

The Messenger

St Michaels Church, (SM) Langdown Lawn, Hythe SO45 5GR
St Bernard's Church, (SB) Southbourne Ave, Holbury, SO45 2NT

1st January 2012

Mary, Mother of God - Divine Office: Wk 2

Sun	1 st	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Mon	2 nd	No Service (Liturgy: Memorial, Ss Basil & Gregory)
Tues	3 rd	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Tues of Christmastide before Epiphany, or optnl Memorial, The Holy Name of Jesus)
Wed	4 th	10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst (Liturgy: Wed of Christmastide before Epiphany)
Thurs	5 th	10.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst (Liturgy: Thurs of Christmastide before Epiphany)
Fri	6 th	No Service (Liturgy: Fri of Christmastide before Epiphany)
Sat	7 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Sat of Christmastide before Epiphany, or optnl Memorial, St Raymond of Penafort, Religious)
Sun	8 th	The Epiphany 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, For Altar Servers, Win & John Cocker (Wedding Anniv), Tony & Irene O'Connell (Wedding Anniv), deceased members of the Gallagher & Collins families

For the week beginning 8th January: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Tony & Simone Cluett (Wedding Anniv), Yvonne Mulvenney (B'day), Ann Candri RIP Anniv, Nita Manghan RIP Anniv, Eileen Simpson RIP Anniv

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Pastoral Team: Rev David Adams (Parish Priest)
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon & Chair Parish Pastoral Council) (023 8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office, Angel House,
6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR
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New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am
Geo House (Ashurst) - Sun 9am
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am, (Holy Day Vigil 7pm)

New Forest Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: Lymington and New Milton at 6pm
Sunday: Milford on Sea at 8:30am, New Milton at 10am,
Lymington at 11:30am, Brockenhurst at 6pm

Mary, Mother of God

From early centuries Mary has been known as *Theotokos*, a Greek word meaning God-bearer. This title emerged, not so much from a pre-occupation with Mary herself, but more from a concern to know Jesus.

The early Church struggled to clarify its understanding of the mystery of Jesus. One of the great discussions was about the nature of Jesus. Was he God appearing to be human? Was he a super-human who had god-like qualities? Eventually the Church refined its language & concepts through the work of significant theologians (e.g. Athanasius, Basil & the two Gregorys *et alia*) and by the process of Council meetings (e.g. Nicea, Constantinople, Ephesus, Chalcedon). Jesus is understood to be truly God & man. God is believed to be One God in Three "Persons", the Trinity. This understanding of Jesus also led to a deeper appreciation of the place of Mary, his mother. Mary gives the Christ his humanity, his human form. The Christ bestows upon humanity his Divine nature.

When we speak of Mary as "Mother of God" we are referring to the Christ as the eternal Son of the Father, the eternal Word, (the Mind, the Blueprint, the Intelligence) of the Father. Mary is not in any sense Mother of God the Father. She is Mother of the human being Jesus who is the Word made flesh. The union of the human and Divine in Jesus is such that we speak of there being only one "Person". (We need to be careful here to understand the word "person" in its original sense as crafted by the early theologians & Councils. Modern psychological concepts of "person", useful in other contexts, may be theologically misleading).

This celebration of Mary, Mother of God, relates to some very important issues in Christian life and thought. The first one is the virginal conception of Jesus which is a big obstacle for the secular, scientific mind of today. There is, however, a powerful Scriptural witness to this in Matthew, Luke & John. John sums it up particularly well: "...born, not of blood, or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God". Later medieval teachings of the "direct infusion of the human soul by God" offer perhaps some possibilities of a reconciliation between received doctrine & contemporary scientific presumptions.

The other major issues are the spiritual meaning of virginity, the reconciliation of the flesh/spirit dichotomy and the role of the feminine in Divine revelation. Needless to say, these issues are all interdependent. Inherited and still prevailing attitudes to the social & ecclesiastical place of women, to priesthood, to marriage, to sexuality & the body have a strange & complicated relationship to the Divine motherhood of Mary & the true humanity of the Christ. What made sense or seemed consistent with ancient cultural, philosophical and theological frameworks can seem very vulnerable when viewed from the broader cultural, scientific, philosophical & theological frameworks prevalent today. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Marion Butler, Barbara Coughlan, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Ken Hemmings, Patrick Martin. Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Ann Wilton, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

WATERSIDE FINANCE COMMITTEE: There is a meeting of the Waterside Finance Committee scheduled for Thursday, 12th January, at 7.30pm in the meeting Room at St Michael's.

WATERSIDE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 19th January, at 7.30pm in the meeting Room at St Michael's.

A BIG THANKYOU: from Fr David & Linda for all the prayers, cards & kind gifts from everyone at this Christmas time. And a **BIG THANKYOU for the very generous CHRISTMAS OFFERING this year:** What you give voluntarily forms part of the parish priest's annual income. Your generosity in difficult financial circumstances is greatly appreciated. If you want further information about how priests are financially supported please read the leaflet at the back of church.

AN EVEN BIGGER THANKYOU: To everyone who has helped to prepare the churches for our Christmas celebrations, cleaners, flower arrangers, sacristans, singers, musicians, children's liturgy leaders & helpers, carol service planners & readers & ministers of Holy Communion & altar servers.

CRIB OFFERINGS: over the period will go to Christian communities in the Holy Land courtesy of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This is in accordance with a Diocesan directive.

THANK YOU: to Win & the ladies who worked very hard to make the Christmas Lunch as great success for everyone. Everyone enjoyed the good food and great company. The event raised £142.50p for CAFOD from the raffle & the CAFOD donation map. Thank you everyone.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

FOR CHURCH READERS: Refresher session to be led by Rev Kevin O'Brien, Parish Priest of Totton on Saturday, 3rd March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst)

FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: Refresher session led by Rev David Adams, on Saturday, 17th March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst).

THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL: We are planning a parish/pastoral area outing to experience this amazing dramatization of the life of Christ. This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. More information to follow.

CAFOD EVENING on Saturday 14 January St Bernard's Hall at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy a social evening and find out how your donations to CAFOD are used. Admission of £2 covers a free glass of wine or juice; please bring a plate of food for the buffet. Raffle. Chase away the January blues!

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: At this time of year don't forget items for Waterside Foodbank. The Foodbank accepts any tinned or dried food as long as it is still in date. The Foodbank provides for local individuals & families in crisis across the Waterside. During the first year some 3845.9kg of food was donated. 224 emergency boxes of food have been prepared meaning that 318 adults & 232 children have been fed throughout the year. And thanks to Terry, Louise & Theresa for getting donated items to the bank.

A BIG THANKS: to Tina & her merry band of helpers who worked so hard to make the Christmas Fayre a great success. Thankfully the weather was better than expected. The Fayre raised £2135.37p which is £474.28p up on last year. Well done everyone!

POINSETTIA REMEMBRANCES: This Sunday, New Year's Day and the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, Fr David will bless all the poinsettia plants and pray for all the people who are being remembered at this time.

ARE YOU SORTING through your wardrobes, cupboards & toy boxes to make room for those Christmas presents? Why not send the things you don't need to Faith, Hope & Charity, the parish shop. You will be helping parish funds. Remember if you have any clothes which aren't worth selling bag them up & put "Rags" on the bags. These can be sold for recycling.



(also known as St Joseph's, Ashurst) INTRODUCING an exciting new venture in the New Forest near to Southampton. VMM with its 40 plus years of experience in recruiting and motivating

lay people, has come together with the Montfort Missionaries to promote **Geo House** as a 'Centre for Global Mission and Integral Human Development'. The vision for the project is to provide a safe space for people wherever they are coming from—enabling personal growth, learning, deeper spirituality and exploring the demands of global justice.

This brochure, with its handy calendar, shows the variety of events we have planned for the first part of 2012. Remember that Geo House is also available for your private or group bookings

A schedule of professional skills training, such as health & safety/safeguarding will also be made available in 2012 to colleagues in religious congregations and church groups.

COPIES OF THE 2012 PROGRAMME ARE IN THE CHURCH PORCH

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882

