



2 October 2011

27th Sunday of

Ordinary Time

Year A

North West Hampshire Catholic News

Weekly Newsletter

Serving the parishes of Andover, Basingstoke, Hook,
Tadley and Kingsclere

Priests serving the area

Fr. Dominic Golding, Co-ordinating Pastor, Basingstoke & Hook

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Fr. Dom. Austin Gurr OSB, Tel: 01264 352829, Andover

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Deacons serving the area

Deacon Anthony Cairns, Tel: 0118 982 1511,

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Thought for the week

The feast of St. Francis of Assisi is celebrated on 4th October—this Tuesday. Pope Benedict XVI visited the Saint's hometown in June 2007. There he venerated the crucifix of St. Damian before which St. Francis heard the words that changed his whole life: "Go, Francis, and repair my house".

In his homily at the Eucharist that day the Holy Father considered the figure of St. Francis, who in his first 25 years of life "pursued vain dreams of worldly glory". However, "his conversion led him to practice mercy. Serving lepers even to the point of kissing them was not only a philanthropic gesture – what might be called a 'social' conversion – but a true religious experience, directed by the initiative of grace and by the love of God". "To convert ourselves to love is to pass from bitterness to 'sweetness', from sadness to true joy. Humans are truly themselves in as much as they live with God and of God, recognizing and loving Him in their fellow man". "The life of the converted Francis", said the Pope, was "a great act of love", as is shown by "his choice of poverty and his search for Christ in the face of the poor".

The Pope's words are an encouragement to us all to imitate St. Francis. Are we willing to engage in an ongoing conversion to Christ, or do we consider ourselves fully converted? How far are we ready to search for Christ in the faces of those we regard as inferior to us? When did we last practice mercy? Where might the initiative of grace, that amazing gift of God, be suggesting we go today? From those we claim our spiritual masters we can learn so much. Let's not be afraid to keep learning.

Fr. Dominic Golding

The Pastoral Area Website: www.nwhantspa.org.uk has links to all Pastoral Area Churches

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS(2-8 October)

These are arranged so that in the course of a year we pray for each parish of our Diocese and the Catholic organisations working here. This week's intentions are: **Sun:** Parish of St Theresa of the Child Jesus, Totton. **Mon:** All Franciscan Sisters in the Diocese (of St Mary of the Angels, of the Divine Motherhood, Missionaries of Mary). **Tues:** Community of Holy Ghost, Crowthorne; Parish of St Francis of Assisi, Milford-on-Sea. **Wed:** Community of St Bernard, Holbury. **Thu:** Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes & St Dominic Savio, Farnborough. **Fri:** Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, North Hinksey. **Sat:** Confraternity of the Rosary.

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Understanding the Mass

A six week series of talks every Thursday until 20th October. At St Bede's at 7.30pm. Topics include: The Profession of Faith & Prayers of the Faithful; The Liturgy of the Eucharist & The Eucharistic Prayer; The Communion and Concluding Rites. Led by Fr Dominic, Fr Mark and Mr Michael Whitty. Come and understand why we do what we do when we gather to celebrate the sacred mysteries of the Mass.

The new translation of the Missal

How might we move beyond the words?

Fr. Paul Turner, an internationally renowned liturgical expert, will explore these questions *on Sunday 9th October, 2-6.30pm at Bishop Challoner School, Basingstoke RG22 6SR*. Cost £5. More details at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone Nicky Stevens at the Dept. for Pastoral Formation 01329 835583.

Silver Service in Association with CAFOD

Chris Olding celebrates 25 years at the organ bench with his favourite music, stories and songs. Featuring: Natalie Fairhurst (soprano), Nathan Fenton (baritone) and St Bede's Choir. Friday, 14th October at 7.30pm. Free Admission. At St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke. www.wheatsheafmusic.co.uk.

"Social for Somalia (famine relief)"

Saturday 8th October 2011 in the Hall at Bishop Challoner School, 7:30 – 10:30pm. Live band (Smoke n Fire) Supper provided/Licensed Bar. Tickets £10 per head. Contact: Cinty Lake.

'Journey to the Light' Concert

Gerry Coates, popular Catholic Singer and Poet, returns to St John the Baptist Hall on Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm performing his Christian acoustic songs and poems. Described by some as a foot tapping musical mission in musical styles to suit all tastes, Gerry's concert supports the work of CAFOD and the present crisis famine in Africa. Admission is free, donations to CAFOD. To reserve a seat please sign the list in the back of the Church porch in Andover or give the Parish Office a ring on 01264 352829.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Please support this on 7 October. Thank you for your prayers and generosity shown to our East Africa appeal this summer. Although this collection follows on very soon from the appeal, it is absolutely crucial as it will be used to support the life-saving work of all our other partners across the world. For more information, please go to www.cafod.org.uk/fastday

Pastoral Area Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Last week we received formal confirmation that the North West Hampshire Pastoral Area has been awarded a grant from the Diocesan Living Our Faith fund for the ongoing formation of the laity to enable us to appoint a Youth Ministry Co-ordinator to work in our area for a three-year period. This week we advertise the position.

North West Hampshire Catholic Pastoral Area

Applications are invited for the new post of Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Building on the foundations of a successful two-year pastoral area World Youth Day 2011 project, involving a team of youth and adult volunteers from across its five parishes, the NW Hampshire Pastoral Area now wishes to appoint a full-time Youth Ministry Co-ordinator to work in our pastoral area and further develop youth ministry. The aims of the role will be to work with the young people of our community, aged 11-25: to help them develop their relationship with God; to nurture their faith, individually and as part of the Catholic community; and to develop youth leaders across the pastoral area. Full details of the role and the skills and experience we seek may be found in the job description and person specification in the application pack.

Salary range: £20,000 - £22,000 pa (depending on qualifications and experience).

The post will be mainly funded for a three-year period by a grant from our Diocesan Living Our Faith fund.

Hours of work: 35 hours per week worked flexibly, but will include evening and weekend working.

Enhanced CRB disclosure is a condition of employment.

Deadline for receipt of applications: Monday 31 October at 12 noon. Interviews: Monday 21 November.

To receive an application pack, please email recruitment@nwhantspa.org.uk or download a pack from the