

The Messenger

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

15th April 2012

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Sun 15 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst (courtesy of Mgr Jeremy Garrett) 11.00am Mass at St Michaels
Mon 16 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 2 nd Week of Easter)
Tues 17 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the 2 nd Week of Easter)
Wed 18 th	10.00am - Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst (Liturgy: of the 2 nd Week of Easter)
Thurs 19 th	10.00am - Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst (Liturgy: of the 2 nd Week of Easter)
Fri 20 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 2 nd Week of Easter)
Sat 21 st	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.00am (Liturgy: of the 2 nd Week of Easter, or Optnl Memorial - St Anselm, Religious, Bishop, Doctor)
Sun 22 nd	Third Sunday of Easter 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst (courtesy of Mgr Jeremy Garrett) 11.00am Mass at St Michaels

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, For those suffering from depression, Win Cocker (B'day), Ellen Pick F/M (Intentions), Bill Feltham RIP Anniv, Sydney Perkins RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 22nd April: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Vera West RIP Annic.

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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website: watersidecatholics.org.uk

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 10am (temp)

CARING ABOUT FAITH

Believing and belonging. When we gather each week to celebrate the memory of Jesus, we help each other by our very presence at Mass. Turning up is an act of faith. Our faith gives us a sense of belonging to a large community: when we believe, we belong. But the community of faith can never be a substitute for individual faith.

Nobody can do our believing for us. Some people will believe in anything, because their belief costs them nothing. You can add random lists to their creeds and they will smile and nod agreement – not because they have faith, but because they have become accustomed to defending themselves against facing the complexity of the real. They don't travel on their belief; their commitment ends with their ready assent. This is not the innocence of simplicity; it is the disguise adopted by those who don't care what they believe in. As long as they're numbered among the believers they are content.

The discontented apostle. In today's Gospel the disciples are gathered in a locked room. The recent violence has made them security conscious. For all their defensiveness, however, they cannot keep out the pressing love of the risen Jesus. He appears in their midst; his greeting is peace; their response is joy. For John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost, and the gift of the spirit is the breath of the risen Christ.

Thomas is part of the group, but he is also a distinct independent self. He cannot be loyal to the group while being disloyal to his own inner self. That would render his loyalty worthless. For Thomas honesty is more important than loyalty. It is not enough for him to shelter in a faith that he cannot credit for himself. He may want to believe, yearn to accept as true what the others say, but his wish cannot struggle into faith. The insistent honesty of Thomas is what makes him doubt. For Thomas it is important what he is asked to believe in, more important than belonging to the company of believers.

Coming to belief. The story of Thomas leads to the beatitude aimed at the generations of people who will not see the risen Lord: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." It is not that we are asked to do what the apostle Thomas could not do – believe in Jesus simply on the testimony of others. Thomas was not gifted by the spirit, and no one can believe in Jesus without the Spirit of God. As we heard in today's reading from the first letter of John: the principal witness to the risen Jesus is the spirit – "since the Spirit is truth." We can only pray "My Lord and my God" because we allow the Spirit of God to pray in us. In the grace of the Spirit we can proclaim Jesus our Lord.

If faith is one of the principal gifts of the Spirit, it is also a form of life that has to be nurtured, helped to grow, loved into maturity. It is not a precious stone that that has to be locked in a vault – that kind of security consciousness is indistinguishable from death. Faith can die from a lifetime's neglect. We need to pray about our faith, think about our faith, live the life of our faith. That does not mean that we will never have our doubts; but if like Thomas we care about what we believe in, that care in time will bring us into the presence of the living Lord. (From: *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Janice Bird, Richard Blacklock, Nigel Bolton, Pat Bolton, Molly Booth, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, 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: Prayer Pottery will revert to the normal monthly pattern after Easter with the next meeting being on **Tuesday, 24th April at 11.00am** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of St Michael's. The prayer time is led by Christine Olden & all are welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY: This is an obligatory collection for the Clergy Training Fund. The money goes to fund the training and upkeep of those preparing for the priesthood and diaconate.

A BIG THANKYOU - from Fr David to everyone who contributed to the Easter Offering. Thank you for your prayers, cards, kind wishes and generous gifts.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED US

CELEBRATE LENT & EASTER: To our deacons, Steve & Ian, to all who pray, to Tony & Irene for liturgical preparation & music, to Linda for extra help, to our choir (St Michaels) & music arrangers (St Bernards), to our Servers, to Ministers of Holy Communion & Readers, to Childrens Liturgy Catechists, to our Welcomers, to Cleaners, Flower Arrangers, Collectors & Collection Auditors & all helpers.

JUBILEE MASS: After further discussion and in view comments from parishioners it has been decided by the PPC that there will be **only one Parish Mass on Sunday 3rd June at 10.00am at St Bernard's**. It will be a children's Mass but there will **not** be any picnic afterwards.

A DAY FOR MEN: A spiritual journey for men to meet their true selves. "There is nothing to prove and nothing to protect. I am who I am and its enough" *Richard Rohr*. This day will provide a safe space to be listened to and to listen to others. Its not about protecting patriarchy or encouraging male chauvinism. It is about the fraternal support that enables men to be their true selves.

Saturday, 21st April, 9.30am-4.30pm. Venue: Geo House (St Joseph's, Ashurst). Minimum contribution to the costs of the day £15. Simple lunch provided. For more information contact Fr David.

PARENTING TEENAGERS: The Department for Pastoral Formation is leading a series of four enrichment sessions for parents of teenagers at Christ the King and St Colman Hall, Commercial Street, Bitterne, Southampton, SO18 6LY on Wednesdays: 9th May, 16th May, 23rd and 30th May. These sessions will explore the ways in which a parent can encourage their teenage child, create an effective framework for discipline within the home, and enjoy the parenting experience to the maximum! The course will be led by Katja Babei, Advisor for Marriage and Family Life, and Dave Hill, Advisor for Youth Ministry. Sessions will run from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Refreshments will be provided. Please book in advance. Booking can be done through the Diocesan website or by contacting Eileen Stephenson by email: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or by phone 01329 835583.

CAFOD CAMPAIGN

GIVE IT UP DURING LENT FOR CLEAN WATER

The campaign has raised an amazing £2623.01 which will be doubled by the Government's matching scheme to £5246.02 and CAFOD will be able to reclaim tax on nearly half the donations. Very many thanks to everyone for their very generous support and help in organizing and supporting fund raising activities and their donations. Special mention goes to our young people and their parents for their great fund-raising activities. There are excellent photos of the events on CAFOD's blog at <http://cafodportsmouth.wordpress.com/2012/03/27/amazing-waterside/>

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: There is a continuing need for regular donations of food for Waterside Foodbank. Especially in these times of economic difficulty, there is a growing number of individuals and 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 types of food needed. We are in Eastertide - the ideal time to be generous to those in need, and to resolve to continue to donate regularly throughout the year ahead.

STREET PASTORS: Prayers are requested for this initiative in the New Forest as the organisers seek: a) a volunteer administrator, b) more members for the co-ordinating committee and c) to organise the training of street pastors.

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.

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: Tickets will be back on sale on 15th April. The draw will take place after 11am Mass on 6th May.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES are now available at the back of the churches. Please note Special Collection envelopes are now all together at the back of the 1st Collection envelopes. You may want to put them all in date order.

FOLD-UP BED: free to anyone who wants it. A parishioner has a fold-up (Z) bed that she no longer needs. Contact Fr David if you are interested.

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

