

The Messenger

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

3rd April 2011

4th Sunday of Lent - Divine Office: Wk 4

Sun 3 rd	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 5.00pm - St Michaels - Talk on the Eucharist (4)
Mon 4 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 4 th Week of Lent; Optnl memory, St Isidore, 560-636)
Tues 5 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the 4 th Week of Lent; optnl memory, St Vincent Ferrer, 1350-1419)
Wed 6 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the 4 th Week of Lent)
Thurs 7 th	10.00am LT Mass (Liturgy: of the 4 th Week of Lent; Optnl memory, St John Baptist de la Salle, 1651-1719)
Fri 8 th	3pm SM Stations of the Cross (Liturgy: of the 4 th Week of Lent)
Sat 9 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: of the 4 th Week of Lent)
Sun 10 th	5th Sunday of Lent 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 3.00pm Baptism SM Oliver Nitu 5.00pm - St Michaels - Talk on the Eucharist (5)

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Jim Haines, RIP, Kenneth Murphy RIP, Sydney Perkins RIP

For the week beginning 10th April: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, John Weaver (Peace), Holy Souls, Margaret Jones RIP

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)

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NEW SIGHT TO THE BLIND

The Gospels give a number of stories of Jesus healing the blind and giving them new sight. The healings are never just ends in themselves but are always related to the healing of inner blindness.

What is inner blindness? Jesus refers to it in the Gospel passage for today, John 9:41. In Mark's Gospel Jesus voices his frustration with his disciples saying: "Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and fail to see? Do you have ears and fail to hear? ... Do you not yet understand?" (Mark 8: 17-21). So there is a physical blindness and there is also a spiritual, inner or mental blindness. The full mission of Jesus is to cure our whole blindness.

There is an old saying: None are so blind as those who do not want to see. This gets to the heart of our problem. There is a lot we do not want to see. There are disturbing things, challenging things, demanding things and we are tempted to look away, we would rather not know because otherwise we would have to respond. Change is unwelcome especially if we have a vested interest in the "system". We fear any threat to our comfort or security, to our status and our self-worth. It is a whole lot easier not to see! Again in John's Gospel Jesus gives us a diagnosis of the fundamental problem. It is interesting how modern and, sort of psychological, his words are. "How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? (John 5:44). This is repeated in John 12:42: *Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.*

This affects every area of our lives, how we see ourselves, our relationships, our work, our politics, our religious affiliations and our economics. How is it, we ask, that gifted politicians and economists, accountants and financial managers didn't see the coming of the economic crisis that shook the financial world a while ago? The simple answer is that they didn't want to see the problems. They were looking for profit, growth, business, the next big deal etc. Only a very few voiced concerns but these were ignored. A prophet of doom is never welcome at a party celebrating good times.

The problem with wilful blindness of course is that it keeps us in an inherently unreal world. We are driven more by dreams, fantasies, illusions and wishful thinking than by the whole truth of a situation. This is why trouble is never far ahead. Profound imbalances, dysfunctions, injustices, whether it is in countries, or organisations or institutions like churches, can only be sustained for so long before something begins to break down. We are witnessing this at present in the Middle East.

The Church is also in danger. Some people with power and influence have been directing it backwards, leading a retreat into the past. The windows opened by Vatican II have gradually been closed again. A hankering after lavish costumes & rituals, after male clerical power & privilege, a need for security & a strong, tribal identity are driving this trend. It exploits peoples nostalgia, anxiety and a cultivated over reliance on outer authority. When Jesus asks; (Lk. 12:57) "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?" Our response is: But we have no confidence in our capacity to listen to & hear the Holy Spirit within. This is not really about musical or linguistic aesthetics. Diversity & richness of expression are never a problem. It is about fear, fear of the new, of the complex and difficult. If we have to admit to goodness, holiness and truth "over there" we will have to open doors, start listening & changing. What then becomes of our goodness, holiness & truth? (DMA)

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

PRAYER POTTERY THIS WEEK: The next one will be on April 5th, after that on 12th & 19th), **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.

OBLIGATORY SECOND COLLECTION TODAY: for the Clergy Assistance Fund. This fund helps the Diocese to provide accommodation and supplementary income to priests in retirement due to age or ill-health. It helps top-up the capital raised some years ago for the Clergy Retirement Fund to which many generously contributed.

THANKS: to Kevin Barnett for acting as chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council over the past two years. Kevin has stepped down due to extra work commitments. And thanks to Deacon Steve Bowler who accepted his election as new chairperson.

RED BOXES: Would all Red Box holders please bring their boxes to Mass on Sunday asap, please. Thank you for your support.

LAST YEAR OUR PARISH RAISED A FANTASTIC £1,849 for the APF / Missio. Again, well done everyone and thanks again to Tony and helpers for gathering all those red boxes in. See the full list of parish contributions from the Portsmouth diocese on the church notice boards.

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH - LENTEN EVENTS

Stations of the Cross; - 3pm on Fridays; 8th Apr at SM; 15th Apr at SB.

Lenten Talks: *Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ - Deepening our understanding of the Eucharist in our lives.* **There are two remaining sessions at St Michaels, on Sundays, 5pm - 6pm: 3rd April; 10th April.**

Reconciliation Service: 7.30pm, Tuesday, 19th April in St Michaels. Fr Peter Wilkie will preach at this.

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday, 17th April

Chrism Mass
11am, Tues, 19th Apr at Portsmouth Cathedral

Maundy Thursday: 8pm, Thurs, 21st April
Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Michaels.

Good Friday: Ecumenical Walk of Witness (Holbury) 10.00am, starts at New Hope Church, Hardley roundabout to Blackfield Baptist Church for service at 11.00am. Ecumenical Service (Hythe), 10.45am for 11.00am, outside Waitrose.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion:
3pm, Fri, 22nd April at St Michaels.
7.30pm, Stations of the Cross at St Michaels

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil, 9pm, on Sat. 23rd Apr at St Bernards.

Easter Sunday: 9am Mass at SB
with Baptism of Oscar Davies
11am Mass at SM



A BIG THANK YOU: The CAFOD Lent Fast Day Collection: raised £1325. A fantastic effort, well done everyone. Also the **CAFOD Soup Lunch** raised a significant amount. Thanks to all those who supported and to all those who made the soup!

MANY THANKS to those who supported the Coffee Morning in aid of CAFOD - we raised £60.00. (from Amanda Lawes)

THE GREAT SOUTH RUN - OCTOBER 2011: Sign up now for Team CAFOD. There is also a special run for juniors & early teens. See posters for details.

THANKS TO HELEN KITSON & FAMILY: they managed to sell some copies of the "Beano" on Ebay and raised £75 for the Parish Shop.

QUIZ NIGHT WITH AMERICAN SUPPER, on next Saturday 9th April, **7pm** at St Bernards. Tickets £4, on sale now. This is being organised by the Martha group, so thanks to them.



PETITION RE: LOCAL CHILDREN'S CARDIAC FACILITIES: Please sign the Daily Echo petition campaigning for the retention of local children's cardiac facilities at Southampton General hospital. Our thanks to Fiona Wiffen for bringing this to our attention.

BRAVE DAVE KING: is taking part in the Ben Nevis Challenge to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. Please sponsor him. See him after Mass at St Michaels or go online: <http://www.justgiving.com/David-King/3>. See poster for more details.

ECUMENICAL STUDY GROUPS FOR LENT 2011 - WATERSIDE CHURCHES TOGETHER (SOUTH) The dates and venues are as follows: April 5th & 12th. On each date there will be a group at 1.30 for 2.00pm at Blackfield Baptist Church (Hampton Lane, Blackfield) and 7.00 for 7.30pm at Waterside Methodist Church (Chapel Lane, Fawley). The groups are open to all.

LENTEN TALKS ON DVD: 2 of 10 Sessions remaining by internationally famous Christian speaker: J. John "The 10 Commandments" **At St. Joseph's House of Prayer, Ashurst at 7.30pm on Thursdays & Fridays in Lent;** 7th & 8th April. Contact: Peter & Lynda 023 80292058, Email: peterszyman-ski@hotmail.co.uk

PLANT SALE: The annual plant sale will be held on the 14th May 2011. Now is the time to start sowing those seeds or deciding which plants could be potted up. Oh yes - and pray for good weather. Any queries or offers of help to Veronica Chadwick tel. 80897458

GARDENER / HANDYMAN NEEDED: by elderly couple on a part-time basis. Please ring 023-80-840288

WARNING RE: ST BERNARDS CHURCH & HALL USERS: Sadly, the other week while someone was helping an elderly person into the hall their car was stolen. The keys were left in the ignition only for a matter of seconds. So please be extra careful regarding your vehicles & property. Please DO NOT leave the church door unlocked; DO NOT let anyone see, or over hear mention of, the security code.