

The Messenger

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

6th November 2011

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Divine Office: Week 4

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| Sun 6 th | 9.00am Mass at St Bernards (Childrens Mass) 11.00am Mass at St Michaels |
| Mon 7 th | No Service (Liturgy: of the Day - 32nd Week or optnl Memorial - St Willibrord, Bishop, 658-739) |
| Tues 8 th | 10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the Day - 32nd Week) |
| Wed 9 th | 10.00am (at St Anne's, Brockenhurst) (Liturgy: Feast - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica) |
| Thurs 10 th | 10.00am Lyndhurst Mass (Liturgy: Memorial - St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor, 391-461) |
| Fri 11 th | No Service (Liturgy: Memorial, St Martin of Tours, Religious, Bishop, 316-397) |
| Sat 12 th | 10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Memorial - St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr, 1580-1623) |
| Sun 13 th | 33 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Readings for All Souls / Remembrance Sunday 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels for 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, Intentions of the Larkin family, Honora Power (B'day), Dot Manghan RIP Anniv, Peter Mulvenney RIP Anniv, deceased members of the Donlan family, deceased members of the Mulvenney & Brown families, Katherine Tobin RIP Anniv, Eric Parker RIP Anniv, Tianne Marie Smith-Evans RIP Anniv, Ted Tisdale RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 13th November: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Peter & Joyce Grimes RIP Anniv, all deceased of the parish.

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,
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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

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

The powerful nature of this Sunday's readings is perhaps best encountered through matching the content of the Gospel with the way in which the selections from Wisdom and First Thesalonians, as well as Psalm 62 prepare for it so carefully.

The parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids occurs in the final discourse of Jesus (the fifth of the teaching 'blocks' or sermons which Matthew, uniquely, arranges to present the teaching of Jesus). Jesus, seated on the Mount of Olives, looks down over Jerusalem where he will shortly be condemned to death. For the last time he teaches what it means to respond to the call to follow him, teaching which has begun with the first great discourse, the Sermon on the Mount and continued throughout his ministry.

Two passages from his first teachings need to be recalled now. 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven' (Mt. 5.16) and the parable of the wise and foolish men who built their houses on rock and sand respectively (Mt. 7.24-27). All that these convey has been developed through the Gospel, so that for the community of disciples, the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids reiterates earlier lessons and completes them. The whole thrust of Mt. 24 makes it evident that the bridesmaids refer to true and false disciples. True followers know about keeping their light burning and how this is manifested through faithful service to God and to others. These followers cannot pass over their 'oil' to others because the commodity is not transferable; each person must respond freely and discover personally what God is asking. The initial reference to the kingdom of heaven indicates that Jesus is the bridegroom and God the one who proclaims, 'Go out and meet him...' (Mt 25.6). Every person is included in the invitation. Those who have responded and lived by the Word are prepared. Jesus' relationship to these faithful disciples is signalled in the words 'went in with him'. In responding, 'I do not know you', the bridegroom speaks truly, for there has been no response in friendship; the 'foolish' ones chose not to pursue it. Yet this is not the final conclusion. The story is a warning only. In his admonition to remain watchful, Jesus indicates that discipleship is for all. Both the weak and the strong of the Christian community are called into fellowship with him.

Matthew's familiarity with the Jewish sapiential tradition is evident in his ready allusions to the contrast between wisdom and folly. An easy link is made with the First Reading in which the qualities of Wisdom are presented. The writer has made clear that Wisdom's origin is in God so that its possession ensures integrity and this in turn ensures right choices.

Complementing this comes a glimpse of the psalmist's vision (Ps.62) as he declares his longing for God: 'For your love is better than life.' Hessed, translated here as 'love', conveys in Hebrew both the act of loving and its consequences, and is often rendered as 'loving kindness'. So, the faithful one is nurtured in the loving kindness of God. Then, in what may be Paul's earliest letter, comes his unequivocal statement of what Jesus has achieved for believers. His words leave no room for doubt: 'we shall stay with the Lord for ever.' (From the Pastoral Review: Teaching & Preaching the Word by Kathleen O'Gorman)

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

THANKSGIVING MASS - BISHOP CRISPAN: I have four (4) tickets available on a first come first serve basis for the Mass which will take place at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, on Saturday, 19th November at 11am. There will be light refreshments for all after Mass. (Priests & deacons will be celebrating a special Mass with Bishop Crispian at a later date after the appointment of the new Bishop has been announced)

SECOND COLLECTIONS: The second collection for this Sunday, November 6th, will be the APF Mission collection. APF Missio envelopes are available at the back of the churches. This is an obligatory collection.

THE PARISH MAINTENANCE TEAM: I am very grateful to Wayne Culver, Alan Lawes & Jim Ross who have agreed to join Tony O'Connell as members of the parish maintenance team.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MASSES: the next date for young peoples Mass at St Bernard's is: 4 Dec.

PARENTS: If your children sometimes attend Children's Liturgy and/or the Young People's Masses (including the older children who help), please complete a yellow parent consent form (at the back of St B's) and pass it to Clare Davies or Fr David, or drop it off at the Parish office. This is part of the diocese's requirements for safeguarding your children, and will also let us stay in touch and better support your family. Thanks for your help.

THE PARISH FINANCIAL RETURN: My thanks to Eileen Brady, Angela Falder, Carmel McClatchey & Tony O'Connell, members of our parish finance committee for work done to complete and approve the annual parish return for the year Sept 2010 to Aug 2011. Thanks also to all those who audit the weekly collections so faithfully, Eileen Brady, Louise Croll, Ron Kelly, Gill Lewis, Tony & Simone Cluett & Derek Hewitt. The financial return and a summary sheet will be made available in due course.

HOW GIFT AID BENEFITS THE PARISH: During the last year Gift Aided first collections raised **£31660** for the parish and the tax refunded by the Government on this sum amounted to **£7915**. Thanks to Carmel for administering the Gift Aid for our parish & thanks to everyone who is able to be part of the scheme. If you are a tax payer & are not yet a gift-aider please consider enabling the parish to benefit still further by your offering.

MISSIO/APF RED BOX COLLECTIONS: Special thanks to Tony Cluett who has been co-ordinating the Red Box collectors & collections for several decades!! As always those supporting this charity have been very generous. However more local collectors are now needed. If you think you could help please see Fr David in the first instance.

THANKYOU ON BEHALF OF CAFOD: the CAFOD Harvest Fast Collection raised in total **£814.54**. Well done! That was a very generous effort from everyone.

CAFOD Campaign on Climate Change Related Poverty: Over eight million people are facing acute food and water shortages caused by drought and more than five million affected by serious floods, all of which are caused or exacerbated by climate change. CAFOD is campaigning to help the worlds poorest people who are bearing the heaviest burden. Please sign a card to George Osborne & send off if you haven't done so already. Cards & details of the campaign are in the porch.

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST: One of our youngest parishioners **HAS COMPLETED** the 'Mini' Great South Run for **CAFOD!** Thanks to all of you for sponsoring him. Pay-up time is upon us!!

GEO HOUSE (ASHURST): is offering an Autumnal weekend of refreshment, relaxation & reflection 18th-20th November. See the poster for full information for this & other events.

ADVENT COURSE AT ASHURST (NOW GEO HOUSE): This course will focus around the new CaFE resource "**Saints - Helping us today**". The course will be on Thursdays at 7.30pm: 10th Nov; 17th Nov; 24th Nov; 1st Dec; 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.

OUR PARISH SHOP - FAITH HOPE & CHARITY (just by the side of Waitrose) needs **second hand Autumn & Winter clothes** urgently. They also have a great selection of **Christmas cards** available.

THANKS TO MIKE SLIPPER & THE NEW CAVALIER JAZZ-MEN for an evening of great music and entertainment last night. Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes & who helped out in any way.

DIOCESAN EVENTS COMING UP: "Stay Awake": A day of prayer for Advent. Sat 26th Nov 9.30am- 4.00pm. A variety of workshops on Advent themes will be offered. Come for all or part of the day. No charge. Please bring a packed lunch. Led by DPF. St. Stephen's Church & St. Peter's School, Olivers Battery Road North, Winchester. SO22 4JB. For a booking form visit <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/forms/stayawake>

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, Durlay Chine Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 5JS. More details on the Diocesan website.

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
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