

The Messenger

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

14th August 2011

Assumption of Our Lady - Divine Office: Week 4

Sun	14 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels
Mon	15 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the Day - 20th Week)
Tues	16 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the Day - 20th Week, or Optnl Memorial - St Stephen, King of Hungary, 975-1038)
Wed	17 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the Day - 20th Week)
Thurs	18 th	10.00am LT Mass (Liturgy: of the Day - 20th Week)
Fri	19 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the Day - 20th Week, or Optnl Memorial - St John Eudes, Founder, 1601-1680)
Sat	20 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Memorial - St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church, 1090-1153)
Sun	21 st	21 st Sunday of Ordinary Time 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, deceased clergy of the Province, benefactors of the Clergy retirement Fund & "Living our Faith", Fr Owen Cannon SMM RIP, Lorraine Merry RIP, Lorraine Wilks RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 21st August: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, deceased clergy of the Province, benefactors of the Clergy retirement Fund & "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 & Chair Parish Pastoral Council) (023 8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)

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

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



Making Sense of the Assumption

Recently the New Scientist published a review of a book by E.Brian Davies entitled *Why Beliefs Matter: Reflections on the nature of science*, OUP. The author is described as "a self-proclaimed pluralist. That is, he believes that humans have a limited mental capacity and will always need a multiplicity of ways of looking at the world in order to understand it".

The faith & religious ways of looking at the world are frameworks within which we seek to understand our relationship with ultimate reality (God) and with one another. Faith asks questions that science cannot answer (e.g. why are we here?) and has a desire for meaning that the scientific perspective cannot fully satisfy. The primary meaning of religious language, metaphors and concepts is to be found within the particular religious framework. For example, the image we find in the Book of Revelation 12:10 : "the accuser (lit. satan) of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God" can be understood as the abolition of the power of Law which brought condemnation and the inauguration of the relationship of grace "which brings acquittal" (2 Cor 3:9).

The huge challenge for contemporary religion is how to relate the frameworks of faith with the frameworks of science. To tolerate a total disconnect with no attempt to find common ground is to risk living in a faith world with no grounding in empirical reality.

So how do we understand "Mary, assumed body & soul into the glory of heaven" within our Catholic framework? It can be seen as the final triumph of God's graciousness towards humanity. Where death & decay were once understood as just punishments for sin, now they must be understood in the context of grace. Where once body & soul were pitched against each other in a false dichotomy now they can only be seen as reconciled and united in the mystery of Christ - the creative Word. Mary was sinless not by a personally achieved perfection of thought, word and deed (cfr Phil 3:9) but by the favour of God whose forgiveness covers all (Jer 31:34). In this relationship of grace there is "no longer any consciousness of sin" (Heb 10:2). For the parent a child's accidents, mistakes, temper tantrums and sulks are not "sins" bringing condemnation and separation but learning experiences on the journey of life.

Mary as mother of Jesus, the eternal Word made flesh, is ennobled in her motherhood. This nobility is shared by the whole creation which is one with the Divine because it receives its being from the Word (John 1:3).

What of Mary's body? In Scripture body has many meanings: the community is the Body of Christ, as the Word became flesh, so the Word becomes bread & wine, the sacramental Body & Blood of Christ, the universe is the body of the Christ who "fills the whole creation" (Eph 1:23, Tiellard de Chardin & more recently Pope Benedict). Paul writes that there are different kinds of bodies and that the mortal body that is "sown" is not the same as the spiritual body that is "raised" (1 Cor 15:44). So when we speak of "body" we mustn't assume we fully understand what we are talking about.

For the Church, Mary assumed expresses the final triumph of God's grace for God's creatures. The language of separation, alienation, decay & condemnation is no longer relevant. All the experiences of life - the beautiful, the good, the tragic & ugly, the destructive and vain, the heroic & the wicked are seen in a new light. The empirical realities are what they are, flesh is still flesh, decay still happens, wickedness is still evil, love must still suffer and struggle - but everything is bathed in a new light. This light is the glory of the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus & everything in creation is subject to it and nothing has the power to diminish it. Mary is the symbol of graced humanity. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Marion Butler, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Mervyn Francis, Amanda Gudge, Doreen Holman, Marjorie Jenkins, Norma Rudd, Sarah, Jason Singleton, Simon Smith, Ronald Stevens, Jim Walker, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

BISHOP CRISPAN' HEALTH: Bishop Crispian made a public announcement last month that he is suffering from bowel cancer and will need surgery in September. He has asked for prayers from the people of the Diocese.

FR OWEN CANNON SMM RIP: The Requiem Mass for Fr Owen will be celebrated at St Joseph's, Ashurst on Tuesday, 16th August at 12 noon.

NEW TRANSLATION OF THE LITURGY: On Sunday, 4th September we begin using the new translation of the Order of Mass. Mass cards will be available to assist us. To understand why a new translation is being introduced please consult the various resources available from the Parish Shop.

THE MINISTRY OF READER & THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE LITURGY.

All Readers in Church, please take note that the changes in the new translation will affect you. Please take the pink hand out sheet available at the back of church and study it carefully.

PARISH FINANCIAL APPEAL: Please can everyone consider making some increase to their weekly/monthly contribution. We need to find an extra £500 a month to repay a debt we owe to the Diocese & have enough in reserve to meet inevitable repair bills. Thanks to those who already have signed up for Gift Aid. If you are a tax payer & have not signed up for Gift Aid, please consider it. For every £10 you give, Gift Aid will add another £2.82p making a total of £12.82p!

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MASSES: the next few dates for young peoples Masses at St Bernard's are: 4 Sept, 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 4 Dec. Children's Liturgy will continue during the holiday period as far as possible.

Forthcoming Dates:

Rachel Bui will be making her First Holy Communion on Sunday, 28th August at the 11am Mass at St Michaels. One of the family will be doing the 2nd reading on that Sunday. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rachel as she prepares for this new experience of Christ's love.

The **Baptism** of baby Matthew James Cross will take place at St Bernard's on Sunday, 28th August at 3pm.

Sunday, 4th September: We begin using the new translation of the Liturgy for the Order of Mass. Special cards will be provided so that we can read the new responses.

The next **PPC Meeting** is on Thursday, 22nd September, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michaels.

Praying with Children - a workshop for Christian adults. Saturday, 24th Sept, 10am to 4pm, Brockenhurst Village Hall, see poster for details & booking information.

The next **Finance Committee Meeting** is on Thursday, 13th October at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.

CAFOD COFFEE MORNING : A huge thank you from Theresa and Louise to ALL who supported the coffee morning on 4th August. £300 was raised to help with Famine Relief in East Africa. Thanks to Theresa for coming up with the idea & to Theresa & Louise for organising it together with the parish CAFOD group.

THANK YOU FOR ENORMOUS GENEROSITY TO THE STARVING PEOPLE IN SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA AND KENYA: You gave £2100.91 and the tax refund will add more. A great deal can be done to save lives with this contribution. Please pray for the suffering and those helping them. CAFOD envelopes are still available at the back of the churches if you wish to make a further contribution or if haven't already had the chance to do so.

THANKS TO FR PETER WILKIE: The parish is very grateful to Fr Peter for being willing to celebrate Sunday Masses while Fr David is away this weekend.

FOOD BANK: MANY THANKS from the organisers for 196.8kgs of food donated over the year. 716 people, including 299 children, were given food packs. The need is increasing so please keep up the good work. Updated lists of requirements are in the porches; particularly needed are tea, coffee, sugar and long life milk.

DEVELOPMENTS AT ASHURST: A copy of a letter from Fr Ronnie Mitchell SMM is on display in the churches giving details of the proposed "Centre of Mission Spirituality" that will be set up at Ashurst beginning from September this year. Our prayers are with them for a successful project.

THE PARISH SHOP: Now has Gift Vouchers!!! Any amount from £5 to £100!

Also "The Order of Mass -New English translation " - now in stock, £1.95p.

NEW TRANSLATION OF THE LITURGY - RESOURCES
(These can be ordered now from the Parish Shop)

The following are available to be ordered now:

Simple Prayer Book - Standard Edition - CTS, £1.95p

Large Print Mass Book, CTS £1.95

Companion to the Order of Mass (*An exploration of the meaning & scriptural resonances of the words of the Mass, using the new translation*) CTS, £2.50

Understanding the Roman Missal - the New Translation (A presentation & explanation of the new translation, accompanied by liturgical and spiritual reflections) CTS, £1.95 **NOW IN STOCK**

And With Your Spirit (Missal Music CD) *A guide to singing the new English translation of the Mass.* CTS £14.95

The following will be available in November 2011 but can be ordered now

People's Sunday Missal - including the Order of Mass new translation. £ TBA

People's Daily Missal - including the Order of Mass new translation. £ TBA