

The Messenger

All correspondence to:
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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

16th august 2009
Year B
divine office wk 4

St Michael's Church
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

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

PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams

Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)

Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

Parish Administrator: Helen Hughson

To contact The Parish Administrator based at St Michael's
call between 9am - 2pm daily (Mon & Tue only)

PARISH SERVICES

The Assumption of Our Lady

Sun	16	9 am	SB	Mass: The Assumption of Our Lady
		11 am	SM	Mass: The Assumption of Our Lady
Tue	18	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: of the Day
Wed	19	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: of the Day
Thur	20	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: St Bernard
Sat	22	10 am		Mass: The Queenship of Mary
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30 am)

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	23	9 am	SB	Mass: 21st Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	Mass: 21st Sunday of the Year



For the Ideal Gift visit Faith, Hope & Charity

8 ST JOHN'S STREET
HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON
SO45 6DA
Tel: 80207882



*This week we will be offering Masses for:
People of the Parish, Priests & Clergy of
the Diocese, Lorraine Wilks RIP,
Flo Warrilow RIP Anniv,
David & Kim Guilding (Wedding Anniv)*

*Next week (23rd August) we will be
offering Masses for:
Gabor Marek RIP & John Murphy RIP,
Rebecca Phillips & James Jee*

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Today, we celebrate God's victory over the enemies of sin and death with particular reference to Our Lady. This redemptive work of God was accomplished in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the Church's belief that Mary, Jesus' mother, received the grace of Christ in a unique way. In view of her role as Mother of the Saviour, Mary was kept free of original sin and preserved sinless all her life. Having given human life to Jesus it was considered to be inappropriate that Mary's body should experience corruption after death. This belief, known as Mary's Assumption, had grown in the Church over the centuries, and was only formally defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950. The dogma states that "the Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven". The dogmatic definition does not take any position on whether Mary actually died first or on any other historical details concerning Mary's final moments on earth.

Mary is always understood in relationship to Christ and to the Church. The grace of God given to Mary is never just for her own personal benefit. It is for the benefit of the Church and indeed the whole of humanity. Mary is the great sign that appears in the heavens (Apoc 12:1). Mary's being preserved from sin is a sign that God saves all humanity from sin in Christ. Mary's assumption into heaven is a sign that, in Christ, God redeems the whole of creation and unites all things in heaven and earth. Therefore this celebration encourages us and gives us hope that we too will be set free from our sins and enjoy new life in the new creation which is "set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). One of the first ways ("first-fruits of the Spirit") we experience this new creation is by a change of consciousness, that is, a change in how we see ourselves and all things in God. This is being "born again" (John 3:3-8) or changing and becoming as little children (Matthew 18:3). As Jesus says: "no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above" (John 3:3).

In the old creation the human mind is dominated by ignorance, fear, guilt, shame, alienation and separation. Our minds are corrupted and darkened by "illusory desires", fears and anxieties, born of the "old self", the ego (Ephesians 4:22-23). In the mind-set of the old creation the ego is struggling for survival and imagines it must "save" or "justify" itself. It tries to manipulate and bargain with God and to seek "rewards" and avoid "punishments". Its biggest fears and worries are loss of self-importance, diminishment, decay and death. Such worries are futile as Jesus said: "And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" (Matthew 6:27). Death and decay are seen by the ego as shameful, dishonourable and as a punishment by God. In this mind-set of the ego, of the false self we experience extreme vulnerability and fragility. We are tormented by our insatiable desires and our gnawing anxieties. As long as we live predominantly in the mind-set of the false self we "must endure God's wrath" (John 3:36). God, of course is not angry and loves us always and has only benevolence towards us but we only see the *half empty glass* and so make ourselves suffer. When the Holy Spirit blows and awakens us to rebirth, to "the mystery of Christ in you, your hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27) the new creation has begun. This knowing, believing and trusting in Christ frees us from sin and death. *The sting of death is sin and sin gets its power from the Law, but thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor 15:56). And Jesus says: "everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:26). In the new creation there is nothing to fear or to be ashamed about because nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Jesus. Everything has come from God and returns to God. Like her son Jesus and because of her son, Mary returns to the Father, free from sin, the sting of death, and free from the decay, dissolution and punishment of death that belong to the old creation. (DMA)

Total Roof Fund collected to date

£6082.73

(Target - £13500)

Thank you all for your generosity

Information & Notices:

CELEBRATE WEEKEND—SOUTHAMPTON: This will take place on Sat - Sun, 26th - 27th September 2009 at St Mary's College, Bitterne, Southampton. Bishop Crispian, Fr Jamie McGrath & Fr Ronnie Mitchell will be celebrating the Liturgy. Talks, seminars, drama & worship will be given by David Matthews, David Payne, Steve Murray, John Vaughan-Neil, Steve Szymanski & others. For more information please contact Lynda & Peter Szymanski on 023-80-292058 or email them at southampton@celebrateconference.org. This will be a popular event so don't leave it too late.

MARTHA GROUP SUMMERTIME EVENTS:

NOT TO BE MISSED

Jazz Night - Sat 12th September.

The return of the ever popular Jazz Night by the Cavalier Jazzmen organised by Mike Slipper! American Supper/bring a bottle + Raffle. 7.30pm until 10.30pm. Tickets will be available shortly from Faith, Hope & Charity, after Masses, from the Martha Group and of course from Mike Slipper himself. Tel: 023 8084 3908 *If anyone has any suitable prizes which could be used for the raffle and would be happy to donate them please drop them at the Parish Office, Monday & Tuesday between 9.30am & 2pm or give them to Fr David.* Thanks.

CAR TREASURE HUNT - on Sunday, 4th October at 2pm from St Bernard's. The cost will be £10 per car and a cream tea will be provided at St Bernard's Hall afterwards. An explanation of how the treasure hunt will work will follow in due course.

FUNDRAISING - Would anybody be interested in a car-wash fundraising day? This might appeal to some of the younger members of the parish. We could operate a drive-in car wash service for the Roof or general church maintenance funds. Call us at the parish office if you are interested.

GIFTAID - Do you pay Income Tax? Would you like to contribute to the church? Did you know that if you contributed £100 to your parish over the year the Parish church will get back £28 from the taxman. Or even if you gave £500 over the year the church would get back £140! If you are interested in making donations but with no particular commitment to a set amount over the year please contact the Parish Office for more details.

CATHOLIC PAPERS - For the past year there has been very little uptake of the Catholic papers, (The Universe, The Catholic Times and the Tablet). Administering the papers costs the parish time and money. So from 1st October 2009 these papers will no longer be available at the back of the church. If you wish to receive these publications please order them direct from your newsagents. The Tablet can be ordered direct from the publishers by annual subscription.

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK - Thank you for your contributions so far. These have been taken to the Food Bank by one of our parishioners. Fr David is now able to issue vouchers to those in need so if you know of anyone you can ask them to contact the Parish Office. Please keep the contributions coming, perhaps one small extra purchase with your weekly shopping may not be that noticeable to you, but ultimately will form part of a food pack for somebody who needs it urgently. Any donations can be left in the plastic box in the church porches. Please see the list of required foods in the porch, (basically non-perishable food only—tinned food or dried food).

THANKS FOR THE SKITTLES EVENING - A special thanks to the Martha Group for organising the evening, and a special thanks to Jim Ross for doing most of the barbequing on his fantastic BBQ machine. Thanks to everyone who contributed raffle prizes, helped with the food and setting up and clearing up. Special thanks to all the young people who came along and helped with resetting the Skittles and scoring the game. Jim Ross was the overall winner with 19 points! Thanks to everyone who supported the evening. The evening raised a fantastic £484.00. The Martha Group have kindly made this up to £600 as a contribution to the St Michael's Roof Fund.