12.50 Concessions (OAP'S & under14's) Family Offer! 2 Adult tickets & 2 Concessions for £50 if you book by 7th May. Box office: 01425 276801 In aid of St Thomas Garnet school and the Lewis-Manning hospice

OLD SPECTACLES REQUIRED! The Lay members of the ACI family of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart are collecting unwanted spectacles for the Sister's mission in the Cameroon. We meet at 11am every last Monday of the month at the convent at 6 Parkwood Road, Boscombe. All are welcome. Please your old specs in the box on the 'free table'. Thanks.

MIDSUMMER FAYRE : Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church (15 Salisbury Road, Fordingbridge SP6 1EG). In the church hall and garden. Saturday June 21st, 11am - 2pm. Fun for all the family! Relax in the garden and on the patio with a Pimms or a soft drink. Enjoy something from the BBQ or a cream tea or cake. Stalls include plants, cakes, bric a brac, gifts, tombola, toys and games, bottle stall, raffle and more. There will also be an art exhibition and sale by the church art group.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH SUMMER FETE: Saturday 28th June at 2pm.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: The Bournemouth Ordinariate's pilgrimage to Walsingham is from 27th to 30th June and will be led by Father Darryl and Mgr. Edwin Barnes. The pilgrimage includes half-board accommodation, transport by coach and use of the coach during our stay and a visit to historic Clare Priory on the return journey : cost £215 (child under 16 £155). For more information, please ring Madeleine c/o Our Lady Queen of Peace church.

THE BLESSED JOHN PAUL II PILGRIMAGE: 7th -10th August. 50 mile walk from Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham, led by the Dominican Sisters from Sway. The cost is £55 each - £45 a head for families. It includes everything (food and lodging) from Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham.

MEDJUGORJE 2014 : An Avon Stour/Bournemouth area pilgrimage. 15-22 September 2014. From Gatwick. £529 (twin room), £649 (single room) + insurance. See poster in porch. Contact: Barry and Jo c/o Corpus Christi church.

THANK YOU **for the offerings** **26th/27th April**

Envelopes & Cash : £ 304.65

Standing Orders : £ 144.93 **Total : £ 449.58**

Easter Collection : £ 540 . 36 ***Thank you!***

