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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

**6th SEPTEMBER
2009
Year B
divine office wk 3**

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 daily (Mon & Tue only)

For the Ideal Gift visit
Faith, Hope & Charity

8 ST JOHN'S STREET
HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON
SO45 6DA
Tel: 80207882



*This week we will be offering Masses for:
People of the Parish, Parishioners who
are unwell, Marina McPherson RIP,
Bernard Kenny RIP Anniv, Bernard Calnan
RIP, Flo Warrilow RIP, Ella Etheridge,
Teddy Mana Blake (2yr old with tumour
on his liver), Kath Breen*

*Next week (13th September) we will be
offering Masses for:
Patrick O'Donoghoe RIP Anniv,
Penny Smith RIP, Nessie Beggs RIP Anniv*

Total Roof Fund collected to date

£6130.21

(Target - £13500)

Thank you all for your generosity**PARISH SERVICES****23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Sun	6	9 am	SB	Mass: 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
		11 am	SM	Mass: 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Tue	8	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: The Nativity of Our Lady
Wed	9	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: of the Day
Thur	10	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: of the day
Sat	12	10 am	SM	Mass: of the day followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30 am)

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	13	9 am	SB	Mass: 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time
		11 am	SM	Mass: 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

A CLASSLESS FAITH

Each of us has inherited a mixed bag of beliefs and suspicions, some of which we have grown to discard, others we have adopted and made our own. The prejudices that serve to prop up our sense of superiority, while keeping others in diminishment, are particularly difficult to tear down. We can all decorate our insecurity by regarding as inferior those who are different from ourselves, for reasons of gender, class, race or religion or whatever. But if our own sense of worth is maintained at the expense of other people's dignity, what value is it?

In today's second reading, which comes from the letter of St James, we hear this simple advice: "My brothers & sisters, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people." The letter goes on to criticise the attitude which presumes that the well dressed person who enters the synagogue, with gold ring glinting its own message, naturally deserves more attention and care than the poor person who enters at the same time. If preference is going to be made, it should reflect the declared preference of God: he chose those who are poor according to the world, to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom he promises.

God's preference for those who are poor according to this world is seen clearly in today's Gospel. Jesus comes face to face with a deaf man who has a speech impediment. The man is doubly afflicted: he is a Gentile, hence regarded by orthodox Jews as unclean, and is also physically handicapped. Jesus takes him aside, away from the crowd, and cures his deafness and his stutter. Mark emphasises the response of the crowd, who publish their judgement that Jesus had done all things well. Thus the messianic prophecy of Isaiah heard in the first reading is seen to be fulfilled: the ears of the deaf are unsealed and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy.

Out of his infinite passion Jesus' love is available to everyone; without any presuppositions or any conditions. He is not disconcerted by the handicapped; neither is he prejudiced against those not of his own race or religion. His own uniqueness is not employed to lord it over others but to be of service to them. In his presence no one has to conceal their handicap, no one has to remain isolated in a wordless world, no one has to be rejected because of their difference. Jesus' acceptance and love open up new possibilities; for him, nothing is settled. Prejudice, on the other hand, tries to settle everything.

Jesus knows that people shrink back under indifference, are wounded by prejudice, are hurt when they are rejected. Prejudice handicaps everyone it touches; it allows fear to dress up as social and religious propriety; it sneaks its way into our laws. It is a killer disease. It is always good to remember that whoever we meet, God has first loved them. So let us be challenged by the words of wisdom:

Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off our shoes for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on another's dream. More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival. (adapted from *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

Information & Notices:

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers the following who are unwell: Kath Breen, Nick & Anne Candri, Dave Donoghoe, Ruth Freemantle, Jane McClatchey, Joan Olden, Bridget Reeves, Jack Smith. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David or to Helen in the Office.)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next PPC meeting is on Thursday, 17th Sept at 7.30pm in the meeting room at St Michael's. The Finance Committee meet on Thurs, 24th Sept at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION WHO REGULARLY TAKE COMMUNION TO THE SICK OR HOUSEBOUND: Please see Helen Kitson (St Bernard's), Polly Read (St Michael's) or Fr David to receive information about new safeguarding procedures which should be followed from 1st Sept onwards.

CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY & CLIMATE JUSTICE MASS: on Sat 12th Sept at 10.30am; Mass at 3.30pm. Venue is St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. For details see the poster in the church porch or phone 01252 329385. Come and learn how lives are being changed by CAFOD. Lynda Mussell has just returned from Ethiopia and Martin from Pakistan. Francis Waddington (tel. 80-843292) has two places in his car if anyone needs a lift. FCFS!

CELEBRATE WEEKEND—SOUTHAMPTON: This will take place on Sat - Sun, 26th - 27th September 2009 at St Mary's College, Bitterne, Southampton. There will be Mass, praise & worship, healing prayer, talks, seminars & drama. For more information please contact Lynda & Peter Szymanski on 023-80-292058 or email them at southampton@celebrateconference.org. This will be a popular event so don't leave it too late.

MARTHA GROUP SUMMERTIME EVENTS: NOT TO BE MISSED

Jazz Night - Sat 12th September - ONLY ONE WEEK TO GO AND TICKETS ARE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES! - The return of the ever popular Jazz Night by the Cavalier Jazzmen organised by Mike Slipper! American Supper/bring a bottle + Raffle. 7.30pm until 10.30pm. Tickets available from Faith, Hope & Charity, after Masses, and of course from Mike Slipper himself. Tel: 023 8084 3908 *If anyone has any suitable prizes which could be used for the raffle and would be happy to donate them please drop them at the Parish Office, Monday & Tuesday between 9.30am & 2pm or give them to Fr David.* Thanks.

CAR TREASURE HUNT - on Sunday, 4th October at 2pm from St Bernard's. The cost will be £10 per car and a cream tea will be provided at St Bernard's Hall afterwards. An explanation of how the treasure hunt will work will follow in due course.

VACANCIES AT ASHURST - The Monfort Fathers (full title is Missionaries of the Company of Mary) have three vacancies: 1) for a full time administrator; 2) for a part time housekeeper; 3) for a part time gardener/handyman. See the poster at the back of the churches for details.

PRAYER BOOK

There is a book in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel where you may write the names of anyone you want prayers for.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR GETS RESCUED FROM THE SEA BY LARGE DOG! - Our Parish Administrator Helen, is looking for sponsorship to be rescued from the sea in Hythe on Sat 12th September by the wonderful Newfoundland Rescue Dogs, all in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Helen is looking to raise at least £100 for this event. Please sign up to support her for this wonderful fundraising event—posters at the back of the church.

SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR—If you're looking for an uplifting, awe-inspiring evening of music and song blessed with Christian values and a whole lot of fun, then you are in for a treat. One of the most famous gospel choirs in the world returns for one night only to The Mayflower Theatre on Sunday 13th September at 7.30pm. Book tickets by calling the box office on 02380 711811 or online at mayflower.org.uk Ticket prices from £18-£24.