

# The Messenger

All correspondence to:  
The Parish Office,  
Angel House, 6 Langdown  
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For St Bernard &  
St Michael's Churches

8th Mar 2009  
Year B  
divine office Week 2

St Michael's Church  
Langdown Lawn  
Hythe SO45 5GR

St Bernard's Church  
Southbourne Avenue,  
Holbury, SO45 2NT

## Waterside Catholic Parish

### PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams  
Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)  
Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

To contact The Parish Administrator based at St Michael's  
call between 9am - 2pm daily (Mon, Tue, Wed)



### PARISH SERVICES

#### Second Sunday of Lent

Sun	8	9 am	SB	Mass: Second Sunday of Lent (John MacIsaac RIP Anniv)
		11 am	SM	Mass: Second Sunday of Lent (George Krzymuski RIP)
		2 pm	SM	Baptism: Grace Josephine Lawrence
		5 pm	SM	Stations of the Cross
Tue	10	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: of Lent (People of the Parish)
		7.30 pm	SB	Lenten Prayer, Adoration & Reflection
Wed	11	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: of Lent (deceased Clergy of the Diocese)
Thur	12	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: of Lent
Sat	14	10 am	SM	Mass: of Lent (Albina & Edward Lozinski RIP)
		11 am		Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30am)

#### Third Sunday of Lent

Sun	15	9 am	SB	Mass: Third Sunday of Lent (Bill Booth RIP)
		11 am	SM	Mass: Third Sunday of Lent (John & Ruth Adams RIP)

### Forthcoming events...

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH THURSDAY - 12TH MARCH 12.30PM ST BERNARD'S HALL: All welcome tickets available after mass and at the Parish Shop £5. All proceeds to CAFOD.



G20 RALLY - 28TH MARCH: The leaders of the world's 20 largest economies will meet in London on 2nd April to discuss how to deal with the economic crisis. CAFOD and other Aid Agencies are organising a rally on 28th March to lobby leaders on a Put People First platform. Their demands are 1) Jobs for All, 2) an end to global poverty and equality, and 3) the building of a green economy to deal with climate change. For more details see letter on noticeboard, log on www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk or phone Louise Croll 80898213.

### Information & Notices:

QUIZ NIGHT/AMERICAN SUPPER NIGHT - SAT 25TH APRIL  
Donations required for suitable raffle prizes please. If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, wine, vouchers, etc please drop them into the Parish Office between Monday and Wednesday 9-2pm.

A Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 2009 - 21st - 28th September: Flying from Gatwick to Dubrovnik (Croatia Airlines). £465 pp (shared room basis). Email: josephine.henwood@btinternet.com or write: Linksvie, 32 Littledown Drive, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7AQ

### For the ideal gift visit....

Faith, Hope & Charity  
8 ST JOHN'S STREET  
HYTHE  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO45 6DA  
Tel: 023 8020 7882



Volunteers Required in the shop  
3 hours in the afternoons  
3.4 hours in the mornings

### Hythe & District Voluntary Care Group

Can you spare a few hours a week driving for the group? Help given for expenses. We provide transport to various hospitals for patients who do not have cars, or are unable to use the public transport.



### Plant Sale - Sat 9th May

Its that time of year again to get your fingers green!!

Donations of cakes and raffle prizes wanted please too - and also any offers of help would be gratefully received. Tel: Veronica 023 8089



If you can arrange flowers in a vase - we need your help - you don't need to be a flower arranger! You could learn the art of arranging flowers for free! Just think a new skill learnt at no cost to yourself and the enjoyment of decorating God's house. Act now and ring Val Poore (St B's) on 80891239 or Christine Olden (St M's) 80848754.

### Need to arrange a baptism?



Call the Parish Office on 023 8084 79 and leave a message.

## WHAT IS GOD ASKING – WHAT IS GOD GIVING?

For much of human history people have been fearful of God. In the emerging consciousness of humanity the deity was difficult to find and hard to understand. People were suspicious of the forces that seemed to arbitrarily control their lives. Gods were to be feared not loved. They had to be placated and kept on side. This way of imaging God was, and for many people still is dark and toxic.

The Old Testament patriarch, Abraham, was called away from such pagan religion into a relationship with the living God. This was the beginning of revelation as we have experienced it in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The pagan peoples who lived close to Abraham and the early Israelites are known to have practiced some kind of child sacrifice at various times. They obviously had an influence on the Jewish people. You can imagine the scenario; “We are so devoted to our god we are prepared to sacrifice our children! What are you prepared to do for your god?”

The story of Abraham and Isaac is a response to that kind of taunt. At some point people began to realise and believe that God doesn't want the sacrifice of humans – perhaps God will be pleased with an animal instead? But God doesn't really want animals to be killed either (cfr Micah 6: 6-8).

It took thousands of years for people to begin to realise that God doesn't want anything killed or destroyed at all. Jesus reveals God as life-giver not life-taker! Instead of demanding that we sacrifice ourselves God actually makes the sacrifice on our behalf. At one time we thought we had to kill things to get to God. In Jesus, God accepts death to reveal the divine love, which is unconditional, gratuitous, inclusive and indiscriminate. Jesus accepts being killed, accepts being a victim so that we would no longer turn others into victims. God can be loved. We are not seeing a toxic God of our own imaging but the God whom Jesus reveals – Father and Mother to all.

There is another important teaching of spiritual wisdom here. Life gives and life takes away. Sometimes life takes from us the very people or things we have been cherishing. Isaac was the child of the promise – the whole future depended on him. Our life work, the people we depend on, the gifts God has given us, some day we will have to let them all go back to God. If we believe and trust in God's goodness then new life will be generated. (DMA)