

# The Messenger

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For St Bernard &  
St Michael's Churches

St Michael's Church  
Langdown Lawn  
Hythe SO45 5GR

11th January 2009  
Year B  
divine office Week 1

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

## Waterside Catholic Parish

### PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams  
Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)  
Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

To contact The Parish Administrator based at St Michael's  
call between 9am - 2pm daily (Mon, Tue, Wed)

Inspiration and last-minute gifts  
available at The Parish Shop!  
"You'll be sure to leave with  
something you hadn't intended"



Faith, Hope & Charity  
8 ST JOHN'S STREET  
HYTHE  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO45 6DA  
Tel: 023 8020 7882



The Waterside Theatre Company  
Presents....

## CINDERELLA

The Pantomime  
Waterside Theatre, Holbury  
27th—31st January at  
7.30pm and Saturday  
Matinee at 2.30pm



Do you like to see  
flowers in church?



Both churches need more  
volunteers to help decorate the church  
with flowers. Most of the ladies at St  
Bernards have been on the flower rota  
for many years and would really ap-  
preciate more help. If you can put  
flowers in a vase that would be great -  
you don't need to be a flower ar-  
ranger! Depending on how many  
people respond to this request, we  
could arrange a workshop to show  
you how to create simple arrange-  
ments which might inspire you to  
decorate your home for Christmas  
and impress family and friends! Just  
think a new skill learnt at no cost to



### PARISH SERVICES

#### The Baptism of the Lord

Sun	11	9 am	SB	Mass: The Baptism of the Lord (Andy Anderson RIP)
		11 am	SM	Mass: The Baptism of the Lord (George Krzymuski RIP)
Tue	13	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: of the Day (Lorna Woodrow RIP)
Wed	14	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: of the Day (Peter Farrington RIP)
Thur	15	10.00 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: of the Day
Sat	17	10 am	SM	Mass: St Anthony of Egypt (People of the Parish)
		11 am		Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30am)

#### Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	18	9 am	SB	Mass: Mass for Christian Unity (Andy Anderson RIP)
		11 am	SM	Mass: Mass for Christian Unity (Michael Guilding RIP)

**Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion:** New rotas will be produced next week for the next three months. If you are unable to participate please let Helen know at the Parish office by Monday 12th January.

**Prayer for Christian Unity:** The eight days (octave) of prayer for Christian Unity begins on Sunday 18th January. While we must continue our Masses on Sundays we are encouraged to pray with other Christians at this time. There may be services at the weekend or during the week at local churches that you might care to attend.

**Prayer for Peace:** Sunday, 18th January is also a Day of Prayer for Peace. This prayer is very much needed for the Holy Land (Israel & Palestine).

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The first formal meeting of the PPC is on Thursday, 22nd January 2009 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's Church.

**Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults:** Our parish safeguarding representatives are Helen Kitson & Polly Read. Fr. David will be working with them over the next few weeks to ensure that all those with ministries involving children and/or vulnerable adults are appropriately authorised according to Diocesan guidelines. This includes ministers of Holy Communion, catechists, parish visitors, adult altar servers etc. Please do not be offended if you are asked to complete (perhaps again!) a CRB declaration. This is standard procedure for everyone. If you have already received your CRB clearance this suffices for the time being until the new system is introduced in 2009/2010. (DMA)

**GLUTEN ALLERGY:** If anyone has an allergy to gluten to such an extent that they are not able to receive Holy Communion in the form of bread, please let Fr David know as gluten-free altar breads can be made available.

## ONE SPIRIT IS GIVEN TO US ALL TO DRINK

Baptism celebrates the gift of God's self to humanity. With that gift comes divinisation, the indwelling and companionship of the Holy Spirit, belonging (in the Body of Christ), the new covenant of forgiveness and the hope of eternal life. This work of God radically changes us. There is no longer *Jew, Greek, slave, free, rich, poor, male, female, we are all one person in Christ Jesus (cfr Galatians 3:28)*.

This God-centred reality has to be the foundation of our Christian life and of the Church itself. The equality in dignity, grace and standing before God of everyone has to be acknowledged. It cannot be dismissed on the pretext that "the church is not a democracy". This objection rejects a political/ideological model because it is trapped in a political way of thinking. It fails to recognise the spiritual foundation of the community of believers. The church is not a monarchy, autocracy or any other secular system of governance. The Church is a community of disciples, brothers and sisters in the Lord, not because of any political idea but because of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the hearts of each one.

The hierarchical leadership of the Church is not something outside of this community. There is not one model for ordinary Christians and another for Popes, Bishops, priests and deacons. These ministries of leadership have to be lived and exercised within the dynamic of the community. The scriptural model is service and example not domination and control. The urgent imperative for the Church today is to reintegrate the structures of leadership back into the community of the disciples. There has to be a recognition that the Spirit gives gifts to whom she wills and that the Spirit works through all. Therefore all have to be listened to and respected. All are accountable to one and one to all. The healthy way forward is to share leadership roles with married people & women and to cultivate a much more open and inclusive faith community.

At the present time in some quarters of the Church there is a naïve nostalgia for the past. "Retro" is the prevailing fashion. This is linked to a tendency to blame all the current problems on Vatican II and its aftermath. Unfortunately it is clear that the roots of all the crises and scandals of recent years are very firmly in attitudes and presumptions that were well entrenched long before Vatican II. Not only that, people are quick to forget the oppressive burden of unnecessary guilt, scrupulosity, legalism and ritualism. They forget that in the past you were expected to just "pray, pay and obey". You were not so encouraged to have a personal relationship with God and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to think for yourself. They forget the suspicious and hostile attitudes that were commonly shown towards other Christians. Many people brought up in the pre-Vatican II era are still blighted by anxiety, fear and a real difficulty in trusting God. All these sufferings are a greater cause of scandal and do more harm to the life of faith than any disagreements over theology.

In Mark's Gospel Jesus' baptism was a watershed moment of personal realisation "You are my beloved..". By faith and baptism all Christians are graced with the same blessing but as yet we do not recognise it to the degree that would radically change our lives and change our way of being "Church". (DMA)