

LAMB OR TIGER?

Many years ago when I was a student in Rome we would help out in Italian parishes during Christmas, Lent, and Easter. One such parish was in Ancio by the sea just south of Rome. It was Christmas time and during the midnight celebration of Mass a real lamb was brought up in the offertory procession. It all added to the drama of the liturgy. Another priest from the college was also helping out and we were given accommodation in a local convent. It was one of those typical ecclesiastical buildings all done out in reconstituted marble. It was cool in summer but chilly in winter. The other feature was very minimal sound insulation. Little did we know that said lamb was going to be billeted over night in the same building! It was not a happy little sheep and spent the whole night bleating. I don't think anyone got much sleep. However, I still think most people could live with a lamb a lot easier than with a tiger. In fact there isn't much living around tigers. They are only looking to make a meal of you.

We can be grateful that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. If the world is to be healed and not destroyed, if people are to be reconciled and not set at war, if people are to be forgiven and not crushed then you need a Lamb not a tiger.

This week we begin again the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Prayer is meaningless if we are not also doing what we can to rediscover and rebuild unity. This is no longer an issue just for Christians it is an issue for the whole world and for all religions. Christians need more than ever to give witness to what Jesus wanted for everyone.

Denominations need to exorcise the demons of tribalism and self-interest and put the priority on the service of humanity, after the example of Jesus.

There are attitudes that help relationship, listening, learning, changing and growing. Tigers are not much help here. We need respect, humility, a love of humanity, truth, and goodness. We need meekness and patience, perseverance and hope. We must be willing to make sacrifices for peace, fairness and compassion. The image of the Lamb is much more helpful here.

We also need to bring this down to the personal level. Am I a tiger Christian or a lamb Christian? How much does aggression feature in my life, in my relationships, in my work, in my driving? Does stress uncover capacities for aggression we didn't know were there?

We also need to step back from our culture. What are the sources of violence in our society – in films and TV programmes, computer games, newspaper articles and popular attitudes? What is the implicit message of holding an arsenal of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons capable of destroying the world many times over? What is the message given by countries that wage war on terrorism when they themselves have been actively funding terrorist activity? There is a lot of tiger about – that is why God had to send the Lamb. (DMA)

The Messenger

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

16th January 2011

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Divine Office: Wk 2

Sun	16 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernard's 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 3.00pm Baptism at St Bernard's: Henry Jacob Schnugh
Mon	17 th	No Service (<i>Liturgy: Memorial St Anthony of Egypt 251 - 356</i>)
Tues	18 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (<i>Liturgy of the Day, Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today</i>)
Wed	19 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (<i>Liturgy of the Day, or opt Mem. St Wulstan, religious, Bishop, 1009 - 1095</i>)
Thurs	20 th	10.00am LT Mass (<i>Liturgy of the Day, or opt Mems. St Fabian, Pope & Martyr, d. 250; St Sebastian, Martyr d.?</i>)
Fri	21 st	No Service (<i>Liturgy: Memorial; St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr, d. 304</i>)
Sat	22 nd	No Service (<i>Liturgy of the Day or Our Lady on Sat. or opt Mem. St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr, d. 304</i>)
Sun	23 rd	3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time 9.00am Mass at St Bernard's 11.00am Mass at St Michaels

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Anne Candri RIP, Ann Harding (B'day), Bishop Crispian Hollis (Health), Sandy Nicholas (Intentions), Amelia Reider (Health), Louisa Tempest (Health), Maureen Nichols RIP, Rev Peter Sprague RIP

For the week beginning 23rd Jan: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Anne Candri RIP, Norman Jones RIP Anniv

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) (023 8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

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



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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Bishop Crispian Hollis, *Olive Jenkin*, Jim & Doris Lamb, *Pat Leigh*, Sandy Nicholas, Bridget Reeves, Norma Rudd, Eileen Shanley, May Sycamore, Betty Williams, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

NO SERVICES NEXT SATURDAY MORNING: Fr David has to attend a Diocesan conference in Bournemouth that day.

PRAYER POTTERY: There next Prayer Pottery will be on Tuesday, 25th January from 11.00am until 12 noon. It takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michaels, Hythe. It is led by Christine Olden and all are welcome for quiet Scripture, prayer and reflection. If you want any more details please contact Christine on 023-80-848754.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN

UNITY: this begins on Tuesday, 18th January and finishes on Tuesday, 25th January. Please keep this in your prayer intentions and join other Christians for prayer if you can.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 20th January at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michaels.

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE WHITE FLOWER APPEAL: The amount raised for the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) was £86. Thank you for your generosity. The society works to raise public awareness about the sanctity of life at all its stages, from the unborn child to those nearing the end of their lives. It endeavours to bring concerns about the sanctity of life issues to members of the Houses of Parliament.

PARISH SHOP NEEDS WINTER

CLOTHES: There is a shortage of second-hand Winter clothing. If you have any that you can donate to the shop, please do so. Also please donate quality items, (but NOT electrical goods or videos).

However, the shop does not sell only second-hand items. There are lots of **NEW** gift items, Bibles, Rosaries, devotional books, cards & craft items, also Fair-trade goods, jewellery and scented & decorative candles and more besides.

The parish depends on the shop & the volunteers who help for significant financial support.

"WHISPERS ON THE WIND" The late Anne Candrl, together with her daughter Pam produced another lovely collection of poems and this time there are beautiful colour illustrations too. Anne donated copies to our church and to Oakhaven Hospice. If anyone buys a copy at church all the proceeds will go to church funds. The price is £7.50p. Please put the money in the repository wall box.



CAFOD: ACT ON POVERTY: Letter from the Prime Minister. Some months ago nearly 100 parishioners signed cards to the Prime Minister asking him to act to help the poorest in the world. On 28th October your cards and many thousand more were delivered to him. He has now replied very positively; a copy of his letter is on the notice board at both Churches. Now we need to keep him to his promises! (Louise Croll).

CAFOD RWANDA LINK: On Sunday, 6th February there will be a special presentation at both Masses on the situation in Rwanda and a new initiative promoted by CAFOD . This will be prepared and presented by members of our parish CAFOD group.

SPIRITUALITY EVENT: David Torkington invites you to the launch of his book, *Wisdom from Franciscan Italy - The Primacy of Love*. This will take place at Christ church Parish Hall, Colbury (Deerleap rd, Ashurst), on Saturday, 29th Jan 2011 at 7.00pm. Your host for the evening is Rev Kate Wilson, Vicar of Christ Church. The principal speaker who will introduce the author is: **Rev Andrew McMahon OFM (Franciscan) MA MBE**

KEEP RE IN THE CURRICULUM: Government proposals on a new style English Baccalaureate have left out R.E. from the Humanities subjects. On behalf of Catholic schools we need to raise concerns over this, first of all to our MP. Letters & emails can also be sent to: Dept for Education - The School Performance Data Unit, 2nd Floor, Dept. for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT; email: mailbox.performancedatateam@education.gsi.gov.uk.

THANKS TO AN ANONYMOUS DONOR FROM THE PARISH the family in difficult circumstances mentioned the other week has been given a brand new washing machine. Thanks also to another anonymous parishioner who gave a cash gift. Also another person had offered a second hand machine. So well done those people and thanks to everyone for prayers.