

# The Messenger

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

12<sup>th</sup> May 2013

## The Ascension of the Lord (Psalter - Wk.3)

Obligatory Collection - World Communications

9.00am Mass at St Bernard's

11.00am Mass at St Michael's

6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst

(All Liturgies this week are of Eastertide, unless otherwise stated)

Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	No Service
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Feast, St Matthias)
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	No Service
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am SM Mass then Adoration of Jesus in the Bl. Sacrament and Reconciliation to 11am  11.30am SM 1st Reconciliation for First Holy Communion children
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>  9.00am Mass at St Bernard's 11.00am Mass 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, Children preparing for 1st Holy Communion, For those who clean our churches, Special Intention (Thanksgiving), James Maloney RIP, Jim & Pat Connaughton RIP Anniv, James Cummings RIP Anniv

**For the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> May:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Children preparing for 1st Holy Communion, Irene Mitchell 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  
St Joseph's (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

### CHRIST, THE YEAST THAT RAISES THE WHOLE BATCH

The telling of an event or a story is framed and expressed by how we see the world. For the ancient peoples the realm of heaven was literally up beyond the sky. But we know too that the writers of Scripture used meteorological metaphors, for example: the presence of God the Father is signified by a cloud as in - *a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved...'* (Matt 17:5). What is more difficult for us, if not impossible, is to distinguish the boundaries between symbol and metaphor on the one hand, and empirical references on the other. So is Luke imagining the ascension of Jesus much as we would watch the launch of a space rocket or is it all metaphor 'a cloud took him from their sight' meaning simply Jesus returns to the Father? No, certainly, characteristically, Mark's Gospel avoids using too many atmospheric images but still has to use the royal throne metaphor: *the Lord Jesus ... was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place* (Mark 16:19). (If all this talk of metaphor seems strange remember Jesus himself said: *I have said these things to you in figures of speech (i.e. metaphors). The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures (i.e. metaphors) but will tell you plainly of the Father* (John 16:25)).

In our time and culture we have conventions of writing that, with the exception of poetry and poetic lyric, demand absolute clarity and separation between measurable events and forces and those which are of their nature subjective and unquantifiable, e.g. experiences of consciousness. Some people only accept as true and real things and events that can be verified by measurement. However even astrophysicists and quantum physicists have to resort to metaphor to describe phenomena indicated by observation, experiment and mathematical analysis.

Whatever the empirical evidence may be our relationship with God is most definitely experienced within the realm of consciousness or awareness. Indeed consciousness is the irreducible ground of every experience from the empirical to the ineffable. But it is here that we need to make an important distinction. This is the difference between the experience, the awareness or consciousness and the words, thoughts, images that we use to try to articulate that experience. In Western culture we have become more and more identified with thought, ideas and concepts. By getting our words right we imagine we have found the truth. But all we find, in fact, are ideas about the truth, although some ideas can clearly correspond more closely to the truth than others.

Truth is an experience of being, life and reality. Because everything is connected it is ultimately about relationship. In the Bible the word "know" is much closer in meaning to touch, taste & experience than to ideas that is why it has a sexual reference as in Mary's question: *How can this be since I do not know a man* (Luke 1:34). This is why Jesus blessed his Father for *hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children* (Matt 11:25). In Genesis (2:17) the prohibition concerning *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil* is not about preventing a theoretical understanding of morality but about preventing the violation of God's very good creation by presuming to judge and act as if some of it were good and some of it were evil. This divides and separates and breaks the unity of all things in God. We do this in a very small way every time we say, for example: *It's rotten weather today*. The term "rotten" is a value judgement not an impartial description.

Jesus once said that *the Kingdom of heaven was like yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened* (Matt 13:33). This is what happens in the Ascension. As the writer to the Christians at Ephesus put it: *The one (Jesus) who rose higher than the heavens to fill all things* (Eph 4:10). We connect with and perceive this mystery through our participation in the consciousness of God, in other words, through the Holy Spirit. As Paul puts it: *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God* (1 Cor 2:10). The ascension of Jesus reconnects (in our consciousness) body, soul and spirit, earth and heaven, death and life, past, present and future, God, humanity and the world. It expresses the definitive victory of God's love over our sin, enmity and alienation. By the gift of God's Spirit we are awakened to the mystery of God-With-Us and faith is our acceptance of this reality, of who we really are - children of God. This God is *Father of all, over all, through all and within all* (Eph. 4:6). This means every moment, everything, every person is sacred, is lifted up. It is why justice, compassion and love are the imperatives of the here and now. (DMA)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Kitty Burroughs, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Peter Deering, 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, Sarah Marshall, Tony O'Connell, Honora Power, 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 this Tuesday, 28th May at 11.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Michael's. All are welcome.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** there is an obligatory National collection for **World Communications** this weekend. The funds go to assist the Bishop's Conference of England & Wales in using the media to convey the Gospel message. Small information cards are available at the back of church.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** The 9.00am Mass at St Bernard's on May 12th, today, will include a 1st Holy communion focus. Parents please ensure your child brings their workbook. First Reconciliation (Confession) will take place on Saturday, 18th May, at 11.30am in St Michael's. There is a practice for 1st Holy Communion on Saturday, 1st June at 10.00am at St Bernard's all children must attend with at least one parent. The Celebration of First Holy Communion takes place at St Bernard's on Sunday, 2nd June.

**MONTH OF MAY: DEVOTION TO OUR LADY:** The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle have produced a resource to encourage & deepen our relationship with Mary, the Mother of the Lord. It is entitled "A Prayer Walk in the Home". Some copies are available at the back of church. See the Hexham & Newcastle diocesan website for the original.

### IMPORTANT PETITION TO THE EU.

A petition is being organised by a coalition of pro-life organisations throughout Europe in order to provide protection for the human embryo. To be successful 1 million signatures are necessary, 54,000 of which should come from the UK. The petition can be accessed on <http://www.oneofus.eu/>. If this campaign is successful, it will be a very positive step towards full respect for human life, which is so under threat at the moment. Please take a few moments to sign it and to pass it on to family and friends too.

### COME FOLLOW ME - A GROUP FOR DISCERNING YOUNG CATHOLICS

This discernment group is aimed at young men and women aged 16-30, who are looking to deepen their relationship with Christ and who are asking themselves how best to follow Him in the future. It is for all who are open to the possibility that God is calling them to the priesthood or religious life. The gatherings are usually on the 2nd Friday of each month at St. Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke RG22 6TY. They begin with Mass at 7:30pm, are followed by a delicious meal in the presbytery, an informal presentation on a theme related to vocation discernment, and finish at 9:30pm. If you are able to come, or are over 30 but would still like support discerning your vocation, please contact Fr Mark Hogan:-Tel: 01256 323595 or Email: [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Any under 18s will also require a parental consent form which can be obtained from the same email address.

### CAFOD COLLECTION FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Very many thanks to everyone who so generously supported the appeal for Syrian refugees; **£598** was raised which will be well used to help these suffering people.

### CAFOD: ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE CAMPAIGN

Invitation for everyone! CAFOD and the other Aid Agencies are holding a giant mobilisation in London on Saturday 8 June to coincide with the G8 Heads of Government Meeting. The aim is to demonstrate our support for *Enough Food for Everyone* and demand action from the Heads of Government. This is an enjoyable event for all the family, starting with a lively Ecumenical Service in Central Hall and then a walk to Hyde Park. Coaches from Southampton are being booked. Please let Louise Croll (80898213) or CAFOD Portsmouth know if you can come.. **ALSO:**

**LYNDHURST SPRING PLANT SALE in AID of CAFOD -** A spring plant sale in aid of Cafod will take place on Saturday 18 May from 10am to 12 noon at Dunelm, Silver Street, Emery Down, SO43 7DX (near Lyndhurst). There will be a large selection of flower and vegetable plants for sale. There will also be freshly baked cakes and bread made by parishioners as part of the "Hungry for Change" project. Entry is £1 which includes coffee/tea and cake.

**THANKS:** to everyone who supported our parish PLANT SALE & SPRING FAYRE @ St Bernard's yesterday. Special thanks to Veronica Chadwick for organising everything & to all those who helped. Thanks to those who donated raffle prizes & baked cakes. The proceeds of the day were £517.87p, with a bit more to come too!

**THANKS TO THE MARTHA GROUP:** for another successful Quiz Night. The event raised £248 for parish funds. Thanks to Dave King for researching & delivering the quiz. And thanks to everyone who was able to support the event.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

**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.

**FIRST AIDERS:** Do we have any First Aiders who regularly attend church at St Bernard's or St Michael's? it would be good to know who you are & if you are willing to be called upon during Mass should the need arise. Please see Fr David.

**WORK AT ST BERNARDS:** Most of the work is now completed and the toilets and kitchen certainly are a lot more presentable now. It is hoped we can sort out the water heaters in the next few weeks. This is being funded by money raised by parishioners at Parish Socials organised by the St. Martha group.

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit  
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