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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

7th march 2010
Year C
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 (Mon & Tue only)

For the Ideal Gift visit

Faith, Hope & Charity

8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON, SO45 6DA



PARISH SERVICES: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun	7	9 am	SB	Mass: Third Sunday of Lent
		11 am	SM	Mass: Third Sunday of Lent
		6 pm	SM	Mass: Third Sunday of Lent
Tue	9	10 am	SM	Mass: followed by Prayer Pottery at 11am
Wed	10	7.30 pm	SM	Mass: 3rd Week of Lent
Thu	11	10 am	LT	Lyndhurst: Word & Communion Service
Sat	13	10 am	SM	Mass: Lent followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation (11am - 11.30 am)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun	14	9 am	SB	Mass: Fourth Sunday of Lent
		11 am	SM	Mass: Fourth Sunday of Lent
		6 pm	SM	Mass: Fourth Sunday of Lent

GOD'S PATIENCE WITH US

The Scriptures this Sunday are very much about God's patience with us. God is always giving us time to turn around and return to God's friendship. However we do not have all the time in the world. *Life is short and the hour of death unknown* as a funeral prayer reminds us. Most, if not all our unhappiness is self inflicted, not perhaps deliberately or consciously. It arises, in part, from the protective shell we create around ourselves. It happens because we do not know how to handle our desires wisely. These desires can inflict restlessness, anxiety, and dissatisfaction upon us. Unbridled desires that are greedy, angry, resentful and violent which arise from our insecurity and fear can consume and destroy us. Unless we recognise the harm they do physically, emotionally, to ourselves, others and society "we will all likewise perish", as Jesus says.

However if we turn radically to God in humility, acknowledging our need for mercy and help, then the path of life opens up before us. We must still walk that path, following Jesus' way. There are no magic solutions. Grace is given freely and without charge but cannot achieve its full purpose without our whole hearted engagement and response. Part of the process of the *Lamb taking away the sin of the world* is the work of God's Spirit in our lives, freeing us from our sins. One of the ways this "sin of the world" can be understood is the making of victims, "scapegoating" others. By standing with the victim Jesus undermines all our empty and specious justifications for rejecting the other, the "son of man" or human one as Jesus liked to call himself.

Everywhere through out the Gospels we see Jesus speaking up for the victims of unjust social, economic or religious systems. He proclaims the poor blessed, he welcomes children when others would drive them away. He does not hesitate to touch the leper, to eat and drink with the unrespectable, the despised and the marginalized. He accepts the company of women and champions their rights in marriage and in religious and social life. He protects people from dismissive judgement – the publican in the Temple, the widow giving her few coins, the disciples when they were hungry, the sick in need of healing. Jesus responds generously to any who seek comfort and healing. All he asks is faith and trust in God.

Combined with this Jesus constantly undermines the presumption and arrogance of power and domination over others. He says: the first will be last, anyone who wants to exalt himself will be humbled, anyone who wants to be first must become a servant of all and last of all. There are to be no Masters, Teachers or Fathers. Rather the follower must learn to become like a child to enter the Kingdom of God. And that Kingdom will be a community that doesn't create victims, excluded ones, or judged and condemned ones. The doors of the Father's house will always be open for the return of any wasteful ones who have wandered away from the light.

So the sin of the world is the making of losers, of victims, of judged, condemned and excluded ones. Jesus says to us; "Remember, **I am** the victim – the poor, the homeless, the naked, the sick, the prisoner, the condemned". We can no longer make victims in the name of God. Which side is God on? Both sides, of course, God is with the victims on both sides and with the perpetrators calling them to come to their senses. (DMA)

For the week beginning 7th March we will be offering Masses for: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Norah Manghan RIP, Benefactors of the Clergy Retirement Fund,
For the week beginning 14th March we will be offering Masses for: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, deceased clergy of the Diocese, John & Ruth Adams RIP, Fr David (B'day)

Roof Fund still to be raised -

£4,587.01

(Target - £13,500,

already raised - £8,912.99)

Thank you all, for your generosity

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Peter Brookes, Marion Butler, Joan Cocker, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Andrew Handol, Robert Lee, Joan Olden, Leslie Palmer, Bridget Reeves, Eileen Shanley, Lena Westfoot (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY - Tuesday Mornings 11-12 am led by Christine Olden. Tel: 023 80848754 at St Michael's Hythe. We 9, 16, 23rd 30th March (Lent). All welcome for quiet scripture, prayer and reflection.



There will be **Stations of the Cross:**

- at St Michael, Hythe, Friday, 12th March at 2pm. All are welcome.

CAFOD **SOUP LUNCH** - Thursday 18th March at 12.30 at St Bernard's Hall. Tickets £5 available after Mass from the back of the churches.

CAFOD 50th Anniversary: Give it up Campaign - See new materials in the porch for use all through Lent.

THANKS FROM FR PETER WILKIE: "Thank you for making me so welcome on Sunday last. I was so moved by the generous gift of the good people of St Bernard's and St Michael's, and please pass on my grateful thanks to them for their welcome and their kindness".



PRAYER & MEDITATION FOR LENT: WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? An opportunity to reflect on and pray about our different images of Jesus on **Tuesday, 9th March at 7.30pm in St Michael's.** All are welcome.



WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: A GREAT SUCCESS: One hundred and twenty-three women from our church and all the churches in Hythe gathered to celebrate this day of prayer hosted by St Michael's. It was a joyful and interesting service featuring prayers and songs from the Cameroon. Libby Beasley from the Catholic Church in Gosport gave a very informative talk about a parish community in the Cameroon supported by Gosport Catholics. Special thanks go to Waterside WWDP Committee members: Linda Guilding, Peggy Kirwan & Eileen Kenny; and also thanks to Eileen Brady, Win Cocker, Frances Connaughton, Ruth Freemantle, Ann Harding, Yvonne Mulvenney, Irene O'Connell, Ann O'Connor, Christine Olden, Monse Snellgrove, Miriam Ward, and thanks to all those who made or contributed cakes & biscuits, and a special thank you to young Anna Lawes who read so beautifully.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: for the year 2010/2011 are now ready for collection and will be in the porch at St Bernard's 7 St Michael's this Sunday, 7th March and for the next three weeks. Thanks to Carmel McClatchey for organising the envelopes.

THE FISH & CHIPS & BINGO NIGHT raised £407.60p. The Martha Group have made that up to £600 and presented the cheque to Fr David for church funds. Thank you to all who made the evening enjoyable & memorable.

MARTHA GROUP SOCIAL EVENTS: As you can see from the amount raised last Saturday having a good fun night out can also make a significant difference to Church funds. Please make a note in your diary of the next function: Quiz Night & American Supper, 24th April

THE DIOCESAN FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN - "LIVING OUR FAITH": This campaign is to raise funds so that the Diocese can continue: 1) vocations work for priesthood & diaconate; 2) the training of students for the priesthood; 3) the work of adult formation and training for lay ministry; 4) the provision of financial support for parishes. The campaign has been running very successfully in other parishes. During the first part of this process Fr David will be gathering a campaign team together. The team will be invited to a meeting details of which will follow.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Lenten Reconciliation Service at St Michaels on Tuesday, 23rd March at 7.30pm.

CAFOD Stations of the Cross - at St Bernard's Church, Holbury on Friday, 26th March at 2pm. There will be tea afterwards to commemorate the founding ladies of CAFOD.

Concert in St Michaels, on Saturday, 27th March at 7.30pm given by the Woodside Singers—various classical choral pieces suitable for Lent. £3.00—pay at the door. Light refreshments during the interval. After costs have been met surplus monies will be donated to CAFOD.

PASTORAL AREA EVENTS: (see notice board for other services during Lent)

Day of Reflection for Ministers of Holy Communion: on Saturday, 8th May 2010, from 10 for 10.30am until 3.45pm at St Joseph's, Ashurst, led by Fr Ronnie Mitchell SMM. Tea/Coffee provided bring packed lunch, opportunity for Reconciliation & Mass. We will join together with parishioners from Totton & Lyndhurst.

THE 2010 PLANT SALE: will be held in May this year and organised by Veronica Chadwick. So all you gardeners please get busy. Precise date to follow.