

The Messenger

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

4th December 2011

2nd Sunday of Advent (Yr B) - Divine Office: Wk 2

Sun 4 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - Brockenhurst
Mon 5 th	No Service (Liturgy: 2nd Week Advent)
Tues 6 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: 2nd Week Advent, or optnl Memorial - St Nicholas, Bishop)
Wed 7 th	10.00am Mass (at St Anne's, Brockenhurst) (Liturgy: Memorial, St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor, 334-397AD)
Thurs 8 th	10.00am Mass (at Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst) (Liturgy: Solemnity, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
Fri 9 th	No Service (Liturgy: 2nd Week Advent, or optnl Memorial, St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin)
Sat 10 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Memorial, St Swithun Wells, Martyr, d. 862AD)
Sun 11 th	3rd Sunday of Advent 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - Brockenhurst

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Dennis Hewins RIP, Agnes Lowe RIP, Gabor Marek RIP Anniv,

For the week beginning 11th December: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Gabor Marek RIP Anniv, Aidan Prestage 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,
6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR
Tel: 023 8084 3479 e-mail: watersidecp@btinternet.com
website: watersidecatholics.org.uk

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

"AS FREE AS WATER"

We are going to take a closer look at the passage from Mark for this Sunday. The "beginning" is possibly an allusion to the first lines of Genesis, in other words this is about a new creation. The "Good News" or gospel or "glad tidings" is a term taken from the political/military scene. The phrase heralded victory after a battle, or the new era of a king or ruler. Jesus the Christ or Messiah is the new reality, starting a different world. Jesus (Saviour) loves us personally and calls us to a personal friendship with him. But Jesus is also the "Christ", the Anointed One who reconciles and unites all things and we are a part of that greater mystery.

Jesus is the Son of God. For Mark, brought up in Judaism, this is a shocking statement of faith. It would take the Church three centuries of intellectual struggle before it could begin to express what this might mean. Mark's gospel is written to lead us on a spiritual journey through which we will, hopefully, begin to see how this is true. And it was not and still is not what any of us expect.

Mark then actually quotes the prophet Malachi and then Isaiah. Malachi, in Jewish tradition, was supposed to be the last prophet. Mark is saying here: no, God's revelation is continuing! Religion is always making it difficult to get to God. John the Baptist was going to make a level road, an easy, wide & straight motorway to God. This is going to happen, not in the Temple (where Malachi said it would) but in the wilderness. It was into the wilderness that the scapegoat was driven on the Day of Atonement, bearing all the sins of the people. It will come not from established religion but from the margins, not from the centre but from the edge. John the Baptist is not a priest, or a Rabbi, he is a layman, (although he is the son of a priest he obviously made a conscious rejection of that role). This is why we are told what he is wearing. John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The word repentance comes from the Greek *metanoia*; *metanous* means a new mind, or go beyond your mind, as in *metaphysics* (beyond physics). The word is not first of all about feeling sorry for ones sins. It means a turning around to think with a whole new mind, or a complete transformation of consciousness. It is a new way of seeing that sees God's free, undeserved love as the basis of everything. It means seeing God no longer as a vindictive deity but as a loving Father or Mother. John uses baptism (immersing in water) at the Jordan - symbolic place of crossing into the promised land - to proclaim a new liberation.

"For the forgiveness of sins" - this was scandalous because every Jew knew that sin could only be forgiven after certain religious rituals which required payment (animal sacrifices). The priests and scribes made a living from all this. The whole Temple complex existed to cater for this need. Here comes John the Baptist, a layman, declaring that forgiveness is as free as water! It is not surprising that "all" made their way to him. (Based on a recorded commentary on Mark's Gospel by Richard Rohr OFM)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Marion Butler, Bill Duncan, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Mavis, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sally Herbert, Ray Holland, Doreen Holman, Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Patricia Walsh, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

TIMES OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Christmas Night Carols & Mass:
Saturday, 24th December at 8.30pm at St Michaels

Christmas Day Masses:
9am at St Bernards
11am at St Michaels

ADVENT COURSE AT ASHURST (NOW GEO HOUSE):

This course will focus around the new CaFE resource "Saints - Helping us today". The last two sessions will be on Thursdays at 7.30pm: 8th Dec; 15th Dec. The series of presentations covers Therese of the Child Jesus & Holy Face, Benedict, Francis of Assisi, Patrick, Ignatius of Loyola & Catherine of Sienna. Just turn up on the night.

FOR OTHER ADVENT EVENTS AT GEO HOUSE: such as a Healing Mass celebrated by Fr Ronnie, & Carols by Candlelight see the display poster in the church porches.

Stop! Get Ready! Go! 'You must come away to a lonely place all by yourselves and rest a while'.

Our third annual conference will be structured around the theme of prayer. It is a great opportunity for people in the diocese to gather together for practical sessions, input, prayer, reflection and liturgy. **The dates are Fri 3rd - Sun 5th Feb 2012** Led by Department for Pastoral Formation (DPF) Venue: Hallmark Hotel, Durley Chine Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 5JS. More details on the Diocesan website.

RETIRED PEOPLES CHRISTMAS LUNCH: on Thursday, 8th December from 12noon to 2pm at St Bernard's Hall. Sign-up forms are at the back of both churches. Please tick if you need a lift or are vegetarian. The deadline is this weekend as food has to be ordered.

PARISH FINANCIAL RETURN: A copy of the financial return for the year Sept 2010 - August 2011 is available for consultation in each of the churches. Copies of the Summary Financial Report approved for distribution by the PPC are available at the back of church. This report also includes the latest "Living Our Faith" parish statement.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

FOR CHURCH READERS: Refresher session to be led by Rev Kevin O'Brien, Parish Priest of Totton on Saturday, 3rd March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst)

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 (Ashurst).

THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL: We are planning a parish/pastoral area outing to experience this amazing dramatization of the life of Christ. This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. More information to follow.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Copies of the CAFOD Christmas catalogue are at the back of the churches. See if there is anything you'd like to give.

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: At this time of year don't forget items for Waterside Foodbank. The Foodbank accepts any tinned or dried food as long as it is still in date. The Foodbank provides for local individuals & families in crisis across the Waterside. During the first year some 3845.9kg of food was donated. 224 emergency boxes of food have been prepared meaning that 318 adults & 232 children have been fed throughout the year. And thanks to Terry, Louise & Theresa for getting donated items to the bank.

OUR PARISH SHOP - FAITH HOPE & CHARITY (just by the side of Waitrose) a great selection of **Christmas cards, calendars & gifts for sale.** Please do pop in and support the shop.

A BIG THANKS: to Tina & her merry band of helpers who worked so hard to make the Christmas Fayre a great success. Thankfully the weather was better than expected. The Fayre raised £2135.37p which is £474.28p up on last year. Well done everyone!

POINSETTIA REMEMBRANCE: Would you like to remember a loved one with a Poinsettia this Christmas? If so, bring your Poinsettia to one of the following churches at the following times:

to 9 a.m. Mass in Sunday 18th December : St Bernard's to 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday 18th December: St Michael's

There will be a tag at the back of the church, please write the name of the person(s) being remembered and tie it to your plant. If you can bring a saucer or little dish to put it on, that would be greatly appreciated. Please leave the plant for the flower arrangers at the back of the church.

The person can be remembered because they can't be with you at Christmas because they live too far away, or they are ill, or they are deceased, or you'd just like to show friendship. The choice is yours!

AN APPEAL: We need someone to decorate the Christmas tree at St Michael's. It will also involve dismantling it & putting it away.

ANOTHER APPEAL: We need someone to put the crib out in front of the altar at St Michael's & to put it away again. The tree, lights & baubles are all available.

Please contact the Parish Office or Fr David if you are willing to do either of these, or even both??. Thank you.

ARE YOU SORTING through your wardrobes, cupboards & toyboxes to make room for those Christmas presents? Why not send the things you don't need to Faith, Hope & Charity, the parish shop. You will be helping parish funds. Remember if you have any clothes which aren't worth selling bag them up & put "Rags" on the bags. These can be sold for recycling.

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

