

The Messenger

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

9th December 2012

Second Sunday of Advent Yr C (Psalter Wk.2)

9.00am Mass at St Bernards

11.00am Mass at St Michaels

6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst

Mon 10th No Service (Liturgy: Memorial, St Swithun Wells)

Tues 11th 10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass
(Liturgy: 2nd Week of Advent)

Wed 12th 10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst
(Liturgy: 2nd Week of Advent)

Thurs 13th 10.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst
(Liturgy: Memorial, St Lucy)

Fri 14th No Service (Liturgy: Memorial, St John of the Cross)

Sat 15th 10.00am SM Mass then Adoration of Jesus
in the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation
until 11am. (Liturgy: 2nd Week of Advent)

Sun 16th Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am Mass at St Bernards

11.00am Mass at St Michaels

3pm Advent Service - St Michaels

6.00pm Mass at 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 Phillip Egan, All Members of the Parish Maintenance Group, Andy Anderson RIP Anniv, Aidan Prestage RIP Anniv

For the week beginning 16th Dec: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Phillip Egan, All expectant mothers, John & Lena Keane (Intentions), Ruth Adams RIP Anniv

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
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 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 9.00am, New Milton at 11.30am,
 Lymington at 10:30am, Brockenhurst at 6.00pm

MAKING A STRAIGHT MOTORWAY TO GOD

What was John doing in the wilderness? He was not a priest, he wasn't in the temple or the local church. He, a layman, was there declaring the forgiveness of sins. He shouldn't have been doing that! He was making it easy for people to get to God! They were supposed to go to the temple (church) and jump through all sorts of hoops, and pay so much money and slaughter this or that animal. Of course the temple priests made a nice living from all this. In fact the whole economy of Jerusalem was doing very well on it.

So when someone comes along offering free and easy forgiveness everyone flees to them. Jesus would later criticise the religious controllers for putting heavy burdens on people's shoulders and doing nothing to alleviate the suffering. This is a perennial temptation of religion. It is always dividing the world into the holy and the unholy, the saved and unsaved. It creates more and more laws and conditions and practices which end up being steep hills, twisting, winding and difficult roads, and deep valleys of anxiety, fear and guilt. So instead of making it easy for people to get to God and for God to get to people it becomes one big obstacle course.

All the prophets up to John the Baptist challenge the institutional religion to come back to God in faith, humility, justice and compassion. Most of them were killed because we prefer our securities and vested interests to a living relationship with God.

The church always has the same problem. But it is not good just blaming the Church. We need to see where the root of the problem lies. That root is within ourselves and within our society. The Church is tempted to stray not because it is inherently bad but because it accepts all too easily the ways of the world. These ways are our ways too. They are usually the things we take for granted – the value judgments, the prejudices, the self-interested point of view, the dependence on everything outside (money, pleasure, addictions, status, popularity) to make up for the emptiness within. The emptiness is within not because God is not with us or in us but because we are living spiritually in a place that has no room for God. Our idols demand absolute subservience and will not tolerate rivals.

So this is the rub - the way to God is made straight, level, clear, fast, multi-laned, safe and easy so that we can journey to God in the here and now. The temptation of the world is to say – Oh well it's all very easy. It can't be worth much so I don't have to bother. I can get on with my life and do my own thing and build my little "tower". This complacency is fatal. All our suffering comes from our alienation from the ground of our being which is God. All our problems arise from the neglect, exploitation and manipulation of forces of fear, hatred, greed and power. We cannot sit back complacently, take God's love for granted and do nothing. The forces of the world are inherently destructive, divisive and despotic. In this messy, far from ideal world we have to let the light of the Good News shine and begin to change things. O you Christians – sing your hymns, say your prayers and have your churches – just don't try to change anything! (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Amanda Bowden, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, George Hutcheson, John & Lena Keane, Betty Marek, Judith Morrison, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Pauline Sharpley, Ronald Stevens. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY: The next time of prayer will be on this Tuesday, 11th December at 11.00am. It takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Michael's. It is led by Christine Olden. All are welcome.

ADVENT SERVICE: A special service to help us enter into the spirit of Advent will take place at **St Michael's on Sunday, 16th December at 3pm until about 4pm.** It will include Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with readings, chants, litanies & finishing with Benediction.

ANDREW CANNING - STREET PASTORS: Thanks to everyone for your generosity to Andrew in his volunteer work with Street Pastors. Andrew has already contributed £150 of his own money towards the training. The total cost is £300. Your generous collection raised £189. Any extra will go to the Waterside Street Pastor initiative.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents, please contact Fr David if your child is in Year 3 at primary school and will be 8 yrs old in 2013 and you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion. At the moment we are only able to offer support for a home & parent centred programme of preparation.

SORRY YOU'RE LEAVING: We are sad to be saying good-bye to Angela Falder and her daughter Philippa. Angela & Philippa worshipped regularly at St Michael's and Angela, being a qualified accountant was a very helpful member of the Parish Finance Committee. She did the parish accounts and prepared the end of year financial return to the Diocese. Angela & her husband are moving to Surrey with his work. We wish them all the very best. Hopefully they will be back with us again sometime in the future.

CHURCH CLEANING AT ST BERNARD'S: At the moment two generous ladies, Veronica & Mary (one of whom worships at St Michael's) keep the church at St Bernard's clean. They would greatly appreciate some help. If anyone feels they can offer some help please see Fr David.

*****YEAR OF FAITH*****

Insights from Vatican 2 on the Liturgy

Liturgy needs the people to be on board. It is not just about rubrics. 'In order that the liturgy may be able to produce its full effects, it is necessary that the faithful come to it with proper dispositions, that their minds should be attuned to their voices, and that they should cooperate with divine grace lest they receive it in vain. Pastors of souls must therefore realize that, when the liturgy is celebrated, something more is required than the mere observance of the laws governing valid and licit celebration; it is their duty also to ensure that the faithful take part fully aware of what they are doing, actively engaged in the rite, and enriched by its effects.' (Sacrosanctum Concilium para 11)

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN: The total number of Christmas boxes for local children via the foodbank was 64! **What a brilliant response!** There were also 5 bags of food at St Michael's this morning and I think 2 at St Bernard's, so one way and another the foodbank is in line for major deliveries this week. A big thank you to all who contributed. You have made some families very happy this Christmas. My thanks to Terry & Teresa who are our reps for the Foodbank and transport the food and the children's boxes to the Foodbank. Linda

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: are happy to receive any of the following seasonal items: tinned ham; instant coffee, Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, long life cream, box of biscuits, children's selection box, box of chocolates, large chocolate bar, nibbles (e.g. peanuts), Christmas crackers, mince pies.

URGENT APPEAL FROM PARISH SHOP - FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY: If you have any unwanted winter clothes could you donate them to our shop. They are urgently in need of children's, men's & women's winter clothes.

THANKS TO ALL: who helped organise the Christmas Fayre this year & all who came along to support it. Thanks to all who worked hard to make items to sell, to bake cakes, to run stalls and to provide tea, coffee & tasty food. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle & all those who bought raffle tickets. And thanks to St John's Church for allowing us to use their Hall. **The total was £2,284.56, an amazing £150 UP on last year.**

CHRISTMAS WILL SOON BE UPON US AND I NEED TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP.

I need someone to volunteer to put the **Crib** out in front of the altar at **St Michael's** and to put it away again. It needs to go out sometime between the end of 11am Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent- 23rd December and Christmas Eve morning. It has to go away again after 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday 6th January. If you can only put the Crib out and not away perhaps you can find someone to help you. Please see me after Mass if you can help. Thank you. Fr David. (Thank you, Monica for volunteering to put the crib out and away at St Bernard's).



I also need volunteers to decorate the Christmas trees at St Michael's and to put it away again.

The tree and decorations are available. The **TREE** needs to go up sometime between the end of Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent- 23rd December, but before lunchtime Christmas Eve. It has to be put away again sometime after Mass on Sunday 6th January but before Mass on Sunday 13th January. If you can only put the Christmas tree out and not away perhaps you can find someone to help you. Please see me after Mass if you can help. Thank you. Fr David. (Thank you, Phil, for volunteering to put the tree up & away again at St Bernard's).



Would you like to remember a relative or friend who can't be with you at Christmas?

If so, why not buy a poinsettia plant, put the name of the person on the card provided, and leave at the back of the church.

The flower arrangers will then display them around the Church and we will pray for those named.

Please bring your Poinsettias to St Michael's or St Bernard's on Sunday 16th OR Sunday 23rd December. Thank you.

If you are thinking about buying your **CHRISTMAS GIFTS** why not pop into the **parish shop**- Faith, Hope & Charity-for inspiration? We have a range of new gifts, Traidcraft goods, a fine selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars and Advent candles, Catholic diaries and calendars.



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

