

Today's first reading, which presents disagreement in the infant Church followed in the second by an account of the heavenly Jerusalem, commonly understood as the Church glorified, is a clear reminder that the Church on earth is neither perfect nor omniscient.

Disagreements arise over new situations in the community to which answers are not immediately obvious. It is worth reading the whole of Acts 15:1-29 to get the sense of interaction between the different parties, and the overall mix of relating and listening, discussion that includes different perspectives on the problem, and authoritative decision. We find evidence of similar arguments elsewhere in the New Testament, for example in Galatians 2:12 Paul recounts the division caused in the church of Antioch when some people came from James (Jerusalem) demanding that Jewish Christians stop sharing meals, probably including the Eucharist, with Christians of Gentile origin. The core question was whether Gentile Christians must observe the entire Mosaic Law. The need for circumcision in accordance with Mosaic practice was a theological issue, not just a social custom, hence the fierce dissension it evoked.

It is also possible that Paul and Barnabas did not welcome intrusion on their patch by visitors from Judaea. The story has all the elements for appeal to tradition and a good power struggle, yet at the centre is concern for the new converts on whom too heavy demands were being made that unsettled their minds, and a solution acceptable to both parties is agreed and authoritatively proclaimed. Current situations need similar attention by church pastors and those in authority. Appeal to tradition is not enough. Where the law is too heavy a burden and unsettles the minds of those trying to live a Christian life, Scripture teaches that action is needed on the part of those in authority to lighten the burden, and support and encourage these children of God.

In the Gospel Jesus begins to talk of the Spirit whom the Father will send in his name. There are many rich strands in this passage from John: love, peace, remembrance, and above all promise. Jesus promises the Spirit and all that flows from that: indwelling of the Trinity, being taught and reminded of all that Jesus said, and a peace that the world cannot give. In scripture, covenant, the faithfulness of God is the ground on which the Judaeo-Christian faith is founded. Promises are made at key stages in Christian life – baptism, confirmation, priestly ordination and marriage, and in profession of the evangelical counsels. Promise in human relationships has been described as the translating of desire into fidelity that sustains the parties through good and bad, through sickness and health. In this reading there is a sense of being overwhelmed by Jesus' love for the disciples. It is warm and tender, strong and full of promise.

(Preaching and teaching the Word by Bridget Tighe FMDM, in Priests and People)

The Messenger

St Michael's Church,
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

9 MAY 2010
Year C
divine office WK 2

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

TIMES OF SERVICES



Sun	9	9 am	SB	Sixth Sunday of Easter
		11 am	SM	Sixth Sunday of Easter
		6 pm	SM	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Tue	11	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass
Wed	12	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass
Thu	13	10 am	LT	Mass
Fri	14	12 pm	SM	Prayer until 1pm
Sat	15	10 am	SM	Mass
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am
Sun	16	9 am	SB	The Ascension of the Lord
		11 am	SM	The Ascension of the Lord
		6 pm	SM	The Ascension of the Lord

Mass Intentions: For the week beginning 9th May: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Victims of Abuse, Church Reform, Vera West RIP,

For the week beginning 15th May: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Victims of Abuse, Church Reform, Edith Manghan RIP

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)

Parish Administrator: Helen Hughson (Mon & Tues only 9am–2pm)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office,
Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe SO45 5GR

Tel: **023 8084 3479**
e-mail: **watersidecp@btinternet.com**
website: **watersidecatholics.org.uk**



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, Amanda Gudge, Irene Mitchell, Michael Peake, Bridget Reeves, Lena Westfoot (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE: We look forward to the celebration of the marriage and Nuptial Mass of Henry Krzymuski & Elena Dokuchaeva on Saturday, 22nd May at 4pm at St Michaels Church, Hythe. Please keep them in your prayers for a joyful wedding day and a very happy life together.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We are also looking forward to the celebration of 1st Holy Communion for Ciara Reilly on Sunday, 6th June at the 9am Mass at St Bernards. All being well Manu Crean Raffray will also be making his 1st Holy Communion at the same time. Please keep Ciara & Manu in your prayers for a joyful day and a life long experience of God's love given to us in the Eucharist.

SPECIAL THANKS: to Jim Ross who has made a lovely pedestal for Our Lady's statue in St Michaels. All we need now are four strong men without dodgy backs to position the solid marble statue on its new stand!

THE 2010 PLANT SALE: will be held on May 15th, next Saturday at St Bernard's. Plants go on sale from 10am until about 12 noon. Those with plants to sell arrive earlier to set up their stalls. Also Donations of raffle prizes are needed now and of plants and home-made cakes on 14th. Raffle tickets will be on sale after Masses this weekend. Proceeds are going to the Roof Fund.

SUNG MASS, for ASCENSION THURSDAY.

St. BONIFACE CHURCH, 413 Shirley Road, Southampton Thursday May 13th. at 7.30pm with "Cantores Michaelis" [*Soton. University Music Dept.*] director: Keith Davis, organ: Alban Rees-Jones, SCHUBERT: Mass in G [D. 167], PETER PHILIPS: *Ascendit Deus*, GERALD FINZI: *God is gone up with a triumphant shout*, Gregorian Chant for the Day

WE NEED ITEMS FOR RAFFLE PRIZES: If you have any unwanted gifts that would make good raffle prizes please hand them into the Parish Office or give them to Fr David at Mass on Sundays. Thank you.

ROOF FUND—WE HAVE REACHED 75% OF OUR TARGET!

Current amount collected £10,087.12 (£3,412 yet to be raised)

Thank you all, for your enormous generosity

Join easyfundraising.co.uk, do your usual shopping online and help us raise more money for free! It won't cost you a penny!

CAFOD STAMPS - Thank you all for many used stamps, and old/foreign coins which we will deliver to the CAFOD office. Keep them coming in! Thanks also for the many Tesco's for Schools vouchers which have been passed to Our Lady & St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

Welcome: We welcome into our parish Lt Col John Stevens MBE. John has spent a year in Australia looking after his sister and during that time became a member of the Catholic Church. He now lives in Holbury. We give him a warm welcome and an assurance of our prayer & support.

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 parish projects. **Our Parish Team is now in place. They will be helping Fr David meet with parishioners to invite support for the campaign.**

Celebrating Marriage 2010 - On 12 June 2010 there will be a special Mass at St Bede's, Basingstoke for couples in our diocese celebrating significant wedding anniversaries during 2010. If you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th anniversary during 2010, or any anniversary over 60 years, please let your parish priest know as soon as possible so that Bishop Crispian can send you an invitation. Attendance will be by invitation only and numbers are limited.

For more information contact: Katja Babei, Advisor for Marriage and Family Life, Department for Pastoral Formation. kbabei@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Tel: 01329 835583

Get CREATIVE! for CAFOD Portsmouth - Entries are still welcome until the 7th of June (from individuals and/or schools and groups) for CAFOD Portsmouth's "Get Creative" competition, to produce a CD of songs and poems from people across the Diocese. The topic could be anything from environmental justice to live simply, from worship to social action. Full rules and entry forms can be downloaded from www.cafod.org.uk/portsmouth or contact the office at portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329285 for more information.

CAFOD THANKS We just wanted to thank you so much for your parish's generous donations to help people after the earthquake in Haiti. We were overwhelmed when our supporters in England and Wales raised more than £4.7 million for CAFOD's Haiti earthquake appeal (£270,380 from the diocese of Portsmouth alone). Your generous support, even at a time when some of us are struggling to make ends meet, is truly inspirational. Now, more than three months after the earthquake, our partners have provided food, shelter, clean water and healthcare to hundreds of thousands of people. Thanks to your support, our partners have provided: 1.5 million people with emergency food, 100,000 people with tents or tarpaulin for those who lost their homes, 2,000 children living in camps with trauma counselling, 350,000 people with healthcare. CAFOD are working through Caritas International, a group of Catholic agencies, to deliver vital aid in Haiti. As well as distributing food, tents and shelter we are supporting our partners to install water pumps - so the people have access to clean water - and build latrines to improve sanitation. Our partners are also providing trauma counselling for children and creating safe places to play within the camps. Haiti is a place in need. But it's not a desperate place. People are living and working together as best they can. Please continue to keep the people of Haiti in your prayers.

Best wishes, Lynda Mussell and Laura Bigoni
CAFOD Portsmouth Diocesan Team.