

The Messenger



All correspondence to:
The Parish Office,
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For St Bernard &
St Michael's Churches

St Michael's Church
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

1st FEBRUARY 2009
Year B
divine office Week 4

St Bernard's Church
Southbourne Avenue,
Holbury, SO45 2NT

Waterside Catholic Parish

PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams
Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)
Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

To contact The Parish Administrator based at St Michael's
call between 9am - 2pm daily (Mon, Tue, Wed)

For the ideal gift visit....

Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET
HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON
SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882



Volunteers Required in the shop
3 hours in the afternoons
3.4 hours in the mornings

For Sale

Mahogany Wall Unit
6'6" wide x 5'6" high
Glass Display Shelves, Wine
Cupboard, Cocktail Section and two
deep drawers. Excellent Condition
Dibden Purlieu: Tel: 023 80847469
(a small donation to the church to be made
if sold)

Learn something new this year - Try flute
or recorder lessons - come and learn in a
friendly warm environment. Con-
tact Laura Olden for more details
on



WATERSIDE YOUTH GROUP
Why not start the New Year with
Hythe Youth Club
Wednesdays 6.30-8.30pm
For transport and more
details Call Steve Smith -

Children's Liturgy

Rising 4 years to Year 2
(but younger welcome if accompanied)
9am Mass term-time.
Ring Joy O'Brien Tel 80848995



Win a Waitrose/John Lewis Voucher

Tickets on sale after Sunday Mass
at 9 & 11 am on 8th February
Draw taking place 1st March after
11 am Mass
** Tickets £1 **



PARISH SERVICES

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	1	9 am	SB	Mass: 4th Sunday Ordinary Time (Liam Power RIP Anniv)
		11 am	SM	Mass: 4th Sunday Ordinary Time (Ann & Jim Matthieson RIP)
Tue	3	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: of the Day (John Quinn RIP)
Wed	4	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer and Mass: of the Day (People of the Parish)
Thur	5	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: St Agatha
Sat	7	10 am	SM	Mass: Our Lady on Saturday (People of the Parish)
		11 am		Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30am)

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	8	9 am	SB	Mass: 5th Sunday Ordinary Time (Morgan Netto RIP)
		11 am	SM	Mass: 5th Sunday Ordinary Time (George Krzymuski RIP)

Forthcoming events...

ST MARTHA GROUP- SAT 7TH FEB 730pm: Bingo/Fish'n'Chips -
at St Bernards Hall £7.50. Tickets on sale after mass.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - FRIDAY 6TH MARCH: Women's World Day of
Prayer - Waterside Methodist Church, Dibden Purlieu 2pm - All Welcome

Information & Notices:

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2009: Fr David is
inviting young people from 12 yrs upwards, who have not yet been confirmed
to prepare for this sacrament. This sacrament is a celebration of God's Spirit in
their lives and an opportunity to make a more personal commitment to the
way of Jesus within the fellowship of our spiritual community. Names and
contact details can be given in person to Fr David or by phone, letter or email
to Fr David at the Parish Office.

CAFOD VOLUNTEER AWAY DAY - SAT 28th FEBRUARY: An opportunity for
all CAFOD volunteers to get together and hear about the upcoming international
Climate Change campaign, the next Lent Fast Day and find out about the plans
for the year ahead. To book ring 01252 329385.

ST BERNARDS CHURCH - CHILDREN - We are looking for a large (clean)
rug which can be rolled out for the children to use in the hall. If anybody has
anything suitable which they can use please contact the Parish Office on

THE AUTHORITY OF TRUTH, LOVE AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Jesus made a deep impression on people, he spoke and acted with authority. He was fearless and radical yet compassionate and sensitive at the same time. He had the energy and sometimes the anger of high idealism, as when he drove the traders from the Temple, but he never advocated or resorted to threat or to violence.

Jesus didn't talk of ideas about God but he spoke from deep personal experience – the experience of being “the Beloved”. Although he enjoyed this special intimacy with his Heavenly Father it was never something just for himself. He wanted to share this blessing with everyone and anyone who was willing to listen and receive it. Above all he came to give life and life in all its fullness. He was deeply grieved by what people suffered, whether through ignorance, sickness, sin or by the malice and heartlessness of others. So sure and unhesitating was he about God's will to bless people (this was his authority) that he healed and delivered many who had faith, and even then he didn't want to take the credit but assured people it was *their* faith that saved them.

Let us take a look at one difficult area – deliverance or the casting out of devils. How can we possibly make sense of this today? Firstly we recognise that with regard to “evil spirits” it is nearly impossible to think our way back into Jesus' time. This is because their cultural and religious framework took these things for granted. There was a very powerful cultural process of auto-suggestion. We don't know to what extent this cultural belief actually created the very entities it imagined. Even today some cultures which are scientifically primitive attribute illness to evil spirits while we would see the cause, for example, in something like dirty water.

Here we are grateful to Ockham's razor, *a principle attributed to the 14th-century English logician and Franciscan friar, William of Ockham. The principle states that the explanation of any phenomenon should make as few assumptions as possible, eliminating those that make no difference in the observable predictions of the explanatory hypothesis or theory* (courtesy Wikipedia). In other words look for the most simple explanation first before considering the most complicated, e.g. computer doesn't work – first check the plug! Look at the way the writer of the Letter of James talks about temptation, not as may be expected blaming the devil but using a more straightforward and immediate explanation: *No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death* (James 1:13-14). This is a very “modern” psychological way of understanding temptation.

So taking the most simple scenario (and leaving aside the huge complexities of mental health problems and their likely causes) from our point of view, using our cultural framework we could say, for example, that the negative and damaging experiences or relationships, particularly from childhood, can be repressed and forgotten to such an extent that they become dissociated, detached from the normal experience of the self. They then appear to have an alien and independent existence and energy. Jesus accepting and working within his own cultural and religious framework first of all communicates an unconditional and powerfully healing love which is ultimately God's love. So, again in our own terms, the person may experience it this way: If God loves me with all my shadow & problems then I can begin to accept myself and my shadow. The person can own their own shadow; the fractured area of the psyche is reintegrated within the self and so autonomy, freedom and responsibility can be brought to bear on the experience or relationship. So the “demon” vanishes like darkness before the coming dawn. (Cfr. St Thomas Aquinas who wrote that evil has no substance, no being in itself, but is only the absence of good.)

While it would be unwise and presumptuous to totally refuse the possibility of their existence or reality we don't need to grapple with the hugely complex questions regarding the meaning or nature of spiritual beings, entities or energies. We look for the simplest explanations first, only when these have been exhausted will we need to explore other possibilities. Some people say the devil's greatest trick is to convince people he doesn't exist. But this line of thinking risks “missing the wood for the trees”, so to speak. What we need to recognise and respond to is not the possible presence or activity of evil spirits but the very real, obvious presence and existence of evil right under our noses – the injustices, the hatreds, the anger, the greed, the lust, the irresponsibility that damage people and destroy God's world. As for harmful psychic energies, evil spirits and demons, we have Jesus' word: *“I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over the whole power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven* (Luke 10: 17-20). (DMA)