

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Part of the New Forest Pastoral Area

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

Parish Priest & Pastoral Co-ordinator: Rev David Adams -
based at Our Lady & St Joseph Church, Lymington:
 Tel: 01590 676696

Rev Vincent Convery

Deacon: Rev Steve Bowler (Chair Parish Pastoral Council)
 Tel:02380 207449

Deacon Rev Ian Tobin Tel: 02380 897354

All correspondence to Parish Administrator,
 Linda Guilding, Parish Office, Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn,
 Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR Tel: 02380 843479
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 Website: watersidecatholics.org.uk

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Gospel of Luke—The Gospel of Mercy
6th December 2015

Year C, Weekdays Year 2; Psalter week 2

9.00am Mass SB

11.00am Mass SM

Monday 7th December No Mass

(St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church)

Tuesday 8th December :YEAR OF MERCY COMMENCES

(Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Pause for Prayer 10am SM's

Wednesday 9th December No Mass

Thursday 10th December No Mass

Friday 11th December NO MASS

Advent Service 7.30pm OLSJ Lymington

Saturday 12th December Mass 10am SM's

(Our Lady of Guadalupe)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION STRAIGHT AFTER MASS

MASS INTENTIONS 6th—12th DECEMBER

Anniversaries this week: Morag Horne(6th), Jim Manghan (9th), Andy Anderson (11th)

Remembering those who have died recently: Leana Keane, Eileen Kenny, Tom Sherlock

Other Intentions: James Fenn (Thanksgiving), Julie Poole (Health)

New Forest Pastoral Area

WATERSIDE: Hythe & Holbury - see above

LYNDHURST & TOTTON

Parish Priest- Rev Innaiah Maddineni Tel: 023 8086 2270

St Theresa of the Child Jesus-Beaumont Road, Totton &

Our Lady of the Assumption & St Edward the Confessor-

Furzy Lawn, Romsey Road, Lyndhurst:

Deacon Rev Stephen Short (Lyndhurst)

Saturday Vigil Mass 6pm Totton

Sunday Mass 9am Lyndhurst

10.30am Totton

BROCKENHURST, LYMINGTON, MILFORD ON SEA

Parish Priest-Rev David Adams Tel: 01590 676696

St Anne-Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst

Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph-High Street, Lymington,

St Francis of Assisi-Park Lane, Milford on Sea.

Deacon: Rev Stephen Morgan

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6pm Lymington

Sunday Mass 9am Milford on Sea,

10.30am Lymington

6pm Brockenhurst

NEW MILTON

Parish Priest: Rev Marcin Drabik Tel: 01425 614968

Our Lady of Lourdes-Mount Avenue, New Milton

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6pm

Sunday Mass 10 am

6.30pm Mass is in Polish

THE DEANERY is made up from the pastoral areas of New Forest,

Avon Stour, & Bournemouth **Dean: Fr Tom Grufferty**

MAKING A STRAIGHT MOTORWAY TO GOD

What was John doing in the wilderness? He was not a priest, he wasn't in the temple or the local church. He, a layman, was there declaring the forgiveness of sins. He shouldn't have been doing that! He was making it easy for people to get to God! They were supposed to go to the temple (church) and jump through all sorts of hoops, and pay so much money and slaughter this or that animal. Of course the temple priests made a nice living from all this. In fact the whole economy of Jerusalem was doing very well on it.

So when someone comes along offering free and easy forgiveness everyone flocks to them. Jesus would later criticise the religious controllers for putting heavy burdens on people's shoulders and doing nothing to alleviate the suffering. This is a perennial temptation of religion. It is always dividing the world into the holy and the unholy, the saved and unsaved. It creates more and more laws and conditions and practices which end up being steep hills, twisting, winding and difficult roads, and deep valleys of anxiety, fear and guilt. So instead of making it easy for people to get to God and for God to get to people it becomes one big obstacle course.

All the prophets up to John the Baptist challenge the institutional religion to come back to God in faith, humility, justice and compassion. Most of them were killed because we prefer our securities and vested interests to a living relationship with God.

The church always has the same problem. But it is no good just blaming the Church. We need to see where the root of the problem lies. That root is within ourselves and within our society. The Church is tempted to stray not because it is inherently bad but because it accepts all too easily the ways of the world. These ways are our ways too. They are usually the things we take for granted – the value judgments, the prejudices, the self-interested point of view, the dependence on everything outside (money, pleasure, addictions, status, popularity) to make up for the emptiness within. The emptiness is within not because God is not with us or in us but because we are living spiritually in a place that has no room for God. Our idols demand absolute subservience and will not tolerate rivals.

So this is the rub - the way to God is made straight, level, clear, fast, multi-laned, safe and easy so that we can journey to God in the here and now. The temptation of the world is to say – Oh well it's all very easy. It can't be worth much so I don't have to bother. I can get on with my life and do my own thing and build my little "tower". This complacency is fatal. All our suffering comes from our alienation from the ground of our being which is God. All our problems arise from the neglect, exploitation and manipulation of forces of fear, hatred, greed and power. We cannot sit back complacently, take God's love for granted and do nothing. The forces of the world are inherently destructive, divisive and despotic. In this messy, far from ideal world we have to let the light of the Good News shine and begin to change things. O you Christians – sing your hymns, say your prayers and have your churches – just don't try to change anything! (DMA)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES— WATERSIDE

Thursday 24th— Christmas Eve

Carols & Readings St Michael's 7pm; Mass 7.30pm

Friday 25th - Christmas Day

9am Mass St Bernard's

11am Mass St Michael's

Saturday 26th NO MASS OR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sunday 27th 9am SB's, 11am M's

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Alice Bramhill, Philomena Breen, Kitty Burroughs, Marion Butler, Denise Calder, Nick Candrl, Kathryn Cox, Baby Finn Drozd Baby Elijah, Derek Faiers, Derek Francis, Mervyn Francis, Ruth & Dennis Freemantle, David Grennell, Amanda Gudge, Sally Herbert, Catherine Heron, Doreen Holman, Chrissy James, Peggy & Michael Kirwan, Theresa Leydon, Betty Marek, Susan Marlow, Sarah Marshall, Maureen Mullen, Tony O'Connell, Ann O Connor, Karen O'Donovan, Julie Poole, Michelle Ripley, Joan Smith, John Stevens, Emmie Walker, Brian Weston, Maureen Weyman, Mary & Lawrie Witchell.

If you wish someone to be included for prayers here, or if the person being prayed for is now well & you would like their name removed, speak to Deacons Ian or Steve, or Linda via the Parish office.

SAD NEWS It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of **LEANA NORAH KEANE** who passed away on 26th November. May she rest in peace.

Leana's funeral will take place at St Michael's on **Wednesday 16th December at 1pm**, followed by Cremation at Wessex Vale. Please keep the family in your prayers.

QUIZ NIGHT The St. Martha Group would like to thank Dave King, quiz master and all the parishioners who supported the quiz night held on the 14th November. The amount raised was £246.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE We are organizing a Christmas Carol service on 3rd January (Sunday) at 4pm in St Bernard's church. Everyone is invited together with their families and friends to sing carols together. Tea, coffee or squash and cakes will be served after the service to make it a celebration of the Christmas season.

We need volunteers to bake cakes and we need 4-6 people for readings. Also if anyone wants to help with the music please let us know. We would like some children to do a small nativity scene. All interested people could you please speak to Gosia and Angela. Thank you.

For Angela: 07735344628, email: angela.slattery58@gmail.com

For Gosia: email: gorzata5@poczta.onet.pl

CHEQUES If you ever pay a cheque into the parish please note it should be made payable to *PRCDTR Waterside Catholic Parish*.

THE CANDLES ON THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent worship is like a journey through the Christmas story. Christians use the Advent candles to celebrate this period with one lit every Sunday of Advent so that during the last week before Christmas all four candles are lit.

The last central candle (which represents Christ), is lit on Christmas Day. In the centre of the wreath sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle was lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents **hope** or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ **Today, the second Sunday of Advent**, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents **love**. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger. It reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

**NO MASS AT SM'S THIS FRIDAY:
11TH DECEMBER**

OUR PARISH SHOP: FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY
 8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE
 SO45 6DA Tel: 02380 207882

Christmas cards and gifts now in!



POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is a decision, and it's a decision that we can and must make because it is what Christianity is all about. When we make a decision to forgive, firstly we must try to adopt empathy for the person that has hurt us, but most importantly we must try to remember how good forgiveness has felt in the past when we have been in the wrong.

This month we are asked to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention,

"That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving."

YEAR OF MERCY COMMENCES THIS TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Pope Francis has initiated a 'Year of Mercy' that will be celebrated in the Catholic Church from 8th December 2015. It's a time to focus on God's mercy and forgiveness. To mark this, many of the Bishops of England and Wales have recorded special reflections for Advent. The podcasts, released one a day throughout the season, cover those important themes of mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Listen at...

www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Holy-Year-Jubilee-of-Mercy/Podcasts-Advent-Reflections-2015



COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER

- + **13th December** : Flower collection for Christmas flowers
- + Crib Collection
- + Your Christmas gift to Fr David & Fr Vincent

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- + The family and friends of Leana Keane.
- + All those who are sick or housebound in our parish

WHAT'S ON?



PAUSE FOR PRAYER 10-11am **December 8th** St Michael's Hythe
 All welcome for quiet scripture, prayer and reflection.



THE WATERSIDE PARISH SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH is being held on **Thursday 10th December**, arrival is from 12 midday for lunch at 12.30pm, at the Old Mill, Holbury



ADVENT SERVICE Friday 11th December 7.30pm at the Catholic church, Lymington. 'Awaiting the Dawn' - a beautiful reflection of Advent in preparation for the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Church will be lit by candle light you may wish to bring a small torch to follow the service.



ADVENT REFLECTION DAY—To celebrate the start of His Holiness Pope Francis's proclaimed 'Year of Mercy'; on **Saturday 12 December 10am-3.30pm** Father Des will be hosting a Day of Reflection at Saint Joseph's, Ashurst focusing on one of the major themes of this

special year: 'God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son' John 3.16. A donation of £17.50 would be gratefully received.

This will be a great way to begin your personal journey during the Year of Mercy and an excellent way to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus our only Saviour.



LIVING NATIVITY: Churches Together Lyndhurst are presenting, Living Nativity Play and Carols: **Friday, 18th December, 7.30 pm** at **St Michael's & All Angels, Lyndhurst**, ending at the village Community Centre.

Tickets available from the local churches. Refreshments available. Wrap up warm, it may snow!
 (Directed & Produced by Stephen Short.)