

The Messenger

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

13th May 2012

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Psalter Wk.2)

Sun 13 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 3.00pm Baptism at St Bernards baby Connor Bridge 6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Mon 14 th	No Service (Liturgy: Feast St Matthias, Apostle)
Tues 15 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the 6 th Week of Easter)
Wed 16 th	10.00am - Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst (Liturgy: of the 6 th Week of Easter) 1.45pm - Southampton Crematorium Funeral Service - Mary Goddard RIP
Thurs 17 th	10.00am - Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst (Liturgy: of the 6 th Week of Easter before Ascension)
Fri 18 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 6 th Week of Easter before Ascension)
Sat 19 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.00am (Liturgy: Feast, Dedication of St Johns Cathedral, Portsmouth)
Sun 20 th	The Ascension of the Lord 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 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, Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Amanda Stratton & Hamish Campbell (Wedding) Pat Connaughton RIP, James Cummings RIP Anniv, Mena McKendrick RIP, Cora Simpson RIP Anniv, .

For the week beginning 20th May: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Michael Moran RIP Anniv (F/M)

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 6.00pm

CHOOSING TO REMAIN IN THE LOVE

It is only when job applicants are chosen for a job that they are free to take it or leave it. In applying they declare that they want the position; but wishes aren't choices. Only after acceptance have they the actual power to choose the job or not. That is why people forced by circumstances into a course of action always say, "But I had no choice in the matter." When John talks about the love of God in today's readings, he is clear what he means - "this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us". The same message is underlined in the Gospel: "You did not choose me, no, I chose you". We don't have to turn up at an interview to discover if God will choose us or not: God has already made an everlasting decision to love us. God's love is not an issue, it is not a matter of speculation. It is there. God's love is first, and it is only because of the primacy of God's love that we have the power and the freedom to choose God. God has opted for us, he has declared his choice, he has taken us on. It is a decisive movement of love that began with the Father: "As the Father has loved me, so I love you. Remain in my love." The hope is expressed that we can come to appreciate God's choice of us. It is such good news that John is anxious to get the message through to us, simply and clearly. Can we remain in the love that chooses us?

God's love is based on choice: he loves because he chooses to love. The supreme example of that is in his Word, Jesus. If the supreme act of love is to lay down your life for the sake of others, Jesus shows that he could have no greater love. His love takes him to the cross, just as the Father's love raises him up. Jesus spends himself, he gives of himself until there is nothing left to give. He empties himself.

In everything that he did Jesus kept on choosing to love. He did not choose once upon a time; he chose to love at all times. It drained him. That self-giving quality of divine love is one that can be seen in the lives of many people. One doctor saw it in a way that he can never forget. As a young medical student he watched an unusual operation in a London hospital:

It was the first time that this particular brain operation had been carried out in this country. It was performed by one of our leading surgeons upon a young man of great promise for whom, after an accident, there seemed to be no other remedy. It was an operation of the greatest delicacy, in which a small error would have had fatal consequences. In the outcome the operation was a triumph: but it involved seven hours of intense and uninterrupted concentration on the part of the surgeon. When it was over, a nurse had to take him by the hand, and lead him from the operating theatre like a blind man or a little child.

That kind of self-giving and concentration on the needs of another reflect something of the quality of God's love in Jesus. Jesus hopes that we will choose to keep on giving ourselves in love, even when the giving hurts, even when we feel we have nothing left but our exhausted presence. But it's that kind of love that mirrors God's kind of love. As Jesus said himself, the love that costs nothing can be managed by anyone, for everything is on credit. The bill for authentic love is the giving of the self, the communication of the self, the handing over of the self.

We have to admit that few of us have the freedom or the power to accomplish this. We can only choose to try, confident that our struggle is backed by God's energetic love. Somewhere in the struggle we can hear the voice of God cheering us on. (From Seasons of the Word by Denis McBride)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Molly Booth, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Sheila Godwin, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, George Hutcheson, John Keane, Lyndsey Keggin, Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Eileen Shanley, 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: next meeting Tuesday, 29th May at 11.00am.

PARISH MEETINGS: The Finance Committee is meeting on Thursday, 17th May at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room. The Parish Pastoral Council is meeting on Thursday, 24th May at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.

Celebrating Marriage 2012: On Saturday, 16th June 2012 there will be a special Mass with the Bishop at St Bede's, Basingstoke for couples in our diocese celebrating significant wedding anniversaries during 2012. If you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th anniversary during 2012, or any anniversary over 60 years, please let your parish priest know as soon as possible so that you can be sent an invitation. Attendance will be by invitation only and numbers are limited. For more information contact: Katja Babei, Advisor for Marriage and Family Life. kbabe@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Tel: 01329 835583

COURT OF APPEAL CASE: Next week the Court of Appeal is hearing evidence from our Diocese in a case which is testing a point in law -- whether a bishop can be held liable in law for the actions of an abusive priest as if he were his employer. When the case, 'Portsmouth Diocese v JGE', was in the High Court last year, you may remember dreadful headlines claiming that the Diocese was trying to get out of compensating victims by claiming that priests weren't employees. The truth is very different, and the trustees of the Diocese are very keen that this time round people understand the essential facts of the case.

In British law, a priest has always been considered an "office-holder" rather than an employee, which is a status similar to being self-employed. This reflects the fact that a priest is not under the day-to-day control of his bishop, as an employer is of his employee, as well as the fact that a priest doesn't clock in and clock out, as does an employee. Despite this, in recent cases brought against the Church, such as the one in question here, lawyers for claimants have tried to claim that the bishop should be 'vicariously liable' for his priests' actions in the way that employers are for employees; this means that a bishop should be liable for the actions of an abusive priest even when he knew nothing about it. Some judges have seemed to accept that argument, but at the same time have argued that priests are never off duty and are not employees. These confusions and contradictions have led to the courts deciding to examine this question as a "preliminary matter" before deciding on the facts of the case itself - first in the High Court, and now in the Court of Appeal.

Five points need to be made clear: (1) the Diocese is **not** trying to evade its responsibilities to abuse victims - far from it. Wherever the Church has mishandled or failed to deal properly with an abusive priest, it pays compensation to the victim under negligence law. And it supports victims in a whole host of other ways. (2) This is not about money: there are very few abuse cases, even from that era, and the Diocese is not expecting any more claims as result of this judgement. (3) It is about an important point of law and of principle, involving questions of religious freedom: whether it is right, for example, for the law to impose a model of organisation which does not suit the Church. (4) Whatever the different legal opinions on the matter, the Diocese has the right to know the extent of its liability in law, so it can deal with the implications of this for the way it is organised. (5) Lastly, this is not just about the Church; the extension of the law of vicarious liability in an unprincipled way could affect the whole voluntary sector. These are the important points at stake in this matter. (Rev Stephen D Morgan, Diocesan Financial Secretary)

CAFOD CAMPAIGN

GIVE IT UP DURING LENT FOR CLEAN WATER

Following the receipt of some further donations and pyramids, the total for the collection has reached an amazing £2722.47 which will be doubled by the Government under the special Aid Matching Scheme to £5444.94. CAFOD has written to express thanks for this great generosity which will enable them to make a lot of difference to poor people's lives. The collection closes on 17 May.

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: The Food Bank organizers have written to thank parishoners for their ongoing support which saw **448 kilos** donated by the parish in the past year. However the need has increased by 25% and there is a continuing need for regular donations. Especially in these times of economic difficulty, there is a growing number of families suffering hardship through redundancy, illness, unemployment, homelessness etc. Collection boxes are in the foyers of St Michael's and St Bernard's churches with leaflets listing the type of food needed. This month there is a particular need for coffee, tea bags, sugar, cereals, UHT milk and tinned fruit and veg. The Food Bank Newsletter is also displayed. We are in Eastertide, the ideal time to be generous to those in need, and to resolve to continue to donate regularly.

NEXT SECOND COLLECTION SUNDAY (May 20th): This is an obligatory collection for World Communications. This helps to fund the Bishops efforts to spread the Good News.

JUBILEE MASS: On Sunday 3rd June there will only be one parish Mass at 10.00am at St Bernard's. It will be a children's Mass but there will **not** be any picnic afterwards. **DO YOU NEED A LIFT? Or CAN YOU OFFER A LIFT?** Sign up sheet available at the back of St Michaels.

HEALING MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S, ASHURST: These will be on Mondays: June 18th, July 2nd, 6th August, 3rd September at 7.15pm. Fr Ronnie Mitchell will celebrate the Masses. (St Joseph's is at the rear of Geo House).

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: Since Brenda retired some months ago, Veronica has been trying alone to keep St Bernard's church clean and tidy. Is there anyone who could spare an hour or so every two or three weeks to put a vacuum cleaner around the church; any time or day would be fine. For more information phone Veronica tel 8089 7458 or let Father David know.



NEXT ST MARTHA GROUP EVENT: This will be a Quiz Night and American Supper and will take place at 7pm on 16th June in St Bernard's Hall. Tickets will go on sale for this event on Sunday, 20th May.

PLANT SALE/SPRING FAIR, SATURDAY 19 MAY

10am-12noon The annual Plant Sale (St Bernards) is being widened this year into a Spring Fair which will include the traditional plants but also offer giftware, jewellery, crafts as well as home made cakes and a grand raffle. Gardeners, please get planting and craft experts please get crafty! Raffle prizes welcome. Info on plants from Veronica (80897458, other items Tina at Faith Hope and Charity (80207882) and publicity Louise (80898213)

MEAT RAFFLE: The winner of the Meat raffle is Brenda Bowen and she receives a voucher for £25 from Sargeant's Butchers at Dibden Purlieu. The proceeds of the raffle will be going towards the senior Citizens Christmas Party

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
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8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA
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