

# The Messenger

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

1<sup>st</sup> May 2011

## Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Office: Week 2

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels
Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: Memorial - St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor, 296 - 373)
Tues	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am SM Service of Word & Communion (Liturgy: Feast - Ss Philip & James, Apostles)
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: Feast - English Martyrs 1535 - 1680)
Thurs	5 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: of 2nd Week of Easter)
Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: of 2nd Week of Easter)
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: of 2nd Week of Easter)

## Third Sunday of Easter

Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am St Bernards 11.00am St Michaels
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**Mass Intentions: For this week:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian, Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Win Cocker (B'day), Ellen Pick (Intentions), baby Tyrell Rawes-Samuels (Health), Bill Feltham RIP, Mick Harrington RIP, Dorothy Minchington RIP, Gilbert Myland RIP, David Roberts RIP, John Weaver RIP

**For the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> April:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Vera West RIP Anniv

## New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am  
Ashurst Community - Sun 9am  
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am

## 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,  
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8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA  
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## SEEING AND BELIEVING: THOMAS

After the death of Jesus the identity of the disciples and the direction of their lives changes dramatically. Now they are a group of men whose shared fear keeps the company together, and whose only direction in life is to lock themselves into their own no-go area. After the death of Jesus their lives are rooted in fear.

It is into that desperation that the risen Christ comes: not to disown his disciples for abandoning him but to reclaim them with his peace. He shows himself to them. The resurrection doesn't make the marks of cruelty and suffering disappear: the risen Christ is *the wounded Christ*. He is Jesus who was crucified: the same. In his gift of peace the disciples experience great joy, and they are commissioned to share that joy when they release others from sin through the power of forgiveness. Again because of Christ, they have a new-found identity and a new direction to their lives. Now they have his Spirit.

Being absent from the community means that Thomas missed meeting the Lord, and when he returns he cannot bring himself to believe in the disciples' story. His doubt is that of a man who is committed to the truth. There is a sparkling authenticity about Thomas: he refuses to say that he can understand or believe when he can manage neither understanding nor belief. Thomas is brave enough to have the conviction of his doubts.

Later, the risen Christ appears again to his disciples and the purpose of the visit is clearly to pay attention to the doubt of Thomas – not to scorn it. Thomas is invited to inspect a wounded Jesus to discover the reality of the resurrection. But seeing Jesus is enough for Thomas, and he is the one who proclaims the basic Christian Credo: "My Lord and My God." As Thomas is fearless in voicing his doubts, he is quick to proclaim his faith, and in John's Gospel it is he who makes the most important affirmation about who Jesus is – that he is Lord and God.

In coming to believe in the risen Jesus the disciples experience a profound change: they become spirited followers of their Lord. They have seen the Lord, they have met him, they have eaten with him. They can testify to others from the authority of their own experience. As John says: "What we have seen and heard we are telling you so that you too may have fellowship with us as we have fellowship with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." (1 Jn. 1:3) The apostles have a unique place in the Church: they experienced Jesus at first hand and were authorised to be his witnesses.

But what about all those people who never met Jesus or heard him or touched him? Can we believe without seeing the Lord for ourselves? And *that* is why the story of Thomas is so important because it tells us that *it is possible to believe in Christ without having seen him*. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" is the teaching of the Gospel. And it is in the Lord that *we* have our identity as his followers and follow his direction in our lives. Like the apostles, because we believe in him, we know now *who* we are and *what* we must do. (From Denis McBride: Seasons of the Word).

(Book Recommendation: The Warmth of the Heart prevents your Body from Rusting - Ageing without growing old. By Marie de Hennezel, Rodale ISBN 978-1-905744-84-8, a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week)

For helpful spiritual reflections check out; Fr. Ron Rolheiser OMI. He is an internationally acclaimed writer, retreat giver & columnist. Go to [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com) for his weekly reflection & archives of those of past years.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Christina Drury, Mervyn Francis, Amanda Gudge, Doreen Holman, Joan Hopper, Ellen Pick, Joy Prestage, Norma Rudd, Eileen Shanley, Ronald Stevens, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:** Please keep Anna Lawes & Hannah Teague in your prayers as they begin preparation for Confirmation. They will be joining a group of young people from Totton on their programme & the celebration of the Sacrament will be at St Michaels on Thursday, June 30th at 7pm. The Sacrament will be conferred by Mgr Tom McGrath, Vicar General.

**PRAYER POTTERY :** The next Prayer Pottery will be on Tuesday, May 31st, at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michaels. It is a time for quiet prayer and reflection guided by Christine Olden. All are very welcome.

**A SPECIAL THANKS FROM FR DAVID** - Thank you all for the very generous Easter offering this year. Given the difficult financial circumstances of many people it is very much appreciated.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED US CELEBRATE LENT & EASTER:** To our deacons, Steve & Ian, to all who pray, to Tony & Irene for liturgical preparation & music, to our choir (St Michaels) & music arrangers (St Bernards), to our Servers, to Ministers of Holy Communion & Readers, to Childrens Liturgy Catechists, to our Welcomers, to Cleaners, Flower Arrangers, Collectors & Collection Auditors & all helpers.

**WATERSIDE FOOD BANK:** There is a continuing need for regular donations of food for Waterside Foodbank. Especially in these times of economic difficulty, there is a growing number of individuals and families suffering hardship through redundancy, illness, unemployment, homelessness, etc. Collection boxes are in the foyers of St Michael's and St Bernard's churches, with leaflets listing the types of food needed. We are in Lent - the ideal time to be generous to those in need, and to resolve to continue to donate regularly throughout the year ahead.

## APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS - PARISH SHOP:

As you know the parish depends heavily on the Faith, Hope & Charity shop for financial support. At the moment volunteers are needed to cover a couple of mornings. It's a service to the parish, its meeting people and its having fun with Tina & the great team of volunteers. A regular commitment is what is needed, once a week, once a fortnight or once a month for Thursdays 9.30am - 1pm &/or Saturdays 9.30am - 1.30pm. A share arrangement with a friend would also be possible. Training & support given.

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - WATERSIDE METHODIST FELLOWSHIP:

This will take place on Wednesday, 4th May 2011, at 2.30pm, at the Methodist Church, North Road, Dibden Purlieu. The Speaker will be Gloria Lewis and the soloist will be Mrs Valerie Mead. There will be refreshments afterwards. If you wish to attend please advise Jackie Aberly on 023-8084-8610



**CAFOD - CARD CAMPAIGN** Our CAFOD parish group will soon be inviting us to take part in a new CARD CAMPAIGN. CAFOD are asking the Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, to back small businesses so that people can raise themselves out of poverty.

**GREAT SOUTH RUN** – Do you enjoy a challenge? Would you like to help CAFOD in a different way this year? We are looking for runners to take part in the Great South Run in Portsmouth on Sunday 30 October (10 miles), or, if you are aged 3-8 or 9-15, in the Mini (1.5 km) and Junior (2.5 km) Great South Runs! We will be there on the day to cheer you on! For more information and/or to register please contact Sian Hughes: shughes@cafod.org.uk or 020 7095 5333

**THANKS TO THE MARTHA GROUP & STEVE BOWLER** for a great **QUIZ NIGHT**. £282 was raised for the parish. Thanks to those who contributed raffle prizes. The raffle raised £82 on the night.

**PLANT SALE:** The annual plant sale will be held on the 14th May 2011. There will be a Raffle, Cake Stall, hand-made Card stall & a hand-made Jewellery stall. Raffle prizes gratefully received. Oh yes - and pray for good weather. Any queries or offers of help to Veronica Chadwick tel. 80897458

**JUST LISTEN!** Because we have 2 ears we think that we listen well. We may hear well, but do we listen effectively?

On **Saturday, 14th May, 10.30am – 3.30pm (coffee from 10.00am)**, the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation will provide an introduction to listening skills called 'Just Listen'.

It will be of interest to anyone who would like to explore how to listen more effectively. Can you spare time to listen to others? Do you visit the sick or house bound? Are you a Catechist helping with Children's Liturgy, or preparing children for Holy Communion or Confirmation? Do you listen to others who come to you with problems? Then this day is for you.

**Cost: £7.50.** Advance booking is essential. Please bring a packed lunch (tea and coffee will be provided)

Booking forms are available from Fr David. If you would like to go but don't have transport, please let Fr David know as he may be able to pair you up with someone else who is attending.

**Venue: St. Edward the Confessor, 191-193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2DU**

## SOUTH HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC CLUSTER SCHOOLS

There will be a celebration of the Year of Catholic Education at St George Catholic College, Southampton on Thursday, 26th May with Mass at 6.30pm followed by cheese & wine & a race night. All proceeds will go to CAFOD. If you would like to attend let Fr David know at the Parish Office as space is limited.

## ROTARY CLUB - SPRING BAND CONCERT 2011:

This will feature the Waterside Youth Orchestras and will take place at Waterside Theatre, Holbury on Sunday, 22nd May at 3.00pm with a break for cold drinks & biscuits. The event will finish at 5pm. If you wish to attend please notify Leslie Sharpe on 80-424240 by Wednesday, 11th May.