

There is no need to be afraid...

In 1934, a group of Christians met at Barmen in Germany. They were alarmed by the increasing power of Nazi ideology over the German churches. In response, and at considerable danger to themselves, this small gathering issued a Theological Declaration. At its heart were words from today's Gospel: 'Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.' The German word for 'kingdom' is of course *Reich*; and this particular 'little flock' would form what is known as the 'Confessing Church', bravely and unshakably opposed to Nazism, often at great personal cost.

Luke's Gospel was written for a Church who knew the reality of persecution, hostility and opposition. In this context, the exhortation 'Fear not' is a refrain. 'Do not be afraid,' say the angels to Zechariah, to Mary, and to the shepherds. 'Do not be afraid,' says Jesus to his disciples. In the face of powerful threats to its existence, Luke's 'little flock' gladly heard the reassurance of those words.

Fear is a potent force in the world today. We fear loss, we fear failure. We fear threats to our treasured way of life. And the media often work to stoke up such fears: fear of crime, fear of immigrants, fear of travellers. Fear can be a crippling, destructive force in people's lives, preventing them from experiencing the fullness of life that God desires for them. In such situations, it's tempting to treat these words as a sort of comfort blanket; something to hide behind while the dangerous, menacing world goes its wicked way.

But the exhortation is not meant as a licence for us to keep our heads down and keep out of trouble. It is a call for Christians to engage with the world, albeit at personal risk. It is an appeal to work for the kingdom, that kingdom of justice, love and peace, at whatever cost to ourselves. It is a summons to set out in faith, not necessarily knowing where it may lead, like Abraham, like our ancestors at the Exodus, like the German Confessing Christians, and like countless others who have recognised themselves as 'strangers and nomads on earth'.

It is a call to action. The Gospel urges us to be 'dressed for action', and to have our 'lamps lit'. There are echoes of the Israelites preparing for their escape from Egypt, and of Matthew's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. We may not know when the call to service will come, but we have to be ready for it. There are eschatological overtones here, with elements of threat as well as elements of promise. The faithful servants will receive their reward, but woe betide those who follow the way of the world, those who are concerned solely for their own comfort and prosperity.

There is no need to be afraid. This does not mean that we can content ourselves with a life of self-indulgence, for we are called to work for the kingdom. And it is not a guarantee that we will be kept free from the perils of this world. Not all of the Christians who met at Barmen would survive the Nazi years. But it is a promise to those who are faithful that whatever happens in this world, the Lord will be with them.

(From Priests and People by Fr. Peter Edwards)

The Messenger

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

8th August 2010

19th Sunday Yr C, Divine Office Wk 3

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| Sun | 8th | 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass 3pm SB Baptism - Megan Maisie Cross 6pm SM Mass |
| Mon | 9th | No Service <i>Feast: St Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein d. 1942 religious, martyr, Patron of Europe)</i> |
| Tues | 10th | 10.00am SM - Morning Prayer & Mass <i>Memory: St Laurence (deacon & martyr died 258 AD)</i> |
| Wed | 11th | 10.30am SB - Funeral Service Margaret "Peggy" Hannon RIP 7.30pm SM - Evening Prayer & Mass <i>Memory: St Clare (Foundress - Poor Clares, 1194-1253)</i> |
| Thurs | 12th | 10.00am LT - Mass of the Day <i>(St Jane Frances de Chantal (Foundress - Visitation 1572-1641)</i> |
| Fri | 13th | No Service <i>(St Pontian & St Hippolytus, martyrs c.236)</i> |
| Sat | 14th | 10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 11.30am <i>(Memory: St Maximilian Maria Kolbe, priest & martyr, 1894-1941)</i> |
| Sun | 15th | The Assumption of Our Lady 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass 6pm SM Mass |

Mass Intentions: For this week: *People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, deceased clergy of the Province, John Connell RIP, Kathleen Cummings RIP, Margaret Hannon RIP, Betty King RIP, Hilda Seward*

For the week beginning 15th Aug: *People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, All contributors to the Roof Fund, Lorraine Wilks RIP Anniv, Flo Warrilow RIP Anniv,*

New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am
Ashurst Community - Sun 9am
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Pastoral Team:

Rev David Adams (Parish Priest)
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon) (8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office,
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For the Ideal Gift visit
Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Trevor Handol, Jenny Lauder, Bridget Reeves, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE DIED: Sadly we heard that **Betty King** died in hospital on Friday. Betty was one of those who helped St Michaels right from the start. Funeral details are yet to be arranged. Also **John Connell** died on 29th July. John had retired away from the parish but was very active at St Bernards in the past. Also **Margaret "Peggy" Hannon** died last week she used to attend St Bernards before she became ill. Her funeral service is next Wednesday, 11th Aug, 10.30am at St Bernards

ROOF FUND - TARGET REACHED: Thanks to the family of the late Kathleen Cummings who donated a very generous **£1650** we have now reached our target figure!! **Well done, everyone.**

PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF - SPECIAL COLLECTION: All of you are aware of the devastating floods in Pakistan. You may have already contributed to the Disaster Emergencies Committee. **Today** we will have a special 2nd collection which will be sent to **CAFOD** on behalf of the victims. Donations can still be made next Sunday. If you are a Gift Aider please use one of the yellow envelopes and put your name on it. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at the 9am Mass is taking a summer break. However, on Sundays when Clare's around she'll still lead a session if wanted. Otherwise, if any parents wish to take their children (aged 2-7) out as usual, or to stay in but keep them occupied, some very easy Gospel-related activity sheets will be at the back of St B's. (Please keep the sheets but return pencils etc.)

CHILDREN'S MASS: On Sunday, Sept 26th the 9am Mass at St Bernard's will be geared more especially for children. We will be asking our young people to do the readings for that Mass so if anyone is already on the Rota for that Sunday please be ready to hand over to the children. We hope to do this once a month subsequently.

LIVING OUR FAITH: The amount pledged by the people & clergy of the parish is now £41,000. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

MISSION APPEAL: On Sunday, 22nd August there will be a Mission appeal made by Bro. Andrew Ferris on behalf of the Sacred Heart Fathers & Brothers of Betharram. See the poster for more details.

WALK the WORLD - Join us at 10am on Saturday 28 August 2010 at Immaculate Conception, Bells Lane, Stubbington for Walk the World - an 8 mile sponsored walk around Stubbington and the Lee on Solent area to raise funds for World Youth Day and CAFOD. For more information and to register your place by 16 August contact Dave Hill at the Department of Pastoral Formation on 01329 835583. Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from <http://cafodportsmouth.wordpress.com>

PAPAL VISIT: We have now finalised the list of names of people from our pastoral area who wish to attend one or other of the Papal events. I will be contacting people shortly to collect the ticket money. I am very grateful to Louise Croll who will be acting as Pilgrim Leader for the Hyde Park Prayer Vigil and to Rev Stephen Short who will be Pilgrim Leader for the Cofton Park Mass for the Beatification of Cardinal Newman.

JAZZ EVENING: The 7th Parish Jazz Night takes place at St Bernard's Hall on Saturday, 16th October with the new Cavalier Jazzmen. Starting at 8pm. Tickets are £6.00 each and will be available shortly. Raffle prizes are sought. Proceeds will go towards improving parish facilities. Mike Slipper 80-843908. Tickets after Mass or from parish shop - F.H.C.

RE: ST MARTHA GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE: The next meeting of the St Martha group is 16th August. We will be publishing the results of the questionnaire after that meeting. Thank you for taking part.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE: Copies of the latest edition are available at the back of the churches.

FREE TO GOOD HOME: Ceramic tiles, pale beige & white fleck, 6" x 6" , quantity: 110 plus odds, super condition. Would cover 27 1/2 sq ft plus. Contact Mike Slipper Tel. 80-843908