

**WE CANNOT BE THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS
UNLESS WE GIVE UP ALL OUR
POSSESSIONS!**

The Gospel for this Sunday is startling and disturbing. Jesus says that we should “hate” those closest to us (against tribalism), take up our cross (against violence) and give up all our possessions (against greed). We have to think seriously about this and be very sure this is what we must do. Otherwise we will start something that we cannot finish.

When we are confronted with such a challenge we have to recognise that our greatest temptation is to neutralise it, to soften it and so, effectively, avoid it. We cannot take Jesus “literally” but we must take him seriously.

For the most part, over the last 2000 years cultural Christianity has been deaf and blind to what Jesus says about tribalism, violence and greed. There have, of course, been notable exceptions like the many generous and holy women and men down through the ages who made many sacrifices for love of God and other people. The trouble is they are exceptions.

When we are prepared to take Jesus seriously we must then understand him correctly. To take these words of Jesus “literally” and simplistically would result in contradiction and confusion. We know from other things Jesus has said that we must love everyone and be grateful for all our blessings. *(This text highlights the fatal flaw in the fundamentalist approach to Scripture. We cannot rely solely on how we read an isolated text of Scripture. We can only understand a text of the Bible by means of the whole Bible, and indeed only with the Holy Spirit & the Church.)*

The first step in the correct understanding of this text is to note the historical context. Luke was a companion of Paul & others on the first missionary journeys. They experienced in some places rejection, imprisonment, the loss of property, death threats, and certainly the absence, if not the hostility, of close family members. Just like Jesus they had to make hard choices for who & what they believed in. We too have to make hard choices sometimes. All of us have to be ready to make radical sacrifices for God’s love and truth and the good of ourselves and others.

However we remember that we took nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of it. It is precisely tribalism, violence and greed that destroy people and societies. They are the barriers to God’s love taking practical effect in the world. Once we let them go God’s universal love can flow through us to the whole of humanity. (DMA)

The Messenger

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

5th September 2010

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Divine Office: Wk 3

Sun	5 th	9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass 6pm SM Mass
Mon	6 th	No Service (Liturgy: Of the Day)
Tues	7 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Of the Day)
Wed	8 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (Feast: Nativity of Our Lady)
Thurs	9 th	10.00am LT Mass (Liturgy: Of the Day, Opt Mem. St Peter Claver d.1654)
Fri	10 th	No Service (Liturgy: Of the Day)
Sat	11 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Of the Day, or Our Lady on Saturday)
Sun	12 th	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass 6pm SM Mass

Mass Intentions: For this week: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Victims of the Floods in Pakistan, Staff & Pupils at our Catholic Schools, Derry Condon (Health), Margaret Ashton RIP, Paddy Condon RIP, Bernard Kenny RIP Anniv, Flo Warrilow RIP Anniv,

For the week beginning 12th Sept: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Victims of the Floods in Pakistan, Sr Mary O’Brien (60th Anniv Religious Profession), Nessie Beggs RIP Anniv,

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) (8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office,
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**For the Ideal Gift visit
Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882**

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Derry Condon, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Trevor Handol, Norman Haskell, Jenny Lauder, Bridget Reeves, Pete Thorn, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

INVITATION TO A SPECIAL MASS: On **Sunday, 19th Sept at 6pm in St Michaels** we will be celebrating a special Mass: ***Moving On - Healing the Past, Enjoying the Present, Preparing for the Future***. At our parish meeting earlier in the year it became apparent that there is still a lot of hurt, disappointment, anger and upset over the collapse of the new church venture. The Mass is an opportunity to recognise this, to let go more deeply and to move on more hopefully. There will be light refreshments afterwards. Please tick the sheet at the back of the church if you intend to come so we can cater for the right number. We look forward to seeing you all there.

CELEBRATING CHRIST THE HEALER: At St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, on **Saturday, 11th Sept, 9.30am - 4.00pm**. Led by Revd Dr Russ Parker, (Director of Acorn Christian Healing Foundation) & Canon David Hopgood. **During the day there will be the opportunity to attend 2 workshops from the following list (all 6 will be run in the morning and afternoon):**

- 1. The role of Christian spirituality in professional health care.** Dr Andrew Fergusson, Head of Communications for Christian Medical Fellowship
- 2. Listening: the new radical act of healing** Barbara Bolton, Acorn Christian Listeners Tutor and Colin & Marja Thornton, Wardens at Carisbrooke Priory, IOW
- 3. Healing Broken Relationships** Revd. Dr. Russ Parker, Director of Acorn Christian Healing Foundation
- 4. Beginning a healing ministry in the parish (especially for Clergy and Lay Leaders in the Church)** Archbishop Sean Larkin (Anglican), who serves Churches in Europe & Canada, working alongside those of many Christian Traditions, and who has a great desire to help equip people for the Healing Ministry
- 5. Listening to Difference; being a reconciler** Sarah Buckwell, Acorn South West Regional Staff Member
- 6. Log in, Listen in: Acorn's new schools course for young people** Heather Housden, Acorn's Schools Director

Cost £10 (Cheques should be made payable to PRCDDR Dept for Pastoral Formation) and sent to Eileen Stephenson, Dept for Pastoral Formation, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Rd, Wickham, Hants PO17 5HA.

Book by phone: 01329 835583 or email: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk (stating **workshop choices and any special requirements**) or online at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

The Handbook for the Papal Visit is being distributed throughout England, Scotland and Wales over the coming weekends. For those attending a Papal Mass or the Hyde Park Vigil, please do make sure you take a copy. Although there are not copies for everyone, there are enough for one per family or household. We would like to invite you to make a donation towards the Handbook if you are able. £2-00 per copy would help to cover the costs. Please use the Handbook when following the Pope's visit on television or the internet.

CAFOD GROUP: The first meeting will be on Monday, 20th September at 7.30pm at 46 Kings Ride, Blackfield, SO45 1ZN. (Phone Louise on 80-898213 for directions.) ALL WELCOME. The purpose of the Parish CAFOD group is not fundraising which will continue as normal, but discussion of CAFOD campaigns etc.

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN SUPORTERS DAY: at St Joseph's, Aldershott on Sat, 11th September. It will focus on CAFOD campaigns, activities etc. All welcome. See posters in church porches for details.

CELEBRATE WEEKEND: 9th & 10th October 2010: The 3rd Celebrate weekend is to be held at St Marys College, Southampton. *Celebrate* is a Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference for people of all ages, a chance for Christians to come together, learn more about their faith and feed the spirit inside. Adults £30; 16-22yrs £20, 3-15yrs £10, under 3s free. For more information and to book contact Peter & Lynda Szymanski 023-80-292058 or via peterszymanski@hotmail.com or ask Angela Slattery after Mass at St Bernard's.

CHILDREN'S MASS: On Sunday, Sept 26th the 9am Mass at St Bernard's will be geared more especially for children. We will be asking our young people to do the readings for that Mass so if anyone is already on the Rota for that Sunday please be ready to hand over to the children. We hope to do this once a month subsequently.

SPIRITUALITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE EARTH: Focussing on the work of Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179). She affirms the material world and sees the spiritual as deeply embedded within the material - and celebrates it! Presented by Mary Dunn on 11th Sept 10am - 3.30pm at the Methodist Hall, Brockenhurst. Bring packed lunch. To book ring 01590-622301.



THE ST MARTHA GROUP: It was suggested by several people that we organise some social events in the afternoon for those who cannot get to the weekend events because they do not like to go out at night or have work or family commitments. We have discussed this and need further information from you before we can proceed.

If you are interested in going to an afternoon event please let a member of the committee know the following:

- a) Which afternoon would be suitable?**
- b) What would you like to do? Some suggestions have been: afternoon tea, beetle drive or bingo.**

We need to know what you want and when in order to plan the afternoon events.

JAZZ EVENING: The 7th Parish Jazz Night takes place at St Bernard's Hall on **Saturday, 16th October** with the new Cavalier Jazzmen. Starting at **8pm**. Tickets are £6.00 each and will be available shortly. Raffle prizes are sought. Proceeds will go towards improving parish facilities. Mike Slipper 80-843908. Tickets after Mass or from parish shop - F.H.C.