

## CHRIST, THE YEAST THAT RAISES THE WHOLE BATCH

The telling of an event or a story is framed and expressed by how we see the world. For the ancient peoples the realm of heaven was literally up beyond the sky. But we know too that the writers of Scripture used meteorological metaphors, for example: the presence of God the Father is signified by a cloud as in - *a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved ..'* (Matt 17:5). What is more difficult for us, if not impossible, is to distinguish the boundaries between symbol and metaphor on the one hand, and empirical references on the other. So is Luke imagining the ascension of Jesus much as we would watch the launch of a space rocket or is it all metaphor '*a cloud took him from their sight*' meaning simply Jesus returns to the Father? Notice how, characteristically, Mark's Gospel avoids using too many atmospheric images but still has to use the royal throne metaphor: *the Lord Jesus ... was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place* (Mark 16:19). (If all this talk of metaphor seems strange remember Jesus himself said: *I have said these things to you in figures of speech (i.e. metaphors). The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures (i.e. metaphors) but will tell you plainly of the Father* (John 16:25)).

In our time and culture we have conventions of writing that, with the exception of poetry and poetic lyric, demand absolute clarity and separation between measurable events and forces and those which are of their nature subjective and unquantifiable, e.g. experiences of consciousness. Some people only accept as true and real things and events that can be verified by measurement. However even astrophysicists and quantum physicists have to resort to metaphor to describe phenomena indicated by observation, experiment and mathematical analysis.

Whatever the empirical evidence may be our relationship with God is most definitely experienced within the realm of consciousness or awareness. Indeed consciousness is the irreducible ground of every experience from the empirical to the ineffable. But it is here that we need to make an important distinction. This is the difference between the experience, the awareness or consciousness and the words, thoughts, images that we use to try to articulate that experience. In Western culture we have become more and more identified with thought, ideas and concepts. By getting our words right we imagine we have found the truth. But all we find, in fact, are ideas about the truth, although some ideas can clearly correspond more closely to the truth than others.

Truth is an experience of being, life and reality. Because everything is connected it is ultimately about relationship. In the Bible the word "know" is much closer in meaning to touch, taste & experience than to ideas that is why it has a sexual reference as in Mary's question: *How can this be since I do not know a man* (Luke 1:34). This is why Jesus blessed his Father for *hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children* (Matt 11:25). In Genesis (2:17) the prohibition concerning *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil* is not about preventing a theoretical understanding of morality but about preventing the violation of God's very good creation by presuming to judge and act as if some of it were good and some of it were evil. This divides and separates and breaks the unity of all things in God. We do this in a very small way every time we say, for example: *Its rotten weather today*. The term "rotten" is a value judgement not an impartial description.

Jesus once said that the *Kingdom of heaven was like yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened* (Matt 13:33). This is what happens in the Ascension. As the writer to the Christians at Ephesus put it: *The one (Jesus) who rose higher than the heavens to fill all things* (Eph 4:10). We connect with and perceive this mystery through our participation in the consciousness of God, in other words, through the Holy Spirit. As Paul puts it: *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God* (1 Cor 2:10). The ascension of Jesus reconnects (in our consciousness) body, soul and spirit, earth and heaven, death and life, past, present and future, God, humanity and the world. It expresses the definitive victory of God's love over our sin, enmity and alienation. By the gift of God's Spirit we are awakened to the mystery of God-With-Us and faith is our acceptance of this reality, of who we really are - children of God. This God is *Father of all, over all, through all and within all* (Eph. 4:6). This means every moment, everything, every person is sacred, is lifted up. It is why justice, compassion and love are the imperatives of the here and now. (DMA)

# The Messenger

St Michael's Church,  
Langdown Lawn  
Hythe SO45 5GR

16 MAY 2010  
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divine office WK 3

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

## TIMES OF SERVICES

Sun	16	9 am	SB	The Ascension of the Lord
		11 am	SM	The Ascension of the Lord
		6 pm	SM	The Ascension of the Lord
Tue	18	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass
Wed	19	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass
Thu	20	10 am	LT	Mass
Fri	21	12 pm	SM	Prayer until 1pm
Sat	22	10 am	SM	Mass
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am
		4 pm	SM	Nuptial Mass
Sun	23	9 am	SB	Pentecost Sunday
		11 am	SM	Pentecost Sunday
		6 pm	SM	Pentecost Sunday



**Mass Intentions: For the week beginning 15th May:** People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Victims of Abuse, Church Reform, Wendy Privett, Edith Manghan RIP, Celina De Netto RIP (Anniv)

**For the week beginning 22nd May:** People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Victims of Abuse, Church Reform, Sean Blumney RIP, Michael Moran RIP

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

Parish Administrator: Helen Hughson (Mon & Tues only 9am—2pm)

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 Gift 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, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Irene Mitchell, Michael Peake, Bridget Reeves, Lena Westfoot (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

**FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE:** We look forward to the celebration of the marriage and Nuptial Mass of Henry Krzymuski & Elena Dokuchaeva on Saturday, 22nd May at 4pm at St Michaels Church, Hythe. Please keep them in your prayers for a joyful wedding day and a very happy life together.

**CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** We are also looking forward to the celebration of 1st Holy Communion on Sunday, 6th June, the Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Manu Crean Raffray will be making his 1st Holy Communion at the 9am Mass at St Bernards; Ciara Reilly will make her 1st Holy Communion at the 11am Mass at St Michaels. Please keep Ciara & Manu in your prayers for a joyful day and a life long experience of God's love given to us in the Eucharist.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** to Veronica Chadwick and all who helped with the Plant Sale. It did really well and raised £706 on the day with more to follow from after church sales. Thanks to all who contributed plants, cakes for the cake stall and raffle prizes. Proceeds are being donated to the Roof Fund.

**SPECIAL THANKS:** to Jim Ross who has made a lovely pedestal for Our Lady's statue in St Michaels. All we need now are four strong men without dodgy backs to position the solid marble statue on its new stand!

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This weekend there is an obligatory collection for World Communications. This money goes to the Bishops of England & Wales to enable them to use modern communications technology in the service of the Gospel.

**WE NEED ITEMS FOR RAFFLE PRIZES:** If you have any unwanted gifts that would make good raffle prizes please hand them into the Parish Office or give them to Fr David at Mass on Sundays. Thank you.

**ROOF FUND—WE HAVE REACHED 75% OF OUR TARGET!** : Current amount collected £10,102.63 (£3,397 yet to be raised)

*Thank you all, for your enormous generosity  
Join [easyfundraising.co.uk](http://easyfundraising.co.uk), do your usual shopping online and help us raise more money for free! It won't cost you a penny!*

**CAFOD STAMPS** - Thank you all for many used stamps, and old/foreign coins which we will deliver to the CAFOD office. Keep them coming in!

**PAPAL VISIT—SPECIAL COLLECTION:** Although the Pope's visit is a State visit, the Dioceses will still have to make a contribution. The Bishops of England, Wales, and Scotland have a target of £1 million. Our Diocesan share is £50,000. Therefore Bishop Crispian has asked for a collection to be made on Sunday, 23rd May for this need. The Bishop has suggested an amount of £2 per parishioner. Details of the Pope visit will be given later.

**PARISH FINANCE MEETING:** This will take place on Thursday, 20th May at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michaels.

**PARISH OPEN MEETING:** This will take place on Sunday, 23rd May at 3pm in the Hall at St Bernards. Information was distributed with the newsletter last Sunday about this meeting. Some copies are still available at the back of the churches for those who missed last weekend. An **update** on that information is that we now have a verbal assurance from the Diocesan surveyor that the works required to secure our current planning permission do not need to go above ground level and that any area so used will be restored for parking.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The PPC will meet on Thursday, 27th May at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michaels. Approved PPC minutes are on display in the church porches.

**THE DIOCESAN FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN - "LIVING OUR FAITH":** This campaign is to raise funds so that the Diocese can continue: 1) vocations work for priesthood & diaconate; 2) the training of students for the priesthood; 3) the work of adult formation and training for lay ministry; 4) the provision of financial support for parish projects. **Our Parish Team is now in place. They are helping Fr David contact parishioners to invite support for the campaign. We have made a good beginning but we still have some way to go to reach our parish target of £85,000—spread over 5 years. Whatever sum we raise our own parish will receive back one quarter of that amount.**

**Celebrating Marriage 2010** - On 12 June 2010 there will be a special Mass at St Bede's, Basingstoke for couples in our diocese celebrating significant wedding anniversaries during 2010. If you are celebrating your 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during 2010, or any anniversary over 60 years, please let your parish priest know as soon as possible so that Bishop Crispian can send you an invitation. Attendance will be by invitation only and numbers are limited.

For more information contact: Katja Babei, Advisor for Marriage and Family Life, Department for Pastoral Formation. [kbabei@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:kbabei@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). Tel: 01329 835583

**Get CREATIVE! for CAFOD Portsmouth** - Entries are still welcome until the 7th of June (from individuals and/or schools and groups) for CAFOD Portsmouth's "Get Creative" competition, to produce a CD of songs and poems from people across the Diocese. The topic could be anything from environmental justice to live simply, from worship to social action. Full rules and entry forms can be downloaded from [www.cafod.org.uk/portsmouth](http://www.cafod.org.uk/portsmouth) or contact the office at [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) or 01252 329285 for more information.

