

The Messenger

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

11th December 2011

3rd Sunday of Advent (Yr B) - Divine Office: Wk 3

Sun	11 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - Brockenhurst
Mon	12 th	No Service (Liturgy: 3rd Week Advent, or ptnl Memorial - Our Lady of Guadalupe)
Tues	13 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Memorial - St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr, c.304 AD)
Wed	14 th	10.00am Mass (at St Anne's, Brockenhurst) (Liturgy: Memorial, St John of the Cross, Religious, Doctor of the Church, 1542-1591)
Thurs	15 th	10.00am Mass (at Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst) (Liturgy: 3rd Week Advent)
Fri	16 th	No Service (Liturgy: 3rd Week Advent)
Sat	17 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Proper to 17th Dec)
Sun	18 th	4 th Sunday of Advent 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - Brockenhurst

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Gabor Marek RIP Anniv, Aidan Prestage RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 18th December: 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 expectant mothers & fathers, John & Ruth Adams RIP Anniv, Gabor Marek RIP Anniv, Neil Tanner RIP.

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
Tel: 023 8084 3479 e-mail: watersidecp@btinternet.com
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 8:30am, New Milton at 10am,
Lymington at 11:30am, Brockenhurst at 6pm

SHARING IN GOD'S JOY

Mary tells us where the source of true joy is to be found. *My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.* We are all seeking happiness but deep down, almost unknown even to ourselves we are seeking God's joy and blessedness. The good news is that we do not have to search very far. Jesus said: *The kingdom is within you, it is among you.*

The joy is not far no matter what clouds get in the way. The pearl of great price, the hidden treasure is already within us. We have only to discover it, to accept it and rejoice in it. When, like Mary, we realize our nothingness and realize at the same time that God looks upon us with love, then our joy will blossom.

Just like Mary, God has done great things for us and is still doing great things for us at this very moment. God has lavished love upon us. The Law with its record of debt has been abolished and sinful humanity is forever forgiven. We have been made God's daughters and sons. God has shared the Holy Spirit with us and blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. All holiness, virtue, freedom is ours in Christ. It can never be lost. It is always there for us to receive, and to receive as often as we need to. As Paul wrote, *our spiritual nature is being renewed every day.* God's giving now is as fresh and as lavish as the first giving we experienced.

God is the secure rock of our faith. God is our temple. God is everything we need. When we realise this and accept it in trust then we are not dismayed by our nothingness. If we haven't got goodness it is okay – Jesus says: *No one is good except God alone.* If we feel undeserving, unworthy, useless, empty, and a failure, that is okay. It is our nothingness. Our nothingness and our emptiness is the space that God fills. It provides the room for God to work. Once we begin to appreciate this then our joy arises from the deepest part of our souls because God is there! No disaster or misfortune can take this away from us because it is always secure in God. It is not a possession we can lose because it is not ours to lose. We must just do what we can to keep the space empty!

This joy can begin now but our experience is necessarily weak at first because our awareness of this grace has only just begun to penetrate into our hearts and minds and influence our lives. When sorrows come this joy cannot be felt near the surface of our souls so we have to rely on the anchor of hope. When *God will be all in all*, our joy will be complete. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Marion Butler, Bill Duncan, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Mavis, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Ray Holland, Doreen Holman, Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Patricia Walsh, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

TIMES OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Christmas Night Carols & Mass:
Saturday, 24th December at 8.30pm at St Michaels

Christmas Day Masses:
9am at St Bernards
11am at St Michaels

PRAYER POTTERY: will take place on Tuesday, 13th Dec at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michaels. It is a time for quiet, prayer, reflection & music led by Christine Olden. All are welcome.

ADVENT COURSE AT ASHURST (NOW GEO HOUSE):

This course will focus around the new CaFE resource "Saints - Helping us today". The last session will be on Thursdays at 7.30pm: 15th Dec. FOR OTHER ADVENT EVENTS AT GEO HOUSE: such as Carols by Candlelight see the display poster in the church porches.

THANK YOU: to Win & the ladies who worked very hard to make the Christmas Lunch as great success for everyone. Everyone enjoyed the good food and great company. The event raised £142.50p for CAFOD from the raffle & the CAFOD donation map. Thank you everyone.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Deacon Hilary Parsons says: I always remember my former parish in my daily prayers and especially at major feasts like Christmas. I don't want my friends to think it's "out of sight, out of mind." May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours much happiness over the festive season and loads of blessings throughout 2012.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING: As usual the main collection at Christmas time (for envelope users **both** the blue & the green) is a voluntary contribution towards your parish priest's annual income. Your generosity in difficult financial circumstances is greatly appreciated. If you want further information about how priests are financially supported please read the leaflet at the back of church.

CRIB OFFERINGS: over the period will go to Christian communities in the Holy Land courtesy of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre)

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

FOR CHURCH READERS: Refresher session to be led by Rev Kevin O'Brien, Parish Priest of Totton on Saturday, 3rd March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst)

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 (Ashurst).

THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL: We are planning a parish/pastoral area outing to experience this amazing dramatization of the life of Christ. This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. More information to follow.

CAFOD CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Copies of the CAFOD Christmas catalogue are at the back of the churches. See if there is anything you'd like to give.

CAFOD EVENING on Saturday 14 January St Bernard's Hall at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy a social evening and find out how your donations to CAFOD are used. Admission of £2 covers a free glass of wine or juice; please bring a plate of food for the buffet. Raffle. Chase away the January blues!

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: At this time of year don't forget items for Waterside Foodbank. The Foodbank accepts any tinned or dried food as long as it is still in date. The Foodbank provides for local individuals & families in crisis across the Waterside. During the first year some 3845.9kg of food was donated. 224 emergency boxes of food have been prepared meaning that 318 adults & 232 children have been fed throughout the year. And thanks to Terry, Louise & Theresa for getting donated items to the bank.

OUR PARISH SHOP - FAITH HOPE & CHARITY (just by the side of Waitrose) a great selection of **Christmas cards, calendars & gifts for sale.** Please do pop in and support the shop.

A BIG THANKS: to Tina & her merry band of helpers who worked so hard to make the Christmas Fayre a great success. Thankfully the weather was better than expected. The Fayre raised £2135.37p which is £474.28p up on last year. Well done everyone!

POINSETTIA REMEMBRANCE: Would you like to remember a loved one with a Poinsettia this Christmas? If so, bring your Poinsettia to one of the following churches at the following times:

to 9 a.m. Mass in Sunday 18th December : St Bernard's to 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday 18th December: St Michael's

There will be a tag at the back of the church, please write the name of the person(s) being remembered and tie it to your plant. If you can bring a saucer or little dish to put it on, that would be greatly appreciated. Please leave the plant for the flower arrangers at the back of the church.

The person can be remembered because they can't be with you at Christmas because they live too far away, or they are ill, or they are deceased, or you'd just like to show friendship. The choice is yours!

THANKS FOR RESPONSE TO CRIB & TREE APPEAL: We're very grateful to Michela O'Brien for offering to prepare the crib display this Christmas at St Michaels & to Mike & Valerie Slipper for offering to erect & decorate the Christmas tree at St Michael's.

ARE YOU SORTING through your wardrobes, cupboards & toyboxes to make room for those Christmas presents? Why not send the things you don't need to Faith, Hope & Charity, the parish shop. You will be helping parish funds. Remember if you have any clothes which aren't worth selling bag them up & put "Rags" on the bags. These can be sold for recycling.

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

