

All correspondence to:  
The Parish Office,  
Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn,  
Hythe SO45 5GR  
Tel: 023 8084 3479  
e-mail: [watersidecp@btinternet.com](mailto:watersidecp@btinternet.com)  
website: [watersidecatholics.org.uk](http://watersidecatholics.org.uk)

For St Bernard &  
St Michael's churches

**13th December 2009**  
**Year C**  
**divine office wk 3**

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

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

### PASTORAL TEAM

**Priest: Fr David Adams**

**Deacons:** Steve Bowler (8020 7449)  
Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

**Parish Administrator:** Helen Hughson

To contact The Parish Administrator based at St Michael's  
call between 9am - 2pm (Mon & Tue only)

For the Ideal Gift visit  
**Faith, Hope & Charity**

8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE  
SOUTHAMPTON, SO45 6DA

Tel: 023 8020 7882



### PARISH SERVICES

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sun	13	9 am	SB	Mass: <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
		11 am	SM	Mass: <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
Mon	14	10 am	SB	Requiem Mass: David Donoghoe RIP
Tue	15	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: <b>3rd Week of Advent</b>
Wed	16	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: <b>3rd Week of Advent</b>
Thur	17	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: <b>Liturgy of the Day</b>
Sat	19	10 am	SM	<b>Mass:</b> followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 12 noon; then again from 6pm until 7pm)

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sun	20	9 am	SB	Mass: <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
		11 am	SM	Mass: <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>

## HAVING OUR CAKE & EATING IT

On the face of it the above phrase seems somewhat lacking in generosity. What is the point of having cake if you can't eat it? But we know what it means. It is about expecting too much and having more than our fair share. Another phrase comes to mind here, it is "having the best of both worlds". This raises the question: In relation to God and God's love can you have the best of both worlds? One could put the question another way: If Jesus offers us the peace that the world cannot give, should we be seeking the kind of peace that the world tries to offer (i.e. security in health, job, status, power, good-looks, money, possessions, qualities, virtues etc)?

What has all this got to do with Advent and this third Sunday of Advent? This Sunday was traditionally called "Gaudete" Sunday – literally Rejoice Sunday. The Liturgy, that is the prayers and readings for the Eucharist and the Prayer of the Church, emphasises God's gift of peace and joy.

We all want peace, joy and happiness. The question we have to answer is: Where will I find peace, joy and happiness? What or who will provide these blessings? Of course the mystery and paradox is that they are already fully given to us but we are looking in all the wrong places!

There is a critique of Western Christianity in general and it goes something like this. We are always seeking consolation and reassurance. Whenever we read the Bible, say our prayers or attend Mass we are primarily seeking consolation. The suggested reason for this is that deep down we are uneasy and insecure because we have really invested most of our hope in the things of this world. The false self, the ego, forms when we identify with what is passing. This ego is very fragile. It is easily upset, offended, fearful, envious, always judging and condemning others so as to inflate its own sense of worth. (A lot of advertising tries to sell a self-image rather than the product.) The effect of all this is two-fold. First of all, the world is inherently insecure and uncertain and deep down we know we have built our house on sand. Secondly, because we have hedged our bets, so to speak, and have not made a radical (i.e. to the roots) choice for God and the ways of the Kingdom we are not able to receive the "peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand". How can we have peace when we are constantly defending our little ego? Hence our constant need for reassurance. This is essentially a self-centred quest which prevents us from having the freedom and energy to address the problems of the world.

What the Bible offers is something different to the above. It offers Challenge. It invites a radical conversion to God— a deep change of mind and heart, essentially the complete dissolution of the false self. This is the meaning of the Gospel injunction to "deny yourself". The fruit of accepting the Challenge and undergoing the Conversion is the gift of Peace and Joy. These come from the acceptance of God deep within, which is also the acceptance of our true selves. When we surrender to God and begin to know that "nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus" we will begin to experience true peace and joy, welling up, like the Spirit, from within our own being.

There are two ways to this surrender of love - silent prayer and life experience. These are ways of both joy and pain. Pain as we face our own resistance to change and our love of the false self and the world. Joy as we learn to be grateful for all of life's blessings and challenges and as we receive God revealing Godself to us and setting us free. (DMA)

***This week we will be offering Masses for:***  
*People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, All the Departed, Those who have suffered abuse, Andy Anderson RIP, Dave Donoghoe RIP, Stan and Marie Edwards RIP, Ruth Adams RIP, Tony Adams (B'day)*

***Next week (20th December) we will be offering Masses for:*** *People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, All the Departed, John Adams RIP*

Total Roof Fund collected to date  
**£7,636.80**  
(Target - £13,500)  
**Thank you all, for your continued generosity**

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Anne Candri, Mary Crisp, Petra Daniels, Anne Donoghoe, Margaret Flynn, Pat Gallanagh, Jane McClatchey, Joan Olden, Leslie Palmer, Bridget Reeves, Bill Topple. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

**TIMES OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** 24th Dec, (Christmas Eve) Christmas Night Mass at St Michael's beginning with carols at 8.30pm, Mass begins at 9pm; Christmas Day: 9am Mass at St Bernard's & 11am Mass at St Michael's. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available at St Michael's from after Mass on Sat 19th Dec until 12 noon, then again the same day from 6pm until 7pm; also on Thurs, Dec 24th from 10am until 11am.

**WATERSIDE FOOD BANK** - Many thanks to all those who have donated food to this worthy cause, though we could do better, come on everybody! Any donations can be left in the plastic box in the church porches.

**ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH** - Lists are at the back of both St Michael's and St Bernard's churches for senior citizen's of the parish who would like to attend the annual Christmas lunch this year. Thurs, 17th December, 12 noon until 2pm at St Bernard's Hall.

**THE BIG CHRISTMAS SING** - 2:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. Saturday 12th December at All Saints' Church, Fawley. This is an open invitation to any members of your church to join us for The Big Christmas Sing (see posters for more info).

**TREE O'CLOCK** - As part of National Tree Week, the BBC will attempt to plant a million trees next week across the UK in a scheme called Tree O'clock. Free trees (one per household) are available from Stewarts at Christchurch and Homebase, Bailey Drive, Christchurch. Trees available are: Field Maple, Silver Birch, Hazel, Hawthorn, Wild Cherry and Rowan. Details are available on [www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock](http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock) <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/treeoclock>> Please collect a tree before next week. If you do not want it for your own garden, please send it into Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Road, Pennington, Lymington SO41 8GY. Tel 01590 672711. We would appreciate the loan of garden tools, so that children can start the preparation process next week for completion during the record attempt.

**CAFOD** - Used Stamps, old Mobile Phones, and Foreign Coins can be left in the flip-top bins at both churches. Please include the postmarks for stamps and remove SIM-cards for phones. Thank you for your past contributions, which go to help raise funds and provide practical help for CAFOD.



*...On a lighter note, ....Mmm chocolates, wine, Christmas cake, chocolate chip and cherry biscuits, blackberry and apple preserve, fruit marmalade, and Whitaker's Plain & Milk chocolate mints....we have a lovely Christmas Hamper to be raffled for your delectation and delight! Tickets available at £1 per strip at Faith Hope and Charity during the week, and after mass on Sundays **from this weekend**. £1 per strip. The draw date is to be advised., meanwhile, any donations of Christmas goodies to put in it would be welcome too! All proceeds to go towards the Roof Fund.*

**ST BERNARD'S CHURCH LAY-OUT:** Those who regularly attend St Bernard's Church are invited to consider whether they want to keep the present lay-out of altar in the middle or revert to having the altar near the far wall and all the pews facing one direction. A vote will be taken on this Sunday, 13th Dec at the 9am Mass. Options will be:

- 1) Leave it as it is;
- 2) Change the pews to face one direction;
- 3) I don't mind either way.

A majority vote from option 1 or 2 will decide. In the event of a draw, Fr David will have the casting vote. Children old enough to understand will be eligible to vote.

**MANY THANKS** to Linda, Joy, Ruth, Monse, Peter, Vicky & Steve for all their hard work in making the Blue Christmas Service sp special. It was very moving and gave great support to everyone.

There were also 'listeners' available at the end of the service for those who needed to talk things through.

Thanks also to all who attended and to Tina, Win and Anne for serving the refreshments.

We hope you will support any forthcoming events which will be publicised in The Messenger.

**MODERN (3yrs old) COAL EFFECT ELECTRIC FIRE** is available for anyone who wants it. Call Pat on 023-80-844617

Coatstand - Many thanks to Monica and Mike West for the donation of the coat-stand which is now in the foyer at St Michael's.

#### **THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

As is traditional the collection at Christmas is for your parish priest and forms a part of his ordinary income for the year.

Fr David will be very grateful for whatever you want to give at this time.

A leaflet explaining how priests are financially supported is available at the back of church for your information.