

SOMEONE WORTH WAITING FOR

We get very conflicting messages, albeit from different sources. Our culture does not value waiting. As a result the virtue of patience is not widely honoured. In contrast our spiritual culture places a high value on patience and on the need to wait for God's coming.

We have become used to expecting things to get quicker & quicker – travel, communications, responses, food preparation, computers etc. It is almost a cultural sin to “keep someone waiting”. We try to pack so much into a day we inevitably run late for something or someone! Waiting lists, especially hospital ones, are a major social preoccupation. For some individuals suffering a lot of pain and discomfort the waiting list is the pivot around which all else revolves. Needless to say all this does nothing to help us cultivate or receive patience.

To encourage us in patience we must turn to nature and realise the attitudes which are needed if one is to work harmoniously with it. Then we turn to Scripture and see examples in the prophets and above all in Jesus himself. Then we should think of people we have known through our own experience. But let us look more closely at why we are waiting, for whom we are waiting and how we are waiting.

Why are we waiting? It used to be a school pupil chant more often than not at meal times. We are waiting because, in some small way, we have already begun to experience something and that something makes us long for its fulfilment. We have tasted something of love, peace, joy, kindness, goodness, faith and self-control. We long for the time when these gifts can be received without struggle, sin and hindrance. It is our belief that God has already defeated the enemies of sin and death in Jesus Christ. The waiting time is the opportunity to personally receive this victory and to begin to be transformed by it. Transformation is change, growth, letting go and receiving. More often than not God takes advantage of the suffering we experience to transform us. And God works patiently, delicately and respectfully.

For whom are we waiting? Only God is big enough to bring healing, reconciliation and transformation to individuals and to the whole world. For us God is doing this in and through Jesus. There will be a time when this world ends for us individually and a time when it ends globally. We long for the God of gentleness and compassion to come to save us.

How do we wait? Well certainly not by sitting around doing nothing! Our task in the here and now is to enter the kingdom of God by following the teaching of Jesus. For this task we may even have a holy impatience. Our work is to share faith, work for peace and justice and show compassion to all. We may be standing at the bus stop of life waiting for Number One but we are not to be idle. We must love one another and help those who don't even realise there is Someone to wait for. We know the bus will come even if it's late, so we wait with patience. And, lo & behold then to our amazement we get three busses! I think there is a parable in there somewhere. (DMA)

The Messenger

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

12th December 2010

Third Sunday of Advent Yr A- Divine Office: Wk 3

Sun	12 th	9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass
Mon	13 th	No Service (Liturgy: Memorial St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, c.304)
Tues	14 th	10.00am SM Morning prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Memorial, St John of the Cross, Religious, Doctor of the Church, 1542-1591) 11.00am SM Prayer Pottery
Wed	15 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: 3rd Week of Advent)
Thurs	16 th	10.00am LT Mass (Liturgy: 3rd Week of Advent)
Fri	17 th	No Service (Liturgy: Proper to the Day)
Sat	18 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 12 noon (Liturgy: Proper to the Day)
Sun	19 th	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Yr A) 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, deceased clergy of the Province, all those who are unwell, Richard Moore, Aidan Prestage RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 19th Dec: All members of the Parish, deceased clergy of the Province, all those who are unwell, John & Ruth Adams RIP Anniv

New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am
Ashurst Community - Sun 9am
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Pastoral Team:

Rev David Adams (Parish Priest)
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon) (023 8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office,
Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe SO45 5GR
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website: watersidecatholics.org.uk



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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Anne Candri, Petra Daniels, Ruth Freemantle, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Trevor Handol, Cath Heron, Bridget Reeves, Norma Rudd, Eileen Shanley, May Sycamore, Betty Williams, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY: The next one will be this week on Tuesday, 14th December at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michael's.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

On Saturday, 18th December Reconciliation will be available from after Mass until 12 noon. On Wednesday, 22nd December Reconciliation will be available from after the 7.30pm Mass until 9pm.

TIMES OF SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS

Friday 24th Dec, Christmas Eve - 8.30pm at St Michaels, Christmas Night Carols & Mass.

Saturday, 25th Dec, Christmas Day
9am Mass at St Bernards
11am Mass at St Michaels

Sunday, 26th Dec, Boxing Day

ONE MASS ONLY - 10am at St Michaels

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING: As usual the collection at Christmas time 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.

ST BERNARD'S: Preliminary Training for new Ministers of Holy Communion - 1 session only either Tuesday, 11th Jan at 7.30pm until 8.30pm at St Bernard's, or Saturday, 15th Jan at 12 noon until 1pm at St Bernard's. Those who kindly accepted the invitation to be Ministers at St Bernard's will begin their ministry from the start of February 2011. Please look out for your Rota which is available this weekend.

NEW PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE NOW AVAILABLE! See back of church.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS: are available to remind people that the real meaning of Christmas is celebrating the birth of Christ. They are donated by the Knights of St Columba

THANKS TO: Ruth Freemantle, Linda Guilding, Joy Lovelock & Vicky Snudden for organising the *Facing Christmas* Liturgy which took place last Friday. And thanks to Rev Steve Bowler for the reflection & Eileen Brady & Peter Mitchell for reading. I think we all found it a prayerful time helping us to appreciate more fully God's love made known for us in the birth of Jesus.

THANKS TO THE MARTHA GROUP: for donating the proceeds of the Quiz Night which amounted to £334.90p. The Martha group fund-raising goes towards improving the parish facilities.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS

LUNCH: This will take place on Thursday, 16th December from 12 noon until 2pm at St Bernard's Hall. Please sign up straight away. Please print your name & telephone number and tick the box if you need transport. Only this Sundays to go so don't delay!!!

SOUTHAMPTON SING THE CAROLS:

Be part of an official Guinness World Record attempt at St Mary's Football Stadium on Friday 17th December.

The event is being held to raise funds and awareness for the Southampton Passion to be held in the Guildhall Square on Good Friday 2011.

The record for the most people together singing carols is 7514. St Mary's Stadium holds 32,000. Come and help fill the stadium!

Carol service starts 7.15pm and closes at 8.30pm. Tickets are £4 per person, or £12 for a family of 4. (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children).

Phone The Mayflower Theatre 023 8071 1811 or St Mary's Stadium 0800 2800 050.

Or on line go to www.southamptonsings.org.uk

WORK AT ST BERNARDS: The work has now been satisfactorily completed ahead of time. The area has been restored for parking but it would be advisable to let it settle for a while, particularly as we have had heavy rain recently. *The grassed area at the back near the trees is particularly soft & muddy & should be avoided!!* **Spaces immediately outside the church should be left free for disabled parking.**