

The Messenger

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

4th March 2012

2nd Sunday of Lent - Divine Office: Wk 2

Sun 4 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Mon 5 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 2nd Week of Lent)
Tues 6 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the 2nd Week of Lent)
Wed 7 th	10.00am - St Anne's, Brockenhurst (Liturgy: of the 2nd Week of Lent, Ss Perpetua & Felicity, d. c. 203)
Thurs 8 th	10.00am - Our Lady's, Lyndhurst (Liturgy: of the 2nd Week of Lent, St John of God, 1495-1550)
Fri 9 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 2nd Week of Lent, St Frances of Rome, 1384-1440)
Sat 10 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 11.00am (Liturgy: of the 2nd Week of Lent)
Sun 11 th	3 rd Sunday of Lent 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Pat Bolton (Health), Lyndsey Keggins (Health), Alice Manghan RIP Anniv

For the week beginning 11th March: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, For all those who keep the Church buildings in good order, Fr David Adams (B'day), Norah Manghan RIP Anniv

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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New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am
Geo House (Ashurst) - Sun 9am
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am, (Holy Day Vigil 7pm)

New Forest Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: Lymington and New Milton at 6pm
Sunday: Milford on Sea at 8:30am, New Milton at 10am,
Lymington at 11:30am, Brockenhurst at 6pm

WHAT IS GOD ASKING – WHAT IS GOD GIVING?

For much of human history people have been fearful of God. In the emerging consciousness of humanity the deity was difficult to find and hard to understand. People were suspicious of the forces that seemed to arbitrarily control their lives. Gods were to be feared not loved. They had to be placated and kept on side. This way of imaging God was dark and toxic.

The Old Testament patriarch, Abraham, was called away from such pagan religion into a relationship with the living God. This was the beginning of revelation as we have experienced it in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The pagan peoples who lived close to Abraham and the early Israelites are known to have practiced some kind of child sacrifice at various times. They obviously had an influence on the Jewish people. You can imagine the scenario; "We are so devoted to our god we are prepared to sacrifice our children! What are you prepared to do for your god?"

The story of Abraham and Isaac is a response to that kind of taunt. At some point people began to realise and believe that God doesn't want the sacrifice of humans – perhaps God will be pleased with an animal instead? But God doesn't really want animals to be killed either (cfr Micah 6: 6-8).

It takes thousands of years for people to realise that God doesn't want anything killed or destroyed at all. Jesus reveals God as life-giver not life-taker! Instead of demanding that we sacrifice ourselves God actually makes the sacrifice on our behalf. At one time we thought we had to kill things to get to God. In Jesus God accepts death to reveal the divine love, which is unconditional, gratuitous, inclusive and indiscriminate. Jesus accepts being killed, accepts being a victim so that we would no longer turn others into victims. God can be loved. We are not seeing a toxic God of our own imaging but the God whom Jesus reveals – Father and Mother to all.

There is another important teaching of spiritual wisdom here. Life gives and life takes away. Sometimes life takes from us the very people or things we have been cherishing. Isaac was the child of the promise – the whole future depended on him. Our life work, the people we depend on, the gifts God has given us, some day we will have to let them all go back to God. If we believe and trust in God's goodness then new life will be discovered. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Molly Booth, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Marion Butler, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Ken Hemmings, George Hutcheson, Lena Keane, Patrick Martin. Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Ann Wilton, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY: The next prayer meeting will be on this Tuesday, 6th March at 11.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michael's. Prayer Pottery will continue all through Lent with meetings on 13th, 20th & 27th March. The prayer time is led by Christine Olden & all are welcome.

ST MICHAEL'S CHOIR: The choir are about to start learning new Mass settings for Lent and Easter as a result of the introduction of the new translation of the Roman Missal. New members are urgently required. You do not need to be able to read music, just to enjoy a good sing with friends in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals and attendance at services is very flexible. Please contact Father David or Irene O'Connell

FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: Refresher session led by Rev David Adams, on Saturday, 17th March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue: Geo House (St Joseph's, Ashurst). **Just come along on the day.**

LENTEN DEVOTIONS & SERVICES

Prayer Pottery: every Tuesday in Lent at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michael's.

Stations of the Cross on Friday, 9th March at 3pm in St Michael's; on Friday, 16th March at 7.30pm at St Bernard's, on Friday, 23rd March at 3pm at St Michael's, on Friday, 30th March at 7.30pm at St Bernard's.

Reconciliation Services:

Monday, 2nd April at 7.00pm in St Theresa's, Totton;
Tuesday, 3rd April at 7.00pm in St Michael's, Hythe
Details of Holy Week to follow.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER:

1. Throughout Lent at the 9am Mass, our Children's Liturgy will have a special theme to prepare us week-by-week for Easter. We hope to see the children coming as much as possible, to make the most of this special season.

2. After the 9am Mass on Sunday 11th March, our young people will raise money for CAFOD (see CAFOD section): please stay behind and support their initiative.

3. The next two Young People's Masses at the 9am will be on 4th March and then on Easter Sunday, 8th April (note: NOT on Palm Sunday). We hope that the children will once again act out the Gospel reading of the empty tomb, having rehearsed after Mass on 1st April.

4. On Good Friday afternoon we will run a special children's service, in the meeting room at St Michael's, at the same time as the adult service in St M's church. This should help all of our families to join us on this most holy day.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 2 MARCH: GIVE IT UP DURING LENT FOR CLEAN WATER

This Lent CAFOD invites us to help people living without one of God's most precious resources - clean water. A child dies every 20 seconds because of diarrhoea caused by dirty water. **For this Lent only, the UK Government will match pound for pound every donation given to CAFOD**, giving us the chance to help thousands more people to gain access to clean water and other vital services.

4 March: Collection at Mass. Pyramids and boxes available for "Give it Up" collection all through Lent

8 March: Soup Lunch at St Bernard's Hall: 12.30 pm (Tickets from 19 February)

11 March: Sale of Fair Trade goods outside both Churches after Masses. (Fair Trade Fortnight)

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH: Along with the Fair Trade stall on **March 11th**, our younger parishioners at St Bernard's will be raising extra money for CAFOD after Mass. Get your shoes and car cleaned, buy a tempting cake, and win a prize by guessing the baby photos!

18 March: Clean Water Campaign: Thirst for Change. Please sign cards for delivery to Prime Minister to encourage him to keep water and sanitation high on the international agenda.

22 March: Coffee Morning and raffle at 46 Kings Ride, Langley SO45 1ZN at 10.30am.

PASTORAL CARE IN THE NEW FOREST: Due to the shortage of priests, the Bishop has asked Fr David, with immediate effect, to take on pastoral responsibility for Brockenhurst as well as Lyndhurst (where Deacon Stephen Short has responsibility for the day-to-day running of things).

This will relieve Fr Danny McAvoy who still has to look after Lymington, Milford-on-Sea & New Milton.

Bishop's Council did ask us to consider enabling Brockenhurst to have a Sunday morning Mass by dropping our 9am Mass at St Bernards & substituting a Saturday evening Mass at St Bernards.

However, Fr David & the Parish Pastoral Council, while having sympathy for the Brockenhurst community, considered that this would be detrimental to the interests of the parish, especially our young families. This was accepted by Bishop's Council so, thankfully, our Sunday Mass times remain unchanged.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL:

This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. We now have a full coach! Additional tickets can still be purchased online but private transport will need to be arranged. Contact Louise Brown or Rev Steve Bowler if you have any queries.

BINGO WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER: on Saturday, 17th March at St Bernard's Hall. Tickets will be on sale between 12th February & 11th March at both churches. It is being organised by the St Martha Group.



For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
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