

The Messenger

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

11th March 2012

3rd Sunday of Lent - Divine Office: Wk 3

Sun 11 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Mon 12 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 3rd Week of Lent)
Tues 13 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the 3rd Week of Lent)
Wed 14 th	10.00am - St Anne's, Brockenhurst (Liturgy: of the 3rd Week of Lent)
Thurs 15 th	No Service - (Clergy Study Day) (Liturgy: of the 3rd Week of Lent)
Fri 16 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 3rd Week of Lent)
Sat 17 th	No Service - (Ministers of Holy Communion - Refresher Day - Geo House, St Joseph's, Ashurst, Fr David leading. (Liturgy: Feast, St Patrick)
Sun 18 th	4th Sunday of Lent 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - 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 Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, For all those who keep the Church buildings in good order, Freda Adams (Health), Fr David Adams (B'day), Pat Bolton (Peace), Fr Shaun Budden (B'day), Lyndsey Keggin (Health), Fr danny McAvoy (Health), Jimmy Connelly RIP, Patrick Joseph Martin RIP, Carmel Williams RIP, Norah Manghan RIP Anniv

For the week beginning 18th March: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Lily & Eric Allen RIP Anniv, Eric Bowler 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)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office, Angel House,
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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 8:30am, New Milton at 10am,
Lymington at 11:30am, Brockenhurst at 6pm

THE DISTURBING PROPHET

The word of God in the Bible, especially the prophetic word, often challenges our hard-heartedness.

This hard-heartedness can be compared to the lime scale that builds up in water pipes clogging the flow and stopping things working as they should. If the build up is thick and encrusted it may need something like a hammer to break it off. Our hard-heartedness is usually so entrenched in self interest, security, collusion & habit that we don't recognise it for what it is. We also tend to lose our capacity to imagine life, relationships, the world in a different way. We regard any invitation to re-imagine our economics, our politics, our social & family relationships as foolishness & folly. We don't see the wisdom of the love and unity with which God binds the whole of humanity & indeed all creation.

So we tend to be shocked, surprised and upset by the passion of the prophet who does see things very differently and who is often frustrated by our spiritual blindness. Jesus acting fearlessly with passion and power is a bit too scary for us.

One of the many paradoxes of God's relationship with us is that the mercy of God which has compassion on our weakness & our helplessness and which makes excuses for us, is the same mercy of God that vehemently attacks our complacency, our fear and our enslavement to our "idols".

The Commandments? If Jesus has done away with the Law, if the letter of the Law brings death rather than life, if we are called to live in the new relationship of grace, then what place do the commandments now have?

To answer this question let us imagine a tree. It has to be tended and cared for both above ground and below ground. If the leaves die the tree will wither. If the roots rot the tree will die. Or let us imagine a building. It is no use if you lovingly tend to the roof of your house if the foundations are shifting and the walls cracking. Good foundations have to be laid and maintained and roofs & gutters must be repaired.

So it is in our spiritual, moral and ethical lives. The commandments represent good foundations. They are thousands of years old. They belong to a certain age & culture but the basics are still important for us today. If our society loses basic values and ignores basic responsibility it is going to be in serious trouble. Whatever the noble heights of our ethical principles may be, the whole edifice, the whole of society is in danger of imploding or just disintegrating in the free for all of individual selfishness.

So it is true we live by grace not by law. Our moral awareness and our ethical principles are much broader, deeper, higher and more sophisticated than ever before. We have come along way since Moses and the commandments nearly 3000 years ago. However the perennial weeds of fear, selfishness, greed, anger, hatred, violence, lust, pride, etc. can strangle the best ideals. The prophets will call us to new frontiers of inclusivity, compassion and caring but they will also warn us not to undermine the foundations by losing sight of basic responsibilities and rights. Sometimes their words and actions will be severe and shocking. But then that is only a response to the depth of our complacency and the strength of our addiction to our "idols". (DMA).

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Pat Bolton, Molly Booth, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Marion Butler, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, George Hutcheson, Lyndsey Keggin, Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Ann Wilton, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY: The next prayer meeting will be on this Tuesday, 13th March at 11.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michael's. Prayer Pottery will continue all through Lent with meetings on 20th & 27th March. The prayer time is led by Christine Olden & all are welcome.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: On Sunday, 18th March there is an obligatory second collection for the Clergy Assistance Fund. This is to help sick & retired clergy.

ST MICHAEL'S CHOIR: New members are warmly invited to join. You do not need to be able to read music, just to enjoy a good sing with friends in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals and attendance at services is very flexible. Please contact Father David or Irene O'Connell

FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: Refresher session led by Rev David Adams, on Saturday, 17th March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue: Geo House (St Joseph's, Ashurst). **Just come along on the day.**

LENTEN DEVOTIONS & SERVICES

Prayer Pottery: every Tuesday in Lent at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michael's.

Stations of the Cross on Friday, 16th March at 7.30pm at St Bernard's, on Friday, 23rd March at 3pm at St Michael's, on Friday, 30th March at 7.30pm at St Bernard's.

Reconciliation Services:

Monday, 2nd April at 7.00pm in St Theresa's, Totton;
Tuesday, 3rd April at 7.00pm in St Michael's, Hythe
Details of Holy Week to follow.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER:

1. Throughout Lent at the 9am Mass, our Children's Liturgy will have a special theme to prepare us week-by-week for Easter. We hope to see the children coming as much as possible, to make the most of this special season.

2. After the 9am Mass on Sunday 11th March, our young people will raise money for CAFOD (see CAFOD section): please stay behind and support their initiative.

3. The next two Young People's Masses at the 9am will be on 4th March and then on Easter Sunday, 8th April (note: NOT on Palm Sunday). We hope that the children will once again act out the Gospel reading of the empty tomb, having rehearsed after Mass on 1st April.

4. On Good Friday afternoon we will run a special children's service, in the meeting room at St Michael's, at the same time as the adult service in St M's church. This should help all of our families to join us on this most holy day.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES are now available at the back of the churches. Please note Special Collection envelopes are now all together at the back of the 1st Collection envelopes. You may want to put them all in date order.

CAFOD CAMPAIGN: GIVE IT UP DURING LENT FOR CLEAN WATER

FAST DAY COLLECTION: It has been a great effort so far and money is still coming in so we will announce the final total soon.

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH raised **£405!** Many thanks to all who supported it by cooking, serving and attending and spending money. This will provide **£810** for CAFOD to spend on clean water and sanitation. Thanks also for some very generous donations!

11 March: Sale of Fair Trade goods outside both Churches after Masses. (Fair Trade Fortnight)

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH: Along with the Fair Trade stall on **March 11th**, our younger parishioners at St Bernard's will be raising extra money for CAFOD after Mass. Get your shoes and car cleaned, buy a tempting cake, and win a prize by guessing the baby photos!

18 March: Clean Water Campaign: Thirst for Change. Please sign cards for delivery to Prime Minister to encourage him to keep water and sanitation high on the international agenda.

22 March: Coffee Morning and raffle at 46 Kings Ride, Langley SO45 1ZN at 10.30am.

PASTORAL CARE IN THE NEW FOREST: Due to the shortage of priests, the Bishop has asked Fr David, with immediate effect, to take on pastoral responsibility for Brockenhurst as well as Lyndhurst (where Deacon Stephen Short has responsibility for the day-to-day running of things).

This will relieve Fr Danny McAvoy who still has to look after Lymington, Milford-on-Sea & New Milton.

Thankfully our Sunday Mass times can remain as they are.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL:

This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. We now have a full coach! Additional tickets can still be purchased online but private transport will need to be arranged. Contact Louise Brown or Rev Steve Bowler if you have any queries.

BINGO WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER: on Saturday, 17th March at St Bernard's Hall. Last chance for tickets which will be on sale this Sunday, 11th March at both churches. It is being organised by the St Martha Group.



NEED HELP WITH LIBRARY BOOKS? The Home Library Service is for people who are no longer able to get to the nearest library or mobile stop, due to frailty or mobility problems, and don't have anyone living locally to borrow books for them. If you know someone who could benefit from this service, or you'd be interested in helping once a month as a Home Library Service volunteer, then please talk to staff at your nearest library or email using the feedback form at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/using-the-library/library-access/home-library.htm> Please note that potential volunteers have a free Criminal Records Bureau check and all accepted volunteers need to comply with instructions and standards as set out by library staff.

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
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