

The Messenger

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

10th March 2013

4th Sunday of Lent (Yr C) (Psalter Wk.4)

9.00am Mass at St Bernard's

11.00am Mass at St Michael's

6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst

(All Masses this week are Liturgy: of the Day)

Mon	11 th	No Service
Tues	12 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass 7.30pm SB Stations of the Cross
Wed	13 th	10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Thurs	14 th	10.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst 3.30pm SM Reception Linda Hayes RIP
Fri	15 th	10.00am SM Requiem Mass - Linda Hayes RIP
Sat	16 th	10.00am SM Mass then Adoration of Jesus in the Bl. Sacrament and Reconciliation to 11am.
Sun	17 th	5 th Sunday of Lent 9.00am Mass at St Bernard's 11.00am Mass at St Michael's 3.00pm Stations of the Cross at St Michael's 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, The Papal Election, Bishop Philip Egan, Fr David Adams B'day, Fr Shaun Budden B'day, Linda Hayes RIP, Jim Walker RIP, Nora Manghan RIP Anniv, Celina, Carlos & Louis Netto RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 17th Mar: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Philip Egan, Linda Hayes RIP, Jim Walker RIP, Lily & Eric Allen RIP Anniv, Eric Bowler RIP Anniv, Roy Coddington RIP Anniv, Jim Ross Snr 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)

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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

My dear People, I wrote the following Pastoral Letter before the unfolding of recent events, not least the retirement of Pope Benedict. We pray for him and for the whole Church as we look forward with joy to the election very soon of a new holy father. We also pray for the Church in our land in light of the sad allegations made against some of our chief pastors, whose sinful humanity has been so starkly exposed. I very much share the shame and disappointment everyone must feel. But, as the events of the Holy Week we are about to celebrate demonstrate, the Lord Jesus never abandons those he loves, even if they abandon him. So let us ask his merciful Heart for forgiveness and humility, and for that holiness and purity of life to which we all aspire. Thank you for listening to this Foreword. Now to the Pastoral Letter.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP to be read in all churches and chapels of the Diocese of Portsmouth on 10th March 2013, The Fourth Sunday of Lent GOD'S EXISTENCE - OUR HAPPINESS. Dear Believers, Brothers and Sisters, In this third Pastoral Letter, I would like to explore something absolutely fundamental. But let me first wish you a Happy Lent! The word Lent, from the Anglo-Saxon 'lencten' ('when the days lengthen') means Spring. Lent is springtime, a springtime of faith, a time of renewal, when the Church is on a forty-day pilgrimage with Jesus to Jerusalem. Lent is thus a favourable time when the Church invites us to undertake three great works: works of prayer, works of self-denial and fasting, and works of charity, justice and reconciliation. Today, Laetare Sunday, mid-way to Easter, I pray that as we continue our Lenten exercises, this will truly be springtime for all the priests and people of our Diocese.

This is also the Year of Faith and I wish today to consider the First Article of the Creed: I believe in God, the omnipotent Father, the Creator of everything visible and invisible. To say that I believe in the existence of God, that He is eternal, the Maker of the universe, that I believe God to be Personal, full of love, happiness and laughter, that I believe He is my Father, the One who created me, is the most profound statement I could ever make. It changes everything. It changes how I see the world. It changes how I live my life and what I might hope for. Of course these days, to say 'I believe in God' is daringly countercultural. In Western Europe, with the rise of empirical science and modern philosophy, many people today, at least in public, claim not to believe in God or to be agnostic. Others live *etsi Deus non daretur* ('as if God did not exist'), busy with work, home, shopping and entertainment. This is an ethos the mainstream media reinforce, by frequently giving air-time to scientists and others who dabble in amateur philosophy, negating God's existence, denying life has meaning and equating humans and animals. Indeed, even many Catholics nowadays live their lives as if the supernatural realm of God and heaven were merely a light at the end of life's long tunnel, rather than a sacramental reality enfolding us at every moment.

As believers, this is the challenging cultural context we live and breathe. Yet we know that to deny God is ultimately to deny Man. To deny God is to 'horizontalise' life, to trivialise human values and to demolish life's real meaning and purpose. This is why we reject the totalitarian ambitions of secularism and State-imposed agnosticism, as strangling human freedom.

St. Thomas Aquinas famously developed five ways of demonstrating the reasonableness of belief in God. In this regard, I find three thoughts helpful. First, nature. When I gaze at the vastness of our universe with its myriad stars and galaxies, and at the beauty, order and inter-connection of all things down to the Higgs-Boson particle⁷, I ask myself, how could all this be just the product of random chance? Surely anyone can see herein the work of an Intelligent Designer?

Secondly, life. When I think of myself and others forever striving for the truth, forever wanting what is best for others and for ourselves, forever aspiring for a Beauty to fall in love with and to sacrifice oneself for, I ask myself, how could all this, in the end, be futile, a useless effort, an enterprise eked out on a narrow strip of space-time, but devoid of meaning and value?

And thirdly, personal experience. When I think of my life and all I have received from God's Providence, of the Sacred Heart of Jesus pierced by a lance, dying on the Cross, who forgives me and calls me into a personal-passionate relationship with Himself in his Church, and who has blessed me in life with the love of family and friends and so many other gifts besides, I ask myself, how could all this be myth and make-believe, a delusion? Could the greatest saints and all the countless millions of believers over two millennia be so wrong and misguided?

No! I believe in God! I believe the alternative is unthinkable, a rejection of the facts and a recipe for social disaster. I believe that 'to believe' is the most attentive, intelligent, reasonable and responsible decision a person can make to the gift of life.

My brothers and sisters, in this Year of Faith, it would be good to reflect on the foundations of our faith and to have our reasons ready for those who ask. It would be good too for teachers and students in our schools to explore the 'proofs' for God's existence, and most importantly, to help one another experience personally the love of God in their lives. Let me suggest a few simple helps. Why not look up what the Catechism says about God's existence? Spend ten minutes in absolute silence? Try out different types of prayer? Reflect on a piece of sacred music? Watch a TV programme about the natural world that enkindles the wonder of God?

Let me add a final thought: the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, especially the Mass, which is principally where we experience the power of God's love and receive a foretaste of heaven. In recent years, a false idea has arisen that envisages the Mass as something we do, rather than what God is doing. In fact, in the Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus offers Himself to the Father through the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit associates us with Christ's prayer and offering. This is why the Mass is not ours; it is God's work¹¹. In this Year of Faith, I would like to invite everyone to review their attitude towards the Mass, to celebrate Mass authentically, to focus at Mass on Christ, not on ourselves as priests or people. It is important, of course, that we do our part, that we abide diligently by the rubrics, that we participate actively with due reverence, and that in our parishes, schools and communities, we foster the full variety and nobility of the Roman Rite, in its liturgical and musical styles, although always with the best examples. In this regard, many of our communities are now international, and so I wish to ask each parish and school to ensure, as Vatican II called for, that everyone knows the Latin prayers and the Latin chants of the Mass, at least those given in the new Missal¹². This is important in itself and for the young, but also as a work of evangelisation: that any visitor will know they have reached the universal Church of the Ages'. So to conclude. Today, Laetare Sunday, I wish you a Happy Lent. Today, Mothering Sunday, we pray too for all our mothers, living and dead. Indeed, as we celebrate this Mass, in which Jesus lays down his life for us, His Heart bruised for our offences¹³, may the Blessed Mother and St. Edmund, Patrons of the Diocese, pray for us that we may celebrate worthily the glorious mystery of the Resurrection. In Corde Jesu, + Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, 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, Michael Kirwan, Betty Marek, Tony O'Connell, 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 Prayer Pottery will take place on Tuesday, 12th March at 11.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Michael's. All are welcome. (Note: There will be no prayer pottery on Tuesday, 19th March)

SECOND COLLECTION: This week end there is an obligatory Diocesan collection for the *Clergy Assistance Fund*. This goes to support sick & retired clergy. Next weekend there will be a collection for Easter flowers

SERVICES DURING LENT: Stations of the Cross: Tuesday, 12th March, 7.30pm at St Bernard's; Sunday, 17th March, 3pm at St Michael's, Good Friday, 29th March, 7.30pm at St Michael's.

Service of Reconciliation: Tuesday, 19th March at 7.30pm in St Michael's.

LINDA HAYES RIP: Linda's body will be received into St Michael's church on Thursday, 14th March at 3.30pm. Her Requiem Mass will be at 10.00am on 15th March. The Committal will take place at Wessex vale crematorium. Our condolences to Anna & her family.

We extend our condolences to all the recently bereaved families and we pray for those who have died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen

YEAR OF FAITH

Va can 2: Gaudium et Spes - Joy and Hope: The Council on the Church and the World Today - "Gaudium et Spes": The Latin opening words of the Pastoral Constitution on the Church and the World Today, translated as "Joy and Hope" name the document in which the Council reaches out to the world as it is in our age. Half a century ago this Constitution was issued, Gaudium et Spes. It speaks to the people of our time, as it will to future generations. In our troubled world today, the faith of believers is a gift of the Holy Spirit to be shared with all humankind. The message is that "in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful...Christ has risen, destroying death by His death. He has lavished life upon us so that in the Son, we can cry out in the Spirit: 'Abba, Father!'" (para 22)

CONGRATULATIONS: To all the ladies of the parish who took part in Women's World Day of Prayer. This year it was prepared by the women of France. There were approx. 100 people at the service in the URC church, Hythe. A good number of our parishioners were present to give support. Our ladies (Eileen Brady, Louise Brown, Simone Cluett -our secret weapon, Frances Connaughton, Linda Guilding, Joy Lovelock & Maria Tinkler) were very professional, looked smart & appeared confident even though they were shaking!

YEAR OF FAITH: "EXPLORE YOUR FAITH DAYS"

at St Joseph's Chapel, Geo House, Lyndhurst Rd, Ashurst: Saturdays, 10.00am to 4pm. Starts with Mass, bring your own packed lunch, tea & coffee provided. Donations welcome to cover the cost of the day. **April 6th - Fiona Castle**, (& more afterwards!)

CAFOD: HUNGRY FOR CHANGE

Warmest thanks from CAFOD for your very generous support for the Family Fast Day Collection, the Soup Lunch and the Signing of cards to the Prime Minister. Special thanks to our young people, and for their help with the Fair Trade Stall. CAFOD total donations so far amount to £1597.89. Cards for the Prime Minister returned so far :70. Please remember to return any others. And let us not forget those filling CAFOD Pyramids. Thanks to everyone.

Pyramids available all through Lent

BEING CATHOLIC IN A SECULAR CULTURE. How does our relationship with Jesus lead us to respond to the world around us? **Speaker: Bishop Philip Egan.** Tues, 19th March in Portsmouth. Evenings 7.30pm until 9.00pm. For more details see the poster at the back of church.

CHANGES IN THE PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE DIOCESE: A year-long review, begun by Bishop Crispian and completed after Bishop Philip took over last September, has been conducted into the governance of the diocese. The purpose was to cut costs to avoid a budget shortfall while ensuring that the priorities of our Pastoral Plan *Go Out and Bear Fruit* continue to be delivered. The result is that the Department for Pastoral Formation will be closed, and henceforth catechesis, faith formation, marriage preparation, liturgical support etc will be provided locally, directly by parishes or pastoral areas. There are other changes too, mostly structural, which you can read about in a document produced by the Bishop and the Trustees that can be downloaded from the diocesan website at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

EASTER RAFFLE: Tickets will go on sale next Sunday (17th & 24th) for the Easter raffle. There are great egg & bunny prizes!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Quiz night and American supper : Saturday 20th April 7 p.m. @ St Bernard's. Tickets will be on sale at both Churches Sundays 7th & 14th April.

Plant Sale: @ St Bernard's on Saturday, 4th May, organised by veronica Chadwick.

Bingo & fish n' chips supper: Saturday 22nd June 7 p.m. @ St Bernard's.

Skittles & BBQ: Saturday 31st August 7p.m. @ St Bernard's

Quiz night and American supper : Saturday 5th October 7 p.m. @ St Bernard's.

A RETREAT EXPERIENCE IN FRANCE: Highly recommended by Terry George is an English retreat to be held at the Foyer of Charite Community at Tressaint in Brittany from Sunday, 30th June to Saturday 6th July. Retreats at Foyers are held in silence, in beautiful surroundings, with all the retreatants' needs catered for, including excellent home-cooked food. See the poster for details.

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
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