

The Messenger

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

Sun 16th February Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Education Sunday

9.00am Mass at SB
11.00am Mass at SM

Year A, Weekdays Yr 2; Psalter week 2

Mon 17th Feb No Service
(Liturgy of the day: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order)
Tues 18th Feb No service
Wed 19th Feb No Service
Thurs 20th Feb No Service
Fri 21st Feb No Service
(Liturgy of the day: St Peter Damian, Religious, Bishop & Doctor of the Church)

Sat 22nd Feb Mass 10am SM
(Liturgy of the day: The Chair of St Peter)
Sacrament of Reconciliation straight after Mass
Sun 23rd February

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.00am Mass at St Bernard's
11.00am Mass at St Michael's

Mass Intentions: For the week beginning 16th February

For all children and staff in our Catholic schools, for the sick, and those who care for them, for Fair Trade networks in the Diocese, for those whose homes and businesses have been flooded.

Anniversaries: Ted Harding (18th) Gary John Sussex (21st)

Those who have died recently: Gary Mitchell, Sir David Price

Other Intentions: Baby Elijah (Health)

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

PASTORAL TEAM:

Parish Priest- Rev David Adams based at Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph Church, Lymington: Tel: 01590 676696

Rev Vincent Convery

Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon & Chair Parish Pastoral Council) Tel:02380 207449

Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) Tel: 02380 897354

All correspondence to: Linda Guilding, The Parish Administrator, The Parish Office, Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR

Tel: 02380 843479 e-mail: watersidecp@btinternet.com

website: watersidecatholics.org.uk

New Forest East Pastoral Area: Lyndhurst, Totton & Waterside,

Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am

Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am, (Holy Day Vigil 7pm)

Parish priest: Rev Innaiah Maddineni: Tel: 023 8086 2270

Rev Andrew Philpott (Deacon)

New Forest West Pastoral Area: Brockenhurst, Lymington, Milford on sea & New Milton

Parish Priest: Rev David Adams Tel: 01590 676696

Rev Stephen Morgan (Deacon)

St Anne-Brockenhurst, Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph-Lymington, St Francis of Assisi-Milford on Sea.

Parish Priest: Rev Marcin Drabik: Tel: 01425 614968

Our Lady of Lourdes- New Milton

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

MORE & MORE OF WHAT WASN'T WORKING OR SOMETHING COMPLETELY NEW?

Here is the gross demonic caricature: *God is now watching your every single move, every thought & fantasy, and feeling, every idle word and little action. God is just waiting for you to put a foot wrong and then he can throw you into hell. Unless you confess every single thing, and are truly sorry and resolve never to sin again, you've basically had it! Be especially anxious about anything to do with sex because every little indulgence, whether, in thought, word or deed is a mortal sin! And remember if you don't love God above everyone & everything else he is going to torture you in hell for all eternity! You better get to confession quick, you might die tonight!*

Well, if ever there was a recipe for guilt-ridden, anxiety ridden, fearful religion there it is! If anything was calculated to destroy the "joyful trust in God" that the Holy Spirit wants to give us (Romans 5:11) that was it. Is this the Good News Jesus came to bring? Is this the New Covenant of peace? Sadly too many people got fed on the caricature, the gross distortion of what Jesus was & is about, and too many people got spiritually damaged. The prophets Like Jeremiah, Isaiah & Ezekiel (over 2500 years ago) recognised that kind of relationship was doomed to failure. They foretold a new work of God which would be completely different, which really would be good news.

In the gospel passage today, Jesus is "fighting fire with fire" - instructing a legalistic, fear based mentality with a legalistic, fearful argument that forces it to collapse in on itself and finally accept the need for grace and for a whole new basis for our relationship with God which is God's graciousness not the Law. So how do we do justice to "unless your virtue goes no deeper ... you will never get into the kingdom of heaven" and avoid falling back into fear based religion? How do we grow in holiness and in virtue "free from fear and saved from the hands of our foes" (Luke 1:74, 77)? The answer is both sweet and simple.

It is sweet because God is love and so loves the world and us. It is simple because it is a personal journey of growth, learning and discovery with Jesus. "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matt 11:28). As long as we are willing to walk, to learn, to let go of what is harmful, negative, destructive and hurtful; as long as we are humble enough not to rely on our own efforts but on the grace of Jesus then we can go forward with joy.

All we have to do is stay with Jesus in our struggles, our temptations, our doubts and difficulties, our failures, our addictions and Jesus will guide us safely through the light & the shadow, through the gifts and the wounds of our soul which is such a stranger to us. Jesus loves us and guides to freedom.

Held in love & forgiveness, renewed each day in joyful confidence we have energy to build up what is good and dismantle what is bad, first in ourselves and then in society.

We are no longer haunted by the demons of fear and condemnation, no longer dispirited and discouraged by accusing voices either from within ourselves or from others (the literal meaning of *satan* is "accuser"), no longer consumed with anxiety about our death, about judgement, no longer drained of energy by constant agonising over real or imagined sins.

Instead the Holy Spirit gives us energy to grow gradually in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. We discover that the Christ within is "wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1 Cor 1:30). DMA

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Baby Elijah, David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Kitty Burroughs, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Peter Gray, David & Joan Grennell, Amanda Gudge, baby Elijah & baby Dylan, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, 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)



IF YOU NEED A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY: The telephone numbers for the clergy are in the left hand column. Please note there are only two priests in the Forest covering the parishes of Waterside, Totton, Lyndhurst, Lymington, Brockenhurst and Milford on Sea, so they may not be available when you ring. If you leave a message they will get back to you as soon as they are able to do so. Please note there is not a resident priest at St Michael's or St Bernard's. Any answerphone messages left on the office phone at St Michael's may not be picked up until Tuesday or Thursday.

If you, or your loved one, is in hospital and you want to see a priest, please ask the nursing staff if you may see the Catholic priest from the hospital Chaplaincy team.

If you are going into hospital and would like the Sacrament of the sick beforehand please speak to Fr Vincent to arrange this.



QUIZ NIGHT Thank you to Dave King and the Martha group for a really challenging Quiz night on Saturday.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents, if your child is in Year 3 at primary school and will be 8 yrs old this year, and you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion, please see Deacon Steve or Deacon Ian. At the moment we are only able to offer support for a home & parent centred programme of preparation



ANYTHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER? The Messenger goes to print on Thursday morning and copies are put out in St Bernard's & St Michael's in the afternoon. If you have anything you wish to be included please let me know by Thursday morning at the latest. Thank you.

CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC POLICY

INTERNSHIPS: For the last eleven years the Catholics Bishops Conference has organised Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships for recently graduated Catholics. This year we are looking to offer 8 internships: Four interns will be placed with Christian MPs at Westminster; one in a parliamentary support role within the Bishops' Conference Secretariat; one in each of the Catholic Agencies (CAFOD and CSAN) in a public policy role; and one in a media internship in Archbishop's House Westminster.

All internships will run from September 2014 - July 2015 and include accommodation and subsistence allowances.

Full details and an application form can be found on our website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/interns>

Completed application forms and references must either be emailed to interns@cbcew.org.uk or posted to: Michaela Kelly, Head of HR, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX. The closing date is 5pm on **Wednesday 26th February** 2014; the Assessment days will be 1st and 2nd April 2014.

If you know anyone who may be interested in this opportunity, please encourage them to apply.

PAUSE FOR PRAYER: Tuesday 25th February in the chapel at St Michael's. 10-11am. All are welcome.



Foodbank: At present there is a particular shortage of toilet rolls, tinned fish (for example tuna, salmon, pilchards or sardines); sugar; and custard (tins or packets). If you can help with any of these items they will be greatly appreciated.



CAFOD PORTSMOUTH GOLF DAY - This popular event is coming back this year and will take place at the Royal Winchester Golf Club, Sarum Road, Winchester SO22 5QE, on Tuesday 20 May. The competition is for teams of 4 persons but individual applications are welcome. Please support CAFOD by entering this event. Full details and applications forms can be obtained from CAFOD Portsmouth, 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk



The Pope Tweets: [Pope Francis @Pontifex](#)

The world makes us look towards ourselves, our possessions, our desires. The Gospel invites us to be open to others, to share with the poor.



DIOCESAN SPECIAL COLLECTION (Obligatory) Today for the Catholic Education Service .



DID YOU KNOW you can watch Mass live, or recorded, from Portsmouth Cathedral? Go to <http://churchservices.tvportsmouthcathedral>



Heaven's Road FM A new Catholic Internet Radio Station was launched in November from St John's Seminary, Womersley.

The Radio broadcasts 24/7 a wide range of prayers, music, poems and a range of features such as *Seventh Heaven - HGUH's own take on Desert Island Discs* and lots of other exciting topics.

The website <http://www.heavensroadfm.com> also has 200+ programmes available as podcasts for you to listen to.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE is a free publication. It is an excellent read and is full of interesting articles. The new edition is available at the back of church.

PLEASE NOTE: NO MASS AT ST MICHAEL'S ON FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

WHAT'S ON AT THE WISDOM CENTER, ROMSEY

LENTEN QUIET DAY Saturday 22nd March & Friday 5th April 10am-4pm Wisdom Centre £25 to include lunch. See posters for booking details.

WHAT'S ON AT ST JOSEPH'S ASHURST

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION St Joseph's Ashurst every Tuesday morning 10.30-11.30am or Thursday evening 7-8pm. £6.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT GOING ON RETREAT FOR LENT:

Why not consider St Joseph's Ashurst: A place to be yourself. A place to relax. They are now available for private and group retreats.

Ring for further details. Tel: 023 8029 233



LENT: Ash Wednesday on 5th March is the start of Lent, which is a period of prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. Lent is 40 days long, but there are 46 days between Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and Easter. How can that be?

The answer takes us back to the earliest days of the Church. Christ's original disciples, who were Jewish, grew up with the idea that the Sabbath—the day of worship and of rest—was Saturday, the seventh day of the week, since the account of creation in Genesis says that God rested on the seventh day.

Christ rose from the dead, however, on Sunday, the first day of the week, and the early Christians, starting with the apostles (those original disciples), saw Christ's Resurrection as a new creation, and so they transferred the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

Since all Sundays—and not simply Easter Sunday—were days to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, Christians were forbidden to fast and do other forms of penance on those days. Therefore, when the Church expanded the period of fasting and prayer in preparation for Easter from a few days to 40 days (to mirror Christ's fasting in the desert, before He began His public ministry), Sundays could not be included in the count. Thus, in order for Lent to include 40 days on which fasting could occur, it had to be expanded to six full weeks (with six days of fasting in each week) plus four extra days—Ash Wednesday and the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday that follow it. Six times six is thirty-six, plus four equals forty. And that's how we arrive at the 40 days of Lent!

You learn something new every day!

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA

