

SHOWING LOVE

In today's Gospel Jesus is a guest in the house of Simon the Pharisee. The first thing Jesus does is take his place at table: the three marks of hospitality are missing. These are supplied by an uninvited guest, a woman whose reputation is well known — she is probably a prostitute. She comes prepared to minister hospitality to Jesus and she lavishes on him the fullness of her care. Her tears wash his feet which she dries with her hair; she covers his feet with kisses; she anoints them with the ointment. In all this she does not say a single word. Her language is in her body as she demonstrates her love for Jesus.

The host looks at this extravaganza and is shocked. Remember that Simon is a Pharisee, "a separated one": for him contact with sinners means uncleanness. And here is this lady of the night slobbering over Jesus. But Simon is cautious: he talks to himself about it. He wonders if Jesus really is a prophet if he can let this woman with a bad name touch him. That is Simon's complaint. It is very difficult to kiss people or anoint them or wash them without touching them! Simon has avoided all three and, therefore, has not touched Jesus.

So Jesus confronts Simon with the real question: "Simon, do you see this woman?" That is the problem. Simon does not see a woman: he sees a bad name; he sees a whore. True, the woman does have a bad name. But is that all she is? Because something is true it does not mean that it is the whole truth. We can use the truth about people to ridicule them and destroy them. When we use a truth about people to make them seem cheap we hide a larger truth that makes them worthy. There are ways of using the truth to destroy the truth. And there is a massive difference between telling the truth and telling the truth with love. Simon sees a destructive truth and fastens onto it.

So Jesus tells Simon that he prefers the extravagant love of a streetwalker to his untouchable welcome. From Simon there was no kiss, no anointing, no washing. Nothing. He has no reach in him. In contrast the woman is free to show love because she has experienced the forgiveness of Jesus. "The man who is forgiven little shows little love." Simon is not free to show love either to Jesus or the woman. And when the story ends the conflict is not resolved between Simon and Jesus. The woman goes in peace. She is the kind of woman who makes up Jesus' support group as he continues his wandering mission.

In dining at Simon's house Jesus has confronted his host with the question of how he sees other people. That question is addressed to us also. Do we see other people in such a way that encloses them in their wrongdoing? Like James Joyce who accused some of his friends in Dublin: "You hold my follies hostage." Or do we see others like Jesus does — in such a way that allows them a future? Forgiveness promotes change in people; it funds them for a new future. Let our sharing around the Lord's table help us to do that.

(from *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

Jesus says: Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.
(Luke 6:37)

The Messenger

St Michael's Church,
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

13th June 2010
Year C
divine office WK 3

St Bernard's Church
Southbourne Avenue,
Holbury, SO45 2NT

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sun	13	9 am	SB	11th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	11th Sunday of the Year
		3 pm	SM	Baptism—baby Macey Wilson
		6 pm	SM	11th Sunday of the Year
Tue	15	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass
Wed	16	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass
Thu	17	10 am	LT	Mass
Sat	19	10 am	SM	Mass
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am
Sun	20	9 am	SB	12th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	12th Sunday of the Year
		6 pm	SM	12th Sunday of the Year



Mass Intentions:

For the week beginning 13th June: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Benefactors of the Clergy Retirement Fund, Benefactors of "Living our Faith", Irene Mitchell RIP. Bernie Bolger RIP, Elizabeth Stride RIP (Anniv)

For the week beginning 20th June: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Benefactors of "Living our Faith"

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) (8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

Parish Administrator: Helen Hughson (Mon & Tues only 9am—2pm)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office,
Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe SO45 5GR

Tel: 023 8084 3479
e-mail: watersidecp@btinternet.com
website: watersidecatholics.org.uk



For the Ideal Gift 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, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Trevor Handol, Amanda Gudge, Jenny Lauder, Nora Newman, Michael Peake, Bridget Reeves, Sheila Krzymuski, Lena Westfoot. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

SKITTLES EVENING CANCELLED unfortunately we didn't get enough support for the Skittles event so we have had to cancel that. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. If anyone has bought tickets and has not yet been refunded please contact Fr David or leave a message at the parish office.

OPEN DAY - OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, LYMINGTON. The school will have one more Open Day: on Wednesday, 23rd June from 1.30pm to 3pm. There is space available in some years groups for September. The school address is: Ramley Rd, Lyminster SO41 8GY, Tel: 01590 672711, www.ourladyst-joseph.hants.sch.uk

GOVERNOR NEWS (LYMINGTON)

Would you like to help to influence the future of our school? We are making huge progress at present and now is a great time to be involved. We would really appreciate your contribution. We have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor – and it could be you! This vacancy must be filled by someone who is BOTH a parent of a current pupil AND a confirmed and practising Catholic. The appointment is for a four-year term – don't worry if your child leaves the school before then; your term of office will continue irrespective – and it's an appointment rather than an election. Governors are responsible for setting the long term strategy of our school, for ensuring that we comply with the law and supporting and challenging the staff. The financial reward is absolutely zero, but the sense of achievement is, I hope, considerable. An extensive range of training courses is also available. This is likely to be the last foundation governor vacancy for at least a year. If you are interested in filling it please contact me on gb@ourladyst-joseph.hants.sch.uk for an informal discussion, and/or pick up an application form from reception at school. The closing date for completed applications is Tuesday 22nd June 2010. Go on, be brave! You know you want to! David Thornicroft Chair, Governing Body

INFORMATION FOR ST ANNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS: A Specialist Science & Mathematics College. **Information Evening** on Tuesday, 22nd June 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Parents of girls in Year 5 are invited to this event for Year 7 admissions in September 2011.

For more information see the poster in church porch.

CHORAL FAVORITES by the Southampton Choral Society on Sat 3rd July, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Southampton. For details see the poster in the porch.

COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS for the Mass of Thanksgiving & the unveiling of the sculpture of St John. I have four tickets available for anyone who wants to participate in this event which takes place on Thursday, 22nd July 2010 at 11am at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. After the unveiling there is a canapé reception in the Cathedral Centre.

ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE: is putting on a Summer Arts Evening—Tues 29th June from 7pm. Tickets at the door; Refreshments provided. See the poster for more details.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HYTHE—BAPTISM & FLOWER FESTIVAL. Friday, 25th June until Sunday 27th June. Floral displays, Concert & Choir events. See the poster for more details.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CLERGY & PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO FAR TO THE DIOCESAN FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN - "LIVING OUR FAITH": We will finish the campaign with a special appeal at all Masses on this Sunday, 13th June so that everyone has a chance to make some contribution.

Bishop Crispian has asked that this message be published in all parishes:

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
At this time of year, I have the pleasure of visiting parishes and the Catholic community across the Diocese, experiencing wonderful occasions in the lives of our communities as I celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with them. These celebrations are a true reflection of our need to 'Go Out and Bear Fruit' and importantly a constant reminder that we are *living our faith* on a daily basis. Our ambitious *Living Our Faith* fund-raising initiative – so aptly named – will ensure the support of those elements which are key for the future of the diocese – vocations, seminarians, lay formation and core parish needs. *Living Our Faith* has benefited from the enormous generosity and sacrifice of thousands of parishioners and families from Didcot to Totland Bay. As new parishes are invited to join *Living Our Faith* and while many more draw their campaigns to a successful close, I'm calling on **all** parishioners within our Catholic community to give thought to their participation at this juncture. In issuing a special 'call to action', I respectfully ask you to:

- Consider a sacrificial gift to *Living Our Faith*; on average parishioners are giving £1.50 per day (£42 per month)
 - Serve as a volunteer and spread the good news; over 400 parishioners have played a pivotal role in securing key elements of our Church's future
 - Pray for our work – so we can carry out the Lord's work
- Please seize this opportunity to demonstrate your stewardship – your parish priest, your parish and your diocese need your time, talent and treasure.

We are in the midst of organising a Diocesan-wide celebration of our collective efforts. I look forward to sharing more details with you in the coming months.
Be assured your families and intentions are in my prayer,
Bishop Crispian Hollis.