

The Messenger

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For St Bernard &
St Michael's Churches

15th Mar 2009
Year B
divine office Week 3

St Michael's Church
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

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

Waterside Catholic Parish

PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams
Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)
Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

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



PARISH SERVICES

Third Sunday of Lent

Sun	15	9 am	SB	Mass: Third Sunday of Lent (Bill Booth RIP)
		11 am	SM	Mass: Third Sunday of Lent (John & Ruth Adams RIP)
		5 pm	SM	Stations of the Cross
Tue	17	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: St Patrick (Lily & Eric Allen RIP)
		11 am	SM	Prayer Pottery led by Christine Olden
		7.30 pm	SB	Lenten Prayer, Adoration & Reflection
Wed	18	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: of Lent (Lily & Eric Allen RIP; Elsie Horrill RIP)
Thur	19	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: St Joseph (Val & Joe Naylor Wedding Anniv)
Sat	21	10 am	SM	Mass: of Lent (Stuart King (Health))
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30am)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sun	22	9 am	SB	Mass: Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday (People of the Parish)
		11 am	SM	Mass: Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday (People of the Parish)

Forthcoming events...

Cornerstone Women's Guild: Invites St Michael's Women's Fellowship to their Anniversary Service on Thu 19th March at 2.30pm Speaker Jan Hayter and tea follows the service in the hall. RSVP Glenys Bartlett, Tel: 02380842871 or email guild@cornerstonehytheurc.org.uk

Information & Notices:

QUIZ NIGHT/AMERICAN SUPPER NIGHT - SAT 25TH APRIL Donations required for suitable raffle prizes please. If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, wine, vouchers, etc please drop them into the Parish Office between Monday and Wednesday 9-2pm.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY - Many thanks for your generosity. The collection amounted to £688.87.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - This was hosted by the Methodist Church, Dibden Purlieu. It was very well attended with 96 in the congregation. It raised £254. Thank you to Ruth, Christine Ann and Linda who represented the Catholic Church on Waterside and read so well. Thanks to Peggy for her guidance and support. Finally thanks to all the parishioners who attended the service. Advance Notice: St Michael's is hosting the WWDP next year!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2009: Fr David is inviting young people who will be 14 this year, who have not yet been confirmed to prepare for this sacrament. This sacrament is a celebration of God's Spirit in their lives and an opportunity to make a more personal commitment to the way of Jesus within the fellowship of our spiritual community. Names and contact details can be given in person to Fr David or by phone, letter or email to Fr David at the Parish Office.

For the ideal gift visit....

Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET
HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON
SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882



Plant Sale - Sat 9th May

Its that time of year again to
get your fingers green!!

Donations of cakes and raffle prizes
wanted please too - and also any offers
of help would be gratefully received.
Tel: Veronica 023 8089 7459

Alarm Bells!!

The St Martha Group are proud to
have raised enough money in their
fundraising efforts to pay for a few
jobs which needed doing around St
Bernard's church. They are: a new
secure fire door complete with panic
bar fittings, replacement of exterior
lights which were vandalised and the
installation of a burglar alarm. This
last item is an unfortunate necessity
which will no doubt lead to a little
confusion at first for those of you who
do visit the church outside of mass
times, however once everyone is
aware of it I am sure it we can work
around this problem. Many thanks to
all on the St Martha Group for their
efforts.

WATERSIDE YOUTH GROUP

Come along and join

Hythe Youth Club

Wednesdays 6.30-8.30pm

For transport and more

details Call Steve Smith - 07913049592

Children's Liturgy

Rising 4 years to Year 2

(but younger welcome if accompanied)

9am Mass term-time.

Ring Joy O'Brien Tel 80848995

Registered Charity No: 246871



SALVATION FROM SIN AND DEATH: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

“Are you saved?” - someone might ask you. “Saved from what?” - you might reply. Do we need saving from sin, lostness, separation, alienation, from our little disconnected and wounded “selves”? Do we need saving from all the consequences of the behaviour (violence, anger, hatred, injustice etc. etc.) that emanates from the reactions of our individual and collective egos? Precisely because the ego gives rise to such behaviour it can justifiably be viewed as acting out of a kind of “insanity”. Of course this insanity is experienced as perfectly normal or justifiable at the time and it is the Gospel that seems to be complete folly. When people came to their senses after the horrors of the First World War many began to see it as a collective lapse into sheer madness. During the Cold War the nuclear deterrent worked on the principle of “mutually agreed destruction” which was deliberately given the acronym M.A.D. It has taken incredible intelligence and technical expertise to create nuclear weapons but this endeavour has been described as “intelligence in the service of madness”. Why is humanity in this state? It is because we radically identify with “the form of this world which is passing away” (1 Cor 7:31) and we are unaware of our true identity as children of God, as expressions of the eternal Word (John 1:3-4), as windows of Divine consciousness. We look for total satisfaction and fulfilment in what we are not (things outside our true selves) and we do not experience the joy and happiness of our own being, of our own spirit, which is “life itself” (Rom 8:10 JB).

But still we may ask: “How does Christ save us from sin and death?” The Law exposed our sinfulness and by its implicit judgement and condemnation intensified our experience of being separated from God and under God's “anger”. As St Paul wrote: “(the covenant of) written letters brings death” (2 Cor 3:6). Jesus brought in the new covenant of the Spirit which gives life. *He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity thus making peace*, (Eph 2:15). The unconditional forgiveness of God promised by the prophets (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea & Jeremiah) for example: “they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more” (Jer 31:34), overrules the condemnation of the Law and re-unites humanity with God. No longer under judgement and condemnation and one again with God humanity can more easily let go of the fundamental delusion of the individual and collective ego and awaken to its true identity in God. Destructive and dysfunctional behaviour (sin) is still present but now it can be recognised, responded to and let go as the light of the Spirit within gets stronger. Not being under judgement and condemnation we can face these issues and take responsibility for them without guilt, fear and anxiety. We need no longer be trapped in denial and delusion.

Okay God's love and forgiveness negates the separation that sin brought about under the Law but what about death? This may seem like a digression but please bear with me. In the Bible devil/diabolic literally means “the one who tears apart” and satan means “the accuser”. We can now see that God overcomes the devil by putting everything back together again (Eph 1:10; Col. 1:20); and God overcomes the voice of accusation by abolishing the Law which gave the pretext for accusation.

Now let's put these texts together and see what we get: *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God [Rev 12:10]. O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ [1 Cor 15:55-57]. Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death [Heb 2:14-15].*

Death is still a reality, a fact of life that must come to all sentient beings and indeed to all created things including, perhaps, the whole universe. But now the experience of death has been transformed because the tearing apart / separation caused by sin has been overcome by God's loving embrace reconciling and unifying all things. The “sting” - the alienating consequence of sin has been taken away. Similarly the fear (of condemnation & separation) engendered by the accusations of law breaking is now dispelled by “grace with its verdict of acquittal” (Rom 5:16b). By awakening to the grace and truth that is our own being (“the kingdom of God is among you” (Luke 17:21); “The Spirit is with you, - is in you” (John 14:17)) we can dis-identify with all that is not truly us and so grow in freedom (you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free (John 8:32)). By realising our union with Spirit we can experience death as transition or birth into new life and therefore not as something to be feared. In this sense death is overcome. (DMA)