

Eat, drink and be merry...

'Eat, drink and be merry,' says the rich man to himself. We almost automatically supply the proverbial conclusion: 'for tomorrow we die'. The prophetic critique of the lifestyle of the rich and reckless is a common biblical theme, and it's not surprising in this context that the self-satisfied farmer is about to meet a sticky end.

It's not comfortable reading in the height of the holiday season, because it addresses attitudes that govern much of our modern Western existence. The world we live in seems an increasingly insecure place: we're continually reminded of the menace of terrorism; ongoing conflicts around the globe seem insoluble; and climate change, which is exacerbated by our Western lifestyle, also threatens the survival of that same way of life.

And what is our response in the face of these dangers? It is to put our trust in acquisition. The more we have, the more secure we feel. Our consumer culture constantly encourages us to want more, to acquire more, to keep up to date with the 'must-haves' of today. A recent trend among the young urban rich is to rent warehouse space to store their possessions so that their city apartments appear fashionably uncluttered. It all sounds reminiscent of the man in today's Gospel.

The rich fool doesn't supply the ending of the proverb, because his own mortality has never entered his mind. He can enjoy the present, for his wealth gives him the assurance that the future too will be bright. The rich tend to think that they are in command of their own lives, whereas those who live close to poverty may have a truer realisation of their dependency on others, and on circumstances beyond their control. But in the words of a contemporary of Jesus, the Roman philosopher Seneca, 'How foolish it is to plan out the years ahead when you are not even master of tomorrow.'

And the rich man is about to encounter a short, sharp shock. It is also a shock to those who hear the parable, because this is a unique occurrence in the Gospels – the only occasion when God himself appears in a parable and speaks. The intention is to convey an essential truth about human existence. However rich and successful we may be, however much we may have surrounded ourselves with the security of wealth and possessions, we cannot be in control of the future.

At some point, all of us will realise that our supreme security, our ultimate fulfilment is something that we cannot achieve through our own efforts. Sometimes that only happens when we experience some kind of disruption in our lives, a 'short, sharp shock' of one sort or another. The parable today gives us due warning, and, unlike the rich fool, the opportunity to reflect before it is too late. As Paul says, it's time to 'put on a new self', and to make ourselves rich in the sight of God.

(From *Priests and People* by Fr. Peter Edwards)

The Messenger

St Michael's Church,
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

1st august 2010
Year C
divine office WK 2

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

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sun	1	9 am	SB	18th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	18th Sunday of the Year
		6 pm	SM	18th Sunday of the Year
Tue	3	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass
Wed	4	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass
Thu	5	10 am	LT	Morning Prayer & Mass
Sat	7	10 am	SM	Mass
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30
Sun	8	9 am	SB	19th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	19th Sunday of the Year
		3 pm	SB	Baptism— Megan Maisie Cross
		6 pm	SM	19th Sunday of the Year

Mass Intentions:

For the week beginning 1st Aug: *Bridget Adams-Auger RIP, Kathleen Cummins RIP, Herbert Sans RIP, Leanne Martin (Health), Fred Warrilow RIP Anniv*

For the week beginning 8th Aug: *People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, deceased clergy of the Province*

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) (8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office,
Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe SO45 5GR

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Trevor Handol, Amanda Gudge, Jenny Lauder, Bridget Reeves, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 9am Mass is taking a summer break. However, on Sundays when Clare's around she'll still lead a session if wanted. Otherwise, if any parents wish to take their children (aged 2-7) out as usual, or to stay in but keep them occupied, some very easy Gospel-related activity sheets will be at the back of St B's. (Please keep the sheets but return pencils etc.)

CHILDREN'S MASS: On Sunday, Sept 26th the 9am Mass at St Bernard's will be geared more especially for children. We will be asking our young people to do the readings for that Mass so if anyone is already on the Rota for that Sunday please be ready to hand over to the children. We hope to do this once a month subsequently.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CLERGY & PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO FAR TO THE DIOCESAN FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN - "LIVING OUR FAITH".

The parish total for pledges and donation is just under £40,000. This is very good considering the parish's recent history. It is just under half our target. So once again thanks to everyone who helped with the fund raising as a team member and thanks to all who have been able to contribute in one way or another.

If you are still considering whether you can make a contribution, please return the pledge form to Fr David when you have made your decision.

THANKS TO DAVID & EDITH GALE: They have kindly donated an electric wheelchair to the parish to be made available for anyone who needs it. This is now on loan to Pat Gallanagh.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE: Copies of the latest edition are available at the back of the churches.

JAZZ EVENING: We are grateful to Mike Slipper who will be organising another Jazz evening in October, the date will be confirmed shortly. We are grateful also to the Martha group who will be organising the refreshments for that evening.

CAFOD: ACT ON POVERTY— Please complete a card if you haven't done so already & hand it in to Louise Croll or Fr David.

WALK the WORLD - Join us at 10am on Saturday 28 August 2010 at Immaculate Conception, Bells Lane, Stubbington for Walk the World - an 8 mile sponsored walk around Stubbington and the Lee on Solent area to raise funds for World Youth Day and CAFOD. For more information and to register your place by 16 August contact Dave Hill at the Department of Pastoral Formation on 01329 835583. Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from <http://cafodportsmouth.wordpress.com>

PAPAL VISIT: We have now finalised the list of names of people from our pastoral area who wish to attend one or other of the Papal events. I will be contacting people in due course to collect the ticket money. I am very grateful to Louise Croll who will be acting as Pilgrim Leader for the Hyde Park Prayer Vigil and to Rev Stephen Short who will be Pilgrim Leader for the Cofton Park Mass for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman.

Waterside Food Bank - changes to 'Shopping List'

The Food Bank does not need the following tinned items at present as it has a good supply, and it needs to keep stock 'in date' - Soup, baked beans, or Fruit. The revised lists are with the collection boxes, and all the other items on the list are still very welcome.

Thank you for your continued generous support for this scheme which provides emergency help for individuals and families in crisis in the area.

Offers Invited for:

Men's Leather Jacket Chest 38" dark Brown vgc
Rucksack, Berghaus vgc
Men's Regatta Jacket and Trousers, brand new size M/L
Carpet woollen 12' x 9'6 warm colours, vgc.
Tel: Mrs Butler 02380 849157