

# The Messenger

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

8<sup>th</sup> January 2012

## The Epiphany of the Lord - Divine Office: Wk 1

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: The Baptism of the Lord)
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the Day - 1st Week Ordinary Time)
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst (Liturgy: of the Day - 1st Week Ordinary Time)
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst (Liturgy: of the Day - 1st Week Ordinary Time, or optnl Memorial, St Aelred, Abbot, AD.1110-1167)
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: of the Day - or optnl Memorial, St Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, AD 300-368)
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: of the Day, or Our Lady on Saturday)
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup>	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst

**Mass Intentions: For this week:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Tony & Simone Cluett (Wedding Anniv), Yvonne Mulvenney (B'day), Ann Candri RIP Anniv, Nita Manghan RIP Anniv, Eileen Simpson RIP Anniv

**For the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> January:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Peace in the World, Christian Unity, Ann Harding (B'day)

### 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,  
6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR  
Tel: 023 8084 3479 e-mail: watersidecp@btinternet.com  
website: watersidecatholics.org.uk

### 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

## Uncovering the Connection

Traditionally the Epiphany is the manifestation, the revelation of Christ to the pagan world. If Christianity is to play its part in making known the Christ to the world it must be continually renewed and enlightened by the same Christ. Individually and collectively we are "earthen vessels" that hold a treasure. Our ignorance, prejudices & vested interests can distort the good news. Sometimes this distortion is such that, albeit, unwittingly, we communicate, or are perceived to communicate bad news instead. When it comes to offering Christ's life to the world we are "wounded healers". This only becomes an obstacle when we refuse to recognise & acknowledge the "wound" or the "shadow".

The most fundamental obstacle to the "good news" is the failure to exorcise the demonic image of God as an eternal torturer. The threat of eternal damnation became an all too easy weapon of abuse, control and domination. Coupled with countless examples of barbarity over the centuries it is a miracle that the emphatic Scriptural affirmation "God is love" retained any credibility at all. For Christianity to be good news for the whole world the dark shadow of fear and threat must be dispelled. All we need is a realistic recognition of consequences.

Secondly, Christianity must bring out from its storehouse of wisdom the healing and unifying dynamism of the Word. Now is the opportune time to proclaim that: "God is in all, through all and with all", that: "in God we live and move and have our being", that God's purpose is to "reconcile and unite all things, in heaven and on earth". This is particularly relevant to the relationship between faith & science.

Thirdly, Christianity must present itself as the promoter, not of one religion in competition with others, but as the guardian of a "new humanity". Everything that causes hostility must be "abolished". Humanity doesn't exist for religion, religion exists, should exist, for humanity. The simple, yet all encompassing axiom, too often obscured by human rules & taboos, that can give light to everyone is: "No one has ever seen God, as long as we love one another, God will live in us and his love will be complete in us".

Fourthly, Christianity must be healed of, and recover from, its gender and sexual neurosis which blighted the most basic human relationships with fear, shame & guilt. The wholesome and divinely transformative potential of ordinary human relationships must be clearly celebrated and communicated. Jesus offers friendship as the ultimate goal of all relationships, both human & divine.

Fifthly, there needs to be a healthy relativisation of all identities, forms and structures. When these are allowed to be absolutes, then the tyranny of earthly "gods" & "idols" ensues. Here we need to proclaim: "there is no male or female, no slave or free, no Jew or Greek, you are all one in Christ Jesus". This is not a denial of diversity but a recognition that the diversity is held and is secondary to an all encompassing unity. Respecting diversity and transcending diversity are both necessary for future global harmony. (DMA)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Marion Butler, Barbara Coughlan, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Ken Hemmings, Patrick Martin. Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Ann Wilton, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

**WATERSIDE FINANCE COMMITTEE:** There is a meeting of the Waterside Finance Committee scheduled for Thursday, 12th January, at 7.30pm in the meeting Room at St Michael's.

**WATERSIDE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 19th January, at 7.30pm in the meeting Room at St Michael's.

**A BIG THANKYOU:** from Fr David & Linda for all the prayers, cards & kind gifts from everyone at this Christmas time. And a **BIG THANKYOU for the very generous CHRISTMAS OFFERING this year:** What you give voluntarily forms part of the parish priest's annual income. Your generosity in difficult financial circumstances is greatly appreciated. If you want further information about how priests are financially supported please read the leaflet at the back of church.

**AN EVEN BIGGER THANKYOU:** To everyone who has helped to prepare the churches for our Christmas celebrations, cleaners, flower arrangers, sacristans, singers, musicians, children's liturgy leaders & helpers, carol service planners & readers & ministers of Holy Communion & altar servers.

**CRIB OFFERINGS:** over the period will go to Christian communities in the Holy Land courtesy of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This is in accordance with a Diocesan directive.

**ARE YOU SORTING** through your wardrobes, cupboards & toy boxes to make room for those Christmas presents? Why not send the things you don't need to Faith, Hope & Charity, the parish shop. You will be helping parish funds. Remember if you have any clothes which aren't worth selling bag them up & put "Rags" on the bags. These can be sold for recycling.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY:

**FOR CHURCH READERS:** Refresher session to be led by Rev Kevin O'Brien, Parish Priest of Totton on Saturday, 3rd March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst)

**FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** Refresher session led by Rev David Adams, on Saturday, 17th March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst).

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL:** We are planning a parish/pastoral area outing to experience this amazing dramatization of the life of Christ. This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. More information to follow.

**CAFOD EVENING** on Saturday 14 January St Bernard's Hall at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy a social evening and find out how your donations to CAFOD are used. Admission of £2 covers a free glass of wine or juice; please bring a plate of food for the buffet. Raffle. Chase away the January blues!

**WATERSIDE FOOD BANK:** At this time of year don't forget items for Waterside Foodbank. The Foodbank accepts any tinned or dried food as long as it is still in date. The Foodbank provides for local individuals & families in crisis across the Waterside. During the first year some 3845.9kg of food was donated. 224 emergency boxes of food have been prepared meaning that 318 adults & 232 children have been fed throughout the year. And thanks to Terry, Louise & Theresa for getting donated items to the bank.

**A DAY OF PRAYER** organised by the Diocese will take place on Saturday, 4th February 2012 at St. Swithun Wells Primary School, Hillcrest Avenue, Chandlers Ford, Hants. SO53 2JP. The theme of the day is 'Prayer: tools for the toolbox'. It will include a variety of sessions, led by Department of Pastoral Formation members and others, enabling people to experience different ways of praying, as well as a quiet room for silent prayer. **The day starts at 10.30am (tea/coffee will be available from 10.00am) and will end at 4.00pm. Feel free to come for all or part of the day. Please bring a packed lunch.** Booking is essential since we need a minimum number of people to make the day viable. If you would like to reserve a place please email estephenon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or telephone her on 01329 835583. There is no charge for the day.

**Fr. Ronnie Mitchell** would like to say a big thank you to all who have supported him and St. Joseph's during the past months and particularly during his move to Wisdom House in the autumn. He would like to invite you all to an "Open House" at Wisdom House on Sunday 15th January anytime between 12.00 noon and 4.00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Everyone welcome.

**AT GEO HOUSE (ST JOSEPHS)** Saturday 28th Jan - "Burns Night" - Tickets £25 for 4 course meal plus entertainment. Ring 023 8029 2337 for more details & to book your place.



(also known as St Joseph's, Ashurst)  
INTRODUCING an exciting new venture in the New Forest near to Southampton. VMM with its 40 plus years of experience in recruiting and motivating lay people,

has come together with the Montfort Missionaries to promote **Geo House** as a 'Centre for Global Mission and Integral Human Development'. The vision for the project is to provide a safe space for people wherever they are coming from—enabling personal growth, learning, deeper spirituality and exploring the demands of global justice.

**COPIES OF THE 2012 PROGRAMME ARE IN THE CHURCH PORCH**

For the Ideal Gi or Gi Voucher visit  
Faith, Hope & Charity  
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA  
Tel: 023 8020 7882

