

All correspondence to:

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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

1ST NOVEMBER 2009
Year B
divine office wk 3

St Michael's Church
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

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

PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: **Fr David Adams**

Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)


Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

Parish Administrator: Helen Hughson

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

PARISH SERVICES

ALL SAINTS

Sun	1	9 am	SB	Mass: All Saints	
		11 am	SM	Mass: All Saints	
Tue	3	10 am	SM	Mass: Of the Day	
Wed	4	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: St Charles Borromeo	
Thur	5	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: Of the Day	
Sat	7	10 am	SM	Mass: Our Lady on Saturday followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30 am)	

HOLY SOULS / REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sun	8	9 am	SB	Mass: Holy Souls / Remembrance Sunday
		11 am	SM	Mass: Holy Souls / Remembrance Sunday

For the Ideal Gift visit
Faith, Hope & Charity

8 ST JOHN'S STREET
HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON
SO45 6DA
Tel: 80207882

***This week we will be offering Masses for:***

People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Dot Manghan RIP, Peter Mulvenney RIP Anniv, Brigid Timmons RIP, Nicholas Tomaselli RIP Anniv

Next week (8th November) we will be offering Masses for: *All the Departed, deceased of the Mulvenney & Brown families & Eric Parker RIP*

BECOMING WHAT WE ALREADY ARE

There is a disturbing truth about holiness. It is not that holiness is very difficult, or that it requires heroic self-sacrifice or that you have to be born in the right place, at the right time and with the right background.

The disturbing truth is almost the opposite of the above. Holiness is very simple. It requires nothing more than the acceptance of a child. The giving of it, far from being hedged around with awkward conditions, is totally unconditional, indiscriminate, lavish and undeserved. What is more disturbing is that it is already here, already fully given. Every grace, every virtue, every blessing, every healing, every joy that we could even dare to imagine, even the impossible things, all these have already been given to us in Jesus Christ (2 Cor 1:20). And Christ is not far away from us but actually our true and deepest identity. In other words everything we could aspire to is already within us and already is us. It is the *treasure hidden in the field* for which we let go all else because it just cannot compare to it.

Why do I say this is disturbing? It is because something so wonderful, good news so great is so close to us and yet we are, most of the time, blind to it and unaware of it. John tells us: *We are already the children of God.* Our task is to become what we already are. This is not difficult. God does all the hard work we have only to let ourselves be carried there, back to our true selves which is Christ.

This spiritual journey is along the way of the cross, the way of contradictions and paradoxes. It is the way of dying to the false self in order to rise and live in the true self. It is about falling and rising, losing and finding. The journey embraces reality in all its dimensions. It is a journey inward to discover the God self within, the Christ within. It is also a journey outward to engage with the world and with others, because everything is encompassed by the mystery of God. Paul writes: *Christ is in everything, Christ is everything* (Col 3:11). This is the true reality.

Even though Paul at one time murdered and persecuted the early Christians he was given to see that deep within he had a spiritual self which delighted in God's will. Mother Julian of Norwich, the 14th century English contemplative wrote: *there is in every soul ... a godly will that never has assented to sin and never will.* This is Christ within us, God's being shared with us.

Our striving for holiness is necessary as an expression of our good will and so that we might learn that holiness is NOT achieved by our own efforts but only by grace working through an accepting and surrendered heart. (cfr Philippians 3: 7-13). The task of holiness is to receive this precious gift of grace and live in its power and light. God looks on us with tremendous love and tenderness, it is a love graciously given, undeserved, unmerited which flows over us whether we are good or wicked. Prayer opens the door and enables us to look back at God and receive that love with joyful gratitude & confidence. Just one glimpse of that love will change our lives forever, sin will begin to lose its power over us and freedom and joy will grow. (DMA)

Total Roof Fund collected to date

£7398.86

(Target - £13500)

Thank you all, for your continued generosity

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Iris Bolton, Nigel Bolton, Kath Breen, Anne Candrl, Petra Daniels, Dave Donoghoe, Pat Gallanagh, Trixie Johnson, Stuart King, Jane McClatchey, Joan Olden, Lisa Parker, Bridget Reeves, Jack Smith. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.) **THANKS FOR PRAYERS:** Good news re: Teddy Mana Blake (2 yr old with tumour on liver). The chemotherapy & prayers have shrunk the tumour and it is now operable. Please keep the prayers going.

MASS COUNTS: The average Mass attendance at St Bernards during October was 85; the average attendance at St Michael's was 89.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: For Bamenda, our twin Diocese in the Cameroons. See the information leaflet at the back of church for more details.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents of baptised children who are in Yr 3 at primary school please contact Fr David if you wish your child to make their 1st Holy Communion next year. The child must be supported in their preparation by at least one Catholic parent.

CLIMATE JUSTICE: URGENT ACTION NEEDED BY ALL - 2009 is a crucial year for a global Climate Change Agreement. **What YOU can do:** Join Climate Justice Mass Mobilisation in London on 5th December: THE WAVE: Archbishop Vincent Nichols and Archbishop of Canterbury are among speakers. More information on <http://www.cafod.org.uk/copenhagen>. Copies of article by Cardinal Keith O'Brien in the porch.

CAFOD SPONSORED SOUTH RUN: Many thanks to Cathy & Marcus Smith who completed the run in excellent time. Please now return your sponsorship money in the yellow envelopes marked "CAFOD RUN" available at the back of the churches.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8th NOV Traditionally Remembrance Sunday is a day to remember all those killed or injured in conflicts around the world. On Remembrance Sunday this year, we will *also* be remembering all the departed & all our friends and relatives who have died. When you come into the **11a.m. Mass at St Michael's** please write the names of your loved ones on the paper provided and put it in the basket. The basket of names will be taken up in the offertory procession. Readings for Sunday Masses will be as for All Souls (Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 26; Romans 5: 5-11; Mark 15:33-39; 16: 1-6).

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST BERNARDS: starting again on 8th Nov at 9am Mass. Also help required for Children's Liturgy at 9am Mass. If you would be willing to give Clare and Hilary a hand in leading the sessions, we'd love to hear from you. Call Hilary on 023 8084 3173.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: will meet on Thursday, 12th November, 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's. The committee members are: Francis Waddington, Angela Falder, Carmel McClatchey and Fr David.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: will meet on Thursday, 19th November, 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE, NOVEMBER 21st 10.00 – 15.00 at St John's Hall, Hythe. **PLEASE SUPPORT THE PARISH** with donations of unwanted gifts, alcohol for Bottle stall, cakes or preserves for the cake stall. All will be gratefully received. Please leave donations at St Bernard's, St Michael's or at Faith Hope & Charity Shop. THANK YOU. And please remember to sell those Raffle Tickets!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED LADIES NIGHT LAST WEDNESDAY: and thanks to all from the Martha Group for organising the event and providing refreshments. £92 was raised for parish funds. Well done everyone!

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Frank Connaughton for looking after the grounds around St Michael's for the last 3 years. Frank has done a great job & is now taking a well-earned rest.

QUIET DAY for People who have suffered significant loss or bereavement: Saturday, 7th November, 10.30-4pm (Coffee from 10am) Wisdom House, Romsey SO51 8EL. You will be free to take things at your own pace – and listening ears will be on hand if you would find that helpful. Refreshments will be available throughout the day with a light lunch and home-made cakes before departure. An offering of £15 is requested to cover costs – but the day is open to anyone regardless of ability to make an offering at this time. Please contact Wisdom House for more information or to book a place on the day. Telephone: 01794 830206 or e-mail: reception@wisdomhouseromsey.org.uk