

# The Messenger

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

**15th December 2013**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent Yr A (Psalter Week 3)**  
**Gaudete Sunday**

**9.00am Mass at St Bernard's**  
**11.00am Mass at St Michael's**  
*All Liturgies are for Advent unless otherwise stated*

Mon	16th December	No Service
Tues	17th	No Service
Wed	18th	No Service
Thurs	19th	No Service
<b>Fri</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>10am Mass SM</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10am Mass SM</b>

(Liturgy: memorial St Peter Canisius, Religious, Doctor of the Church)  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation immediately after Mass.**

**Sun 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent -**  
**9.00am Mass at St Bernard's**  
**11.00am Mass at St Michael's**

**Mass Intentions: For the week beginning 15th December:**  
*For all expectant mothers, For all Clergy, For all young people,*  
*Ruth Adams RIP Anniv, Baby Dylan Guilding (Health), Anthony Richards (Health)*

**For the week beginning 22nd December**  
*For all those who serve on the Altar, For the Homeless, For all Waterside parishioners,*  
*John Adams RIP Anniv, Ann Harding RIP, Brendan Kelly RIP Anniv, Fred, Flo & Tony Warrilow RIP.*

**WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH**

Pastoral Team: Rev David Adams (Parish Priest), Rev Vincent Convery  
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon & Chair Parish Pastoral Council) (023 8020 7449)  
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)

All correspondence to: The Parish Administrator, 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**

**New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times**

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am  
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am, (Holy Day Vigil 7pm)

**New Forest West Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times**

Saturday Vigil Mass: Lymington and New Milton at 6pm  
Sunday: Milford on Sea at 9.00am, New Milton at 10 am,  
New Milton 6.30pm Mass in Polish  
Lymington at 10:30am, Brockenhurst at 6.00pm

## SOMEONE WORTH WAITING FOR

We get very conflicting messages, albeit from different sources. Our culture does not value waiting. As a result the virtue of patience is not widely honoured. In contrast our spiritual culture places a high value on patience and on the need to wait for God's coming.

We have become used to expecting things to get quicker & quicker – travel, communications, responses, food preparation, computers etc. It is almost a cultural sin to “keep someone waiting”. We try to pack so much into a day we inevitably run late for something or someone! Waiting lists, especially hospital ones, are a major social preoccupation. For some individuals suffering a lot of pain and discomfort the waiting list is the pivot around which all else revolves. Needless to say all this does nothing to help us cultivate or receive patience.


To encourage us in patience we must turn to nature and realise the attitudes which are needed if one is to work harmoniously with it. Then we turn to Scripture and see examples in the prophets and above all in Jesus himself. Then we should think of people we have known through our own experience. But let us look more closely at why we are waiting, for whom we are waiting and how we are waiting.

Why are we waiting? It used to be a school pupil chant more often than not at meal times. We are waiting because, in some small way, we have already begun to experience something and that something makes us long for its fulfilment. We have tasted something of love, peace, joy, kindness, goodness, faith and self-control. We long for the time when these gifts can be received without struggle, sin and hindrance. It is our belief that God has already defeated the enemies of sin and death in Jesus Christ. The waiting time is the opportunity to personally receive this victory and to begin to be transformed by it. Transformation is change, growth, letting go and receiving. More often than not God takes advantage of the suffering we experience to transform us. And God works patiently, delicately and respectfully.

For whom are we waiting? Only God is big enough to bring healing, reconciliation and transformation to individuals and to the whole world. For us God is doing this in and through Jesus. There will be a time when this world ends for us individually and a time when it ends globally. We long for the God of gentleness and compassion to come to save us.

How do we wait? Well certainly not by sitting around doing nothing! Our task in the here and now is to enter the kingdom of God by following the teaching of Jesus. For this task we may even have a holy impatience. Our work is to share faith, work for peace and justice and show compassion to all. We may be standing at the bus stop of life waiting for Number One but we are not to be idle. We must love one another and help those who don't even realise there is Someone to wait for. We know the bus will come even if it's late, so we wait with patience. And, lo & behold then to our amazement we get three busses! I think there is a parable in there somewhere. (DMA)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Kitty Burroughs, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Daphne Gooch, Peter Gray, Amanda Gudge, Baby Dylan Guilding, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, George Hutcheson, John & Lena Keane, Michael Kirwan, Betty Marek, Sarah Marshall, Tony O'Connell, Karen O'Donovan, George Raffray, Anthony Richards, Lilly Ricketts, Norma Rudd, Pauline Sharpley, Susan Soutter, Ronald Stevens, Neil Tisdale. *(If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Linda via the Parish office)*

 **CHRISTMAS FAYRE & RAFFLE:** The amount raised, after expenses, was £2,016.08p! Well done everyone! Money taken on the door for Great Orman Street came to £85.26p. All prize winners have been notified.

Thank you to all of you for selling so many raffle tickets. The raffle tickets raise the most money, so well done!


Thanks to Tina and her team, everyone who helped with the preparation, all those who ran the stalls, all those who donated gifts and prizes, all those who baked and stitched, all those who came along to support and all those who helped clear up and cash up! Special mention to Bebe's Café, Exxon Mobile Chemical and Hythe -Southampton ferry for donating prizes for the raffle.

**THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH** at The Old Mill on Thursday was a great success. A HUGE thank you to Roisin and Mick Kerr at The Old Mill who provided not only the venue free of charge, but all the veg and the fruit for the fruit salad, the Christmas tree and all the decorations. Some of the profit from various social events organised by the Martha group paid for everything else! So a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped behind the scenes at The Old Mill. A special thank you to the Martha group for their wonderful organisation and to those who offered lifts.

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM:** In Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis calls on us to take up a “pastoral ministry in a missionary style” that will reach everyone without exception or exclusion. Each week the New Forest Pastoral Area website will contain a short extract from Pope Francis's Joy of The Gospel.

**FOODBANK Advent appeal- this Sunday** after Mass Terry and Theresa will take our donations to the Foodbank to be made into Christmas hampers for the families in crisis over Christmas. Thank you to all those who have donated food.

### A MESSAGE FROM LYNDA & LAURA FROM THE CAFOD PORTSMOUTH OFFICE:

 We would like to wish a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all parishioners.

Thank you for your support and generosity throughout the past year, especially for the recent contributions towards our emergency appeal for Typhoon Haiyan (currently over £116,000 from the Portsmouth diocese). This exceptional support has meant our partners on the ground, Caritas Philippines and CRS, have been able to deliver aid to thousands of survivors, working through local parishes. Thank you all!

**TWELVE POEMS FOR CHRISTMAS** by Lexley George will be on sale at the back of Church for £3. *£1 from each booklet will be given to Waterside Cancer Support Centre.* It would make a nice gift for Christmas.



*Please put the money in the repository box in the wall.*



**REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS**  
Bring your Poinsettia to church on **Sunday 22nd Dec (NOT BEFORE)**, write the name of your loved one on a tag, attach it to the plant and leave it at the back of the church. The flower arrangers will display the Poinsettias as part of the Christmas display and parishioners, on reading the tags, will pray for your loved one.



**Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Day**

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

**4th Sunday of Advent Sunday 22nd December**

9am St Bernard's

11am St Michael's

**Tuesday 24th December**

**7pm Carols & Mass St Michael's**

**Wednesday 25th December**

9am St Bernard's,

11am St Michael's

*NO WEEKDAY MASS 27th OR 28th DECEMBER*

*Details of other Masses in the New Forest area will be posted on the doors of both our churches.*

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE** to the flower arrangers who will be decorating our churches on 23rd Dec, and to those who have volunteered to put out the cribs and decorate the trees. It really is appreciated.



### FROM THE DIOCESE:

#### Home Mission

Advent and Christmas are wonderful times of the year for every member of the Catholic community to share the joy of his/her faith in Jesus Christ. Why not invite three people that you know to celebrate *the reason for the season* with you and your parish?



### THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS -The Meaning Behind

The Song

The Christmas song, "*The Twelve Days of Christmas*"

may sound silly and contrived to many of us. But it actually had its origins in religious symbolism - and with a serious purpose.

The “twelve days of Christmas” are the twelve days between Christmas Day & the Epiphany.

It dates from a time of religious persecution. The song was written as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without fear of arrest - a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact.

The song can be taken at two levels of interpretation - the surface meaning, or the hidden meaning known only to the Christians involved. Each element is a code word for a religious truth.

1. The “partridge” in a pear tree is Jesus, “the pear tree” is the cross.
2. The “two turtle doves” are the Old and New Testaments.
3. “Three French hens” stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The “four calling birds” are the four Gospels.
5. The “five gold rings” are the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The “six geese a-laying” stand for the six days of creation.
7. The “seven swans a-swimming” represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or 7 Sacraments
8. The “eight maids a-milking” are the eight Beatitudes.
9. “Nine ladies dancing” are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10. The “ten lords a-leaping” are the Ten Commandments.
11. “Eleven pipers piping” represent the eleven faithful Apostles.
12. “Twelve drummers drumming” symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.

If you think Jesus being symbolized as a partridge in a pear tree sounds blasphemous, remember:

*“Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so.”* (Luke 13:34 and Matthew 23:34)

The “true love” in the song refers to God Himself.

The “me” receiving the gifts is every Christian.

So that silly song we sing at Christmas time has more meaning than we thought.

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit  
Faith, Hope & Charity

