

# The Messenger

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 St Bernard &  
St Michael's churches

9th august 2009  
Year B  
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 daily (Mon & Tue only)

## PARISH SERVICES

### 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	9	9 am	SB	Mass: 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time
		11 am	SM	Mass: 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Tue	11	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: St Clare
Wed	12	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: of the Day
Thur	13	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: of the Day
Sat	15	10 am		Mass: Our Lady on Saturday
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30 am)

### The Assumption of Our Lady

Sun	16	9 am	SB	Mass: The Assumption of Our Lady
		11 am	SM	Mass: The Assumption of Our Lady



For the Ideal Gift visit  
Faith, Hope & Charity

8 ST JOHN'S STREET  
HYTHE  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO45 6DA  
Tel: 80207882

This week we will be offering Masses for:  
People of the Parish, Benefactors  
of the Clergy Retirement Fund,  
Thanksgiving for Eileen & Gerry Brady,  
James & Catherine Croll RIP (Anniv)  
Next week (16h August) we will be  
offering Masses for:  
People of the Parish, Lorraine Wilks RIP,  
Flo Warrilow RIP, David & Kim Guilding  
(Wedding Anniv)

Total Roof Fund collected to date

**£5482.73**

(Target - £13500)

**Thank you all for your generosity**

## The Scandal of Flesh & Blood

The Gospel of John chapter 6 gives us the strongest Eucharistic language in the Christian Scriptures. It is so strong it can be an obstacle, it seems uncomfortably close to cannibalism. Some of Jesus' hearers called it "intolerable language" and "stopped going with him" (6:66).

John's Gospel gives us this difficult language e.g. "I tell you most solemnly if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you" (6:53) and leaves us to struggle with the meaning. And then having apparently forced us down the road of uncompromising absolutes Jesus wrong foots us again with the words "It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life" (6:63).

Why is this so difficult for us? One reason is that we do not sufficiently appreciate the gift of life itself or the food of the spirit which is wisdom and love. Another reason is because we have come to see ourselves as separate from everything else and separate from God. Einstein called this myth of separateness "an optical illusion of consciousness". Scripture has many passages that speak of God's union with creation. God is above all, through all and within all (Eph 4:6); all things came into being through him (the Word) John 1:3); all things were created through him and for him (the Christ), and in him all things hold together (Col 1:16-17); him (Christ) who fills all in all (Eph 1:23). God's plan as St Paul tells us in Ephesians is "to gather up (unite) all things in him (the Word / the Christ), things in heaven and things on earth" (Eph 1:10).

We experience God's union with us in the sphere of consciousness. Indeed as the contemplative witnesses testify the "place" of union with God is where our consciousness of ourselves and God's consciousness of us meet. As Meister Eckhart wrote: The eyes with which we see God are the eyes with which God sees us.

So where does all this leaves us? Listen to St Augustine (3rd cent): "when you receive the body & blood of Christ you are receiving your own mystery". The flesh and blood of Jesus, our flesh and blood and the body and blood that is the Eucharist are all one mystery. There is union, not separation, between all these realities. Just as "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14) so our flesh and blood is an expression of the Word. The infinite love and compassion of God is manifesting itself in the reality of our flesh and blood, right here and right now. The infinite love and compassion of God is giving us being, life and love moment by moment.

However if we define ourselves only by the material, external realities then we are subject to the limitations of the flesh. If our self-esteem, our self-worth, our ego is dependent upon the appearance and vitality of our bodies then we are at the mercy of that which is subject to decay. In this sense the "flesh has nothing to offer" and the soul tries to live in the body, an ultimately futile endeavour. If however we gratefully accept our own flesh and blood with all its strengths and weaknesses then we allow the body to live in the soul. In this sense the "spirit gives life". We are at home in our bodies and comfortable with our flesh but not solely defined by it. And the spirit is infinitely greater because it is God's Spirit in us.

In Jesus, we see God incarnate, enfleshed in the world. The marriage of God and creation is celebrated. The same is true for us. Our flesh and blood, our life is God's gift. As Jesus says; "It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (6:33). It is through our flesh and blood reality, through its strengths and weaknesses that we receive the life of God. This is why the ordinary everyday things and especially the "love that binds us together" are the stuff of divine life, here & now. (DMA)

## Information & Notices:

**THE ROOF FUND:** Following the second collection recently we've had yet more donations with one major contribution of £1000 ( special thanks to that person who wishes to remain anonymous) which means that we are now approaching the halfway mark. Once again thanks must be given to all those who contribute to this major fund. Well done everyone, your support underpins the growth of this Catholic community.

**WATERSIDE FOOD BANK** - The Foodbank box seems to be quite heavy following last week's plea for contributions - thank you! It is appreciated and will be appreciated by the many who for whatever reason may be experiencing difficulties over the coming weeks or months. Please keep the contributions coming, perhaps one small extra purchase with your weekly shopping may not be that noticeable to you, but ultimately will form part of a food pack for somebody who needs it urgently. Any donations can be left in the plastic box in the church porches. Please see the list of required foods in the porch, (basically non-perishable food only—tinned food or dried food).

### **MARTHA GROUP SUMMERTIME EVENTS:**

**THANKS TO THE MARTHA GROUP** - and everyone who helped to make the Skittles Evening a very enjoyable event. We will have details of the fund raising in due course.

### **Jazz Night - Sat 12th September.**

The return of the ever popular Jazz Night by the Cavalier Jazzmen organised by Mike Slipper! American Supper/bring a bottle + Raffle. 7.30pm until 10.30pm. Tickets will be available shortly from Faith, Hope & Charity, after Masses, from the Martha Group and of course from Mike Slipper himself. Tel: 023 8084 3908 *If anyone has any suitable prizes which could be used for the raffle and would be happy to donate them please drop them at the Parish Office, Monday & Tuesday between 9.30am & 2pm or give them to Fr David.* Thanks.

**FUNDRAISING** - Would anybody be interested in a car-wash fundraising day? This might appeal to some of the younger members of the parish. We could operate a drive-in car wash service for the Roof or general church maintenance funds. Call us at the parish office if you are interested.

**DO YOU RUN A BUSINESS?** Could you support us by searching online with easysearch? Its a new charity search engine where Waterside Catholic Parish - Hythe will raise funds when you search the web. Use easysearch instead of Google or any other search engine and you could raise around £20 a year by searching just 10 times a day.

**SPONSORED SWIM** - did you sponsor Marcus? Sponsorship money is still being collected if it had slipped your mind! Please put your contribution in an envelope and either put it in the collection on Sunday or put it though the door of the parish office. Many thanks.

**ST BERNARD'S CHURCH & HALL - Cleaning:** Thanks to Una Ratcliffe who has offered to help Veronica & Brenda with the cleaning. If anyone else wants to lend a hand please give your name to Fr David.

**GIFTAID** - Do you pay Income Tax? Would you like to contribute to the church? Did you know that if you contributed £100 to your parish over the year the Parish church will get back £28 from the taxman. Or even if you gave £500 over the year the church would get back £140! If you are interested in making donations but with no particular commitment to a set amount over the year please contact the Parish Office for more details.

**CATHOLIC PAPERS** - For the past year there has been very little uptake of the Catholic papers, (The Universe, The Catholic Times and the Tablet). Administering the papers costs the parish time and money. So from 1st October 2009 these papers will no longer be available at the back of the church. If you wish to receive these publications please order them direct from your newsagents. The Tablet can be ordered direct from the publishers by subscription.