

## EXPOSING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

The Wikileaks disclosures are uncomfortable for us and our institutions because we are not ready for the whole truth. But whenever & wherever the truth is told in love, there the Christ's presence is dawning, the Light is returning.

Most of our relationships in the many different spheres of life are severely limited by competing ambitions or fears that arise from self-interest. Only in a few personal relationships do we take the risk of being perfectly honest and open and vulnerable. We can only do this when our truth is spoken and received in love. We cannot receive this love from another if we are not willing to give the same kind of love in return. *Unless we change and become like little children we will not enter...*

Until we let the Light of Truth/Love expose, heal and transform our entire being, personally and collectively, we will not experience the full coming of Christ.

We have nothing to fear, only the chaff, the delusional pride and every other disease of the soul & the system are ear-marked for surgical removal, (John the Baptist's warning). The wheat, the true beauty of every individual as created by God will be gathered, healed and restored.

I do recommend the Advent Scripture readings as compiled for us in the lectionary. They are full of hope and encouragement but never divorced from the real world with all its pleasure & pain, joy and sorrow, (cfr 1st Reading, Sat Advent week 1, & today's 1st Reading).

There is a mysterious reconciliation of opposites, and an alchemy of transformation that is worked between the blessing and the curse, the grace and the grit, the suffering and the consolation. And the way, the path of wisdom which guides us securely through all the apparent contradictions of life is the path of self-emptying love, the way of Jesus. This way of love receives everything gratefully from the Father but doesn't cling to anything except the love that binds all together as one.

God has given us this gift of life but it could not be given without risk. All of us lose our innocence (literally: unwoundedness), all of us get wounded in one way or another. As we are drawn into relationship with Christ we are gradually healed. The powers and capacities of the soul which once seemed so dangerous are drawn into a wonderful creative synergy. This dynamic harmony mirrors the glory of God. When we have learnt not to hurt or harm anyone or anything then the knowledge of God, that is the taste & experience of God will flood the earth, and truly & finally Christ will have come again. (DMA)

## The Messenger

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

**5<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**Second Sunday of Advent Yr A - Divine Off: Wk 2**

Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	No Service <i>(Liturgy: 2nd Week of Advent, or optnl Memorial St Nicholas, Bishop, 4th cent.)</i>
Tues	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am SM Morning prayer & Mass <i>(Liturgy: Memorial, St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, 334-397)</i>
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass <i>(Liturgy: Solemnity, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese)</i>
Thurs	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am LT Mass <i>(Liturgy: 2nd Week of Advent, or optnl Memorial, St John Diego Cuahhtlatotzin, 1474-1548)</i>
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup>	No Service <i>(Liturgy: Memorial: St Swithun Wells, Layperson, 1536-1591)</i> 7.30pm SB Facing Christmas, candlelit service
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 11.30am <i>(Liturgy: 2nd Week of Advent, or optnl Memorial: St Damasus I, Pope, 304-384)</i>
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (Yr A)</b> 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass

**Mass Intentions: For this week:** All members of the Parish, deceased clergy of the Province, all those who are unwell, The Hand-in-Hand Trust, Erin Prestage & husband Matt Brown, married at Lyndhurst yesterday, Joyce Grimes RIP, Katherine Tobin RIP, Andy Anderson RIP Anniv, Robert Evans RIP, Robert Keen RIP, Ann & Jim Matthiesen RIP,

**For the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** All members of the Parish, deceased clergy of the Province, all those who are unwell, Aidan Prestage 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) (023 8020 7449)  
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)  
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office,  
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**Tel: 023 8020 7882**

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Anne Candrl, Petra Daniels, Ruth Freemantle, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Trevor Handol, Cath Heron, Bridget Reeves, Norma Rudd, Eileen Shanley, May Sycamore, Betty Williams, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

**PRAYER POTTERY:** The next one will be held on Tuesday, 14th December at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michael's.

**APOLOGY:** Last week I should have made available Bishop Crispian's Pastoral letter for Advent. Unfortunately I forget to do this. Thankfully, though, it is reproduced in full in this month's *Portsmouth People* which you will find near the entrances to the church.

**CONGRATULATIONS, PRAYERS & BEST WISHES** to Erin Prestage, Pauline's daughter, who married Matthew Brown on Saturday, 4th Dec, at Our Lady of the Assumption and St Edward church, Lyndhurst. Fr Ray Lyons witnessed the marriage assisted by Rev Stephen Short, deacon for Lyndhurst.

***Facing Christmas*** will be at St Bernard's on Friday, 10th December at 7.30pm at St Bernard's. This is a candlelit service for all those who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason, or for those who just wish to have some peace and quiet before the festivities. It is not just for those who have been bereaved.

**SOUTHAMPTON SING THE CAROLS:**

Be part of an official Guinness World Record attempt at St Mary's Football Stadium on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

The event is being held to raise funds and awareness for the Southampton Passion to be held in the Guildhall Square on Good Friday 2011.

The record for the most people together singing carols is 7514. St Mary's Stadium holds 32,000. Come and help fill the stadium!

Carol service starts 7.15pm and closes at 8.30pm. Tickets are £4 per person, or £12 for a family of 4. (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children). Phone The Mayflower Theatre 023 8071 1811 or St Mary's Stadium 0800 2800 050. Or on line go to [www.southamptonsings.org.uk](http://www.southamptonsings.org.uk)

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE & RAFFLE:** We did very well. The amount raised was £1,665.40p and there were expenses of £173 to come out of this total. Prize lists are available at the back of the churches. Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation, the stalls, all those who donated gifts and prizes and all those who came along to support and all those who helped clear up and cash up! Special mention to Bebe's Café, ExxonMobile Chemical, Hythe-Southampton ferry, Nich Nickandrou at La Vista Restaurant & Newman's Pie Shop.

**THANKS TO THE MARTHA GROUP & REV. STEVE BOWLER:** for another great and enjoyable Quiz Night and thanks to everyone who came along and supported. Special thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes. The Martha group fund-raising goes towards improving the parish facilities.

**SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS**

**LUNCH:** This will take place on Thursday, 16th December from 12 noon until 2pm at St Bernard's Hall. Please sign up straight away. Please print your name & telephone number and tick the box if you need transport. Only two Sundays to go so don't delay!!!

**WORK AT ST BERNARDS:** The work has now been satisfactorily completed ahead of time. The area has been restored for parking but it would be advisable to let it settle for a while, particularly as we have had heavy rain recently. *The grassed area at the back near the trees is particularly soft & muddy & should be avoided!!!* **Spaces immediately outside the church should be left free for disabled parking.**

**FAWLEY PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

This will take place on Saturday, 11th December at Jubilee Hall, Fawley from 4pm until 7pm. Please come along and support. Also if anyone does wish to donate gifts for the Grand Christmas Raffle the organisers would be very grateful. For more information please contact Sarah Coulson (one of our parishioners & Fawley Pre-School Committee Member) who will be at St Bernard's 9am Mass or call 07545621388

**NEW PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE NOW AVAILABLE! See back of church.**