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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

4 April 2010
Year C
divine office PROPeR
FOR EASTER OCTAVE

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)



For the Ideal Gift
visit

Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE
SO45 6DA

Tel: 023 8020 7882

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

Sun	4	9 am	SB	Easter Sunday Mass
		11 am	SM	Easter Sunday Mass
Tue	6		SM	No Mass today
Wed	7		SM	No Mass today
Thu	8	10 am	LT	Lyndhurst: Thursday within Easter Octave
Sat	10	10 am	SM	Saturday within Easter Octave followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 11am until 11.30am
Sun	11	9 am	SB	Second Sunday of Easter
		11 am	SM	Second Sunday of Easter
		6 pm	SM	Second Sunday of Easter



RESURRECTION – THE RESPONSE OF THE FATHER

When Mary of Magdala goes to visit the tomb of Jesus she expects to make a rendezvous with death. It is very early on the first day of the week. It is still dark, but there is light enough to see that the stone has been moved from the entrance to the tomb. Mary's reaction is not immense relief that Jesus is not dead. She does not cheat herself with that mad groundless hope. The only conclusion she can come to is that some unknown people must have stolen the dead body of Jesus. Even in death Jesus is not allowed to rest in peace.

When Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple hear Mary's story they run to the tomb. The account in John's Gospel is clearly written in favour of the Beloved Disciple. When Peter enters the tomb he sees the burial clothes; when the Beloved Disciple enters the tomb he sees and he believes. The disciple who was closest to Jesus in love is the one who is first to believe in him as the risen Lord. Perhaps the Beloved Disciple reckoned that if someone had stolen the body he would not have taken the trouble to strip the body first and then roll up the burial clothes. Or perhaps the evangelist John is simply telling us that beloved disciples are always the first to get to the heart of the matter. For the heart of the resurrection is the matter of love.

What we celebrate in the resurrection is God's liberating love for his beloved Son. Resurrection is the Father's response to the cross, his defiant answer to a world that hoped violence could keep Jesus in its hold. In raising Jesus from the dead God raised every value that Jesus stood for, every story that Jesus told, every preference that Jesus made, every purpose that Jesus followed. All this was given new life and new significance.

If death had spoken the final word about Jesus, it would only have been a matter of time before everything about Jesus would have been reduced to a curiosity, a forgettable footnote in the crowded history of lost causes. But God had the last word. As indeed he had the first. The resurrection of Jesus was not a hysterical invention of people who refused to accept the death of their master. On the contrary, resurrection is the original act of accepting Jesus' death. The Father's act of raising Jesus from the dead is the Father's way of accepting his Son's death. Jesus is wakened to new life by the applause of his Father, by the sheer energy of his Father's love, by the loud shout of his Father's gratitude. The dead Jesus has no alternative but to rise to the occasion. The tomb can never be his permanent address. The Good News is that the Father's affirmation is not confined to Jesus; it is extended to all who follow the way of the beloved Son. As Paul says in today's second reading: "When Christ is revealed - and he is your life - you too will be revealed in all your glory with him." In the meantime, however, we struggle to let some of that glory shine through our halting efforts to follow the Lord. We know the way of the cross leads to our own doorstep and that we are challenged to take it. But it also leads us to the Father's ultimate affirmation, to the God who will laugh us out of our tombs. Today let us bless the God who insists on having the last laugh! (from *Denis McBride: Seasons of the Word*).

ROOF FUND

Due to your amazing fundraising and contributions we have reached a staggering 70% of our target with **£9513.80 raised in less than a year.**
Thank you all, for your generosity

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Joan Cocker, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Andrew Handol, Irene Mitchell, Roy Nicholas, Joan Olden, Leslie Palmer, Bridget Reeves, Margaret Scott, Valerie Slipper, Marcus Smith, Lena Westfoot (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

A BIG THANKYOU: to everyone who has worked so hard to help us celebrate our faith journey over the Lent, Holy Week & Easter period: cleaners, flower arrangers, our deacons Ian & Steve, Tony & Irene, choir & music organisers, Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Servers, Children's Liturgy group, CAFOD organisers,



Now is the time to return all the proceeds from the Give it Up for Lent Campaign. Please hand the (full?) collecting boxes to Louise Croll, Fr David or into the Parish Office. (see Newsletter for normal opening times)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE: The Easter Egg Raffle at the parish shop "Faith, Hope & Charity" made £260 for the Roof Fund! Well done everyone and thanks to all those who contributed the lovely eggs and all those who took part. There is a list of prize winners at the back of the church.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: for the year 2010/2011 are now ready for collection and will be in the porch at St Bernard's & St Michael's this Sunday, 21st March and for the next two weeks. Thanks to Carmel McClatchey for organising the envelopes. Anyone wishing to join the scheme should contact either the Parish Office on 80843479 or Carmel McClatchey 80842403.

YOUNG PEOPLE: We still have only 3 adult volunteers for the 9am children's liturgy. We could give the young more and better Catholic-based learning, worship, friendship and fun, both at Mass and beyond - but only with more help. Can **you** help the Church of the future? Irregular/occasional volunteers welcome too: please ring Clare (8084 2232) or Hilary (8084 3173).

THE EASTER OFFERING - As is traditional the collection at Easter is for your parish priest and forms a part of his ordinary income for the year. Fr David will be very grateful for whatever you give at this time. A leaflet explaining how priests are financially supported is available at the back of church for your information.

THE DIOCESAN FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN - "LIVING OUR FAITH":

Message from Bishop Crispian: There have been amazing—and humbling—acts of generous and sacrificial giving from over 3000 families, all of whom have been eager and willing to play their part in building and sustaining the life and future of our diocese. They have readily given new money for the new work that faces us". (*So far money given and pledges made amount to £8 million; £4.5 million towards the Diocesan target of £6.5 million and the remainder for specific parish projects*).

This campaign is to raise funds so that the Diocese can continue: 1) vocations work for priesthood & diaconate; 2) the training of students for the priesthood; 3) the work of adult formation and training for lay ministry; 4) the provision of financial support for parish projects. The campaign has been running very successfully in other parishes. **The Parish Team is now in place. They will be helping Fr David meet with parishioners to invite support for the campaign.**

PLEASE SAY "YES" TO SHOPPING VOUCHERS next time you do your shopping and you are offered vouchers at Sainsbury or Tesco checkouts. You could then place them in the CAFOD stamps flip-top bins and we will then pass them on to Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School, who are asking for them. Also... ..A huge sack of used stamps, foreign coins and some old mobile phones was handed over to the CAFOD office at Wonersh, Surrey recently. Thank you all very much, and keep them coming in. Why not get friends and relatives, at home and abroad, to collect them too?

RED BOX HOLDERS: Would all Red Box Holders please bring Boxes to Mass on Sunday 4th April (Easter Sun). Many thanks.

MARTHA GROUP SOCIAL EVENTS: Next function: Quiz Night & American Supper, 24th April.

THE 2010 PLANT SALE: will be held on May 15th this year and organised by Veronica Chadwick. So all you gardeners please get busy.

BLUESTAR BUS SERVICE NO 9 (which links our churches) is now half hourly during the day on Sundays.

Average Income & Expenditure for Sept 2009—Feb 2010

Ord. Income: Average per Month

SOs & Envs & Loose:	£3185
Gift Aid Tax reclaimed:	£704
Rent	£703
FHC Shop	£648
Other incl Fund Raising	£629

Total Av Mnthly Income £5869

Ord. Expenditure: Av per Month

(actual figures incl. half yr insurance & exceptional costs provision)

Ordinary Expenditure	£5321
Exceptional Cost Provsn	£600

Total Av Monthly Exp. £5921

Giving to Other Charities Through the Parish:

Average per Month: £1247
(includes Christmas Offering)