

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 (Mon & Tue only)

For the Ideal Gift visit

Faith, Hope & Charity

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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

17TH JAN 2010
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St Michael's Church
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

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

PARISH SERVICES

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sun 17 9 am SB Mass: **Second Sunday of Ordinary Time** -
11 am SM Mass: **Second Sunday of Ordinary Time** -

This week we begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Tue 19 10 am SM Mass: **Of the Day**
Wed 20 7.30 pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass: **of the Day**
Thu 21 10 am LT Mass at Lyndhurst: **St Agnes**
Sat 23 10 am SM No Mass or Reconciliation today

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Sun 24 9 am SB Mass: **Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**
11 am SM Mass: **Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**

6 pm **St John's Church, Marchwood**
United Service. All Welcome

For the week beginning 17th January we will be offering Masses for:

Earthquake victims in Haiti, People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Norman Jones RIP, Kevin Daly RIP Anniv, Ann Harding (B'day), Anna Hayes (B'day), Eileen Simpson RIP, Peace in the World

For the week beginning 24th January we will be offering Masses for:

People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Tina Bowler (B'day),

Total Roof Fund collected to date
£8,871.25

(Target - £13,500)

Thank you all, for your generosity

A WEDDING BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT A well respected British Scripture scholar, Nicholas King SJ, described John's Gospel as a pool where beginners can safely paddle & play and in which the maturing can dive and swim into the deep. In other words it tries to communicate the mystery of Jesus in a way everyone can understand - at least a little bit. But John's Gospel never allows us to reduce the mystery just to our level of understanding. There are always unexpected perspectives and discontinuities that invite, indeed compel further searching, questioning and contemplation.

So for the story of the wedding feast at Cana we have on one level a very straightforward event. Jesus and his disciples are obviously happy to share the bride & grooms day. And it is good to know that our ordinary human relationships are celebrated and affirmed in this way. They are part of the goodness that God has already given us in our being & in our being together. But then something mysterious happens. When the wine runs out Jesus' mother intervenes and speaks to Jesus as if he can do something about it. The result, after Mary told them significantly to "Do whatever he tells you", is that there is a ridiculously abundant amount of really good wine for everyone. This puzzles the steward who had not expected the best wine to have been kept till last.

Reading this with the benefit of the passage from Isaiah which we had as our first reading we begin to realise that another "wedding" is in process that involves not just one man and one woman but rather the whole of humanity. In Jesus humanity is irrevocably wedded to God and God is wedded to humanity. The rich and evocative experience of human love, where two become one body and from which the miracle of new life can emerge, is the most powerful and most disturbing symbol of the deep and intimate relationship to which God calls us. All the great spiritual traditions around the world use this nuptial imagery to communicate something of the Divine embrace. It is a universal spiritual metaphor. We are not abandoned, not forsaken, we belong to God.

What the Church is about (or should be!) is communicating this Divine proposal, is facilitating this Divine love match. This is what happens at every Eucharist and all that is required is our desire & the acknowledgement of our unworthiness (& this is NOT our worthlessness!). The giving on God's part is lavishly and scandalously abundant. (Could it be anything less?) It has to be given freely, gratuitously precisely because it is so priceless that nothing can match its value. We must be careful not to despise a gift that we can never earn, merit or work for. This is where the loving wisdom of God completely wrong foots ordinary expectations. As Paul put it 2 Corinthians: "this slight, momentary affliction is preparing us for a weight of glory beyond all measure, all comparison" (4:16ff).

This abundance of God is not something that is in an always promised but never arriving future but is a gift that has already been poured over us - the Holy Spirit. It means God's life and love is breathing through everything we do and in every way that we are. This richness of God's life emerges from within us and among when we allow love, truth and compassion to break us open in caring for and being there for one another. This can happen in the simplest, most ordinary situations, in the everyday of our relationships, in our joys and struggles, in our successes and failures. In fact God's power is best displayed in our weakness. It happens when we stop trying to be the best flower in the garden and realise that everyone's gifts and beauties are ours just as we & ours belong to everyone else. The Spirit is working in all sorts of different ways in different people, different creatures and different things but it is the same Spirit working in all. The abundance is all around us and we are part of it, to the glory of God. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Anne Candrl, Mary Crisp, Petra Daniels, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Joan Olden, Leslie Palmer, Bridget Reeves, Bill Topple. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IN HAITI: All the churches are having a special collection this Sunday for the people of Haiti. The collection will be taken before the final hymn. If you wish to gift aid please use the yellow envelopes and write your Gift Aid number on the envelope. If you came to church unprepared we will still receive donations next Sunday. Please use an envelope clearly marked "Haiti". The "Pax Christi" voluntary collection and the SPUC White Flower appeal will have to be done at a later date.

PRAYER POTTERY - next one Tuesday, 26th January led by Christine Olden at 11am at St Michael's Church, Hythe. Everyone welcome.

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: This begins on Monday. Please be encouraged to attend services in other Christian churches as a sign of fellowship in faith, hope and love. Perhaps in our prayer dialogue with the Lord we can explore what it is that is holding the churches back from greater unity? Or we can seek to understand the difference between unity and uniformity.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The council will meet this coming Thursday, 21st January at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at Angel House. The members are: Fr David Adams, Kevin Barnett, Rev Steve Bowler, Eileen Brady, Louise Croll, Philomena Hopkins, Christine Olden, Polly Read, John Reilly, Rev Ian Tobin & Francis Waddington. Agenda items for this meeting include: Parish Finance; Good Friday—Walk of Witness; Safeguarding update; Living our Faith—Diocesan Fundraising; Future of Church buildings. Approved minutes of the previous meeting will be displayed on the church notice boards when they are available.

HELPERS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY PLEASE! Hilary & Clare would love to hear from anybody who could help us out with the sessions on a rota basis at the 9am Mass at St Bernard's. Please call Hilary on 80843173 or Clare on 80842232 or see us after Mass for a chat about what's involved.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS: Over the past year I received a number of requests for a re-instatement of the Sunday evening Mass. After discussing this with the Pastoral Council I have decided to re-commence the Sunday evening Mass beginning on the First Sunday of Lent (21st February). With the exception of Easter Sunday, I will continue this Mass to the end of the Summer after which we can assess whether it should become a permanent arrangement. I would like this Mass to offer more opportunities for silent prayer and I would recommend the use of simple repetitive chants (e.g. Taize) as was before. In the homilies I hope to give more attention to the development of our prayer relationship with God with particular focus on how to use times of silence. I will expect those attending the Mass to be willing to take responsibility for all the ministries that we normally expect: welcomers, servers, readers, ministers of Holy Communion & collectors. I would like to encourage a relaxed and reverent atmosphere where everyone feels welcome.

CAFOD - Used Stamps, old Mobile Phones, and Foreign Coins can be left in the flip-top bins at both churches. Please include the postmarks for stamps and remove SIM-cards for phones. Thank you for your past contributions, which go to help raise funds and provide practical help for CAFOD.

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 parishes in need. The campaign has already been running very successfully in other parishes. Shortly our parish will be invited to participate. We will be part of the third and final phase of the campaign. So be prepared for this to take off big time any time soon!

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011 INFORMATION EVENINGS - The next International Gathering for World Youth Day (WYD) will be held in Madrid during August 2011. The Diocese is planning to take a group. If you would like to be part of this group or you want to find out more about WYD, then come along to one of the information evenings: **Tues 19th Jan 2010** at St Edward the Confessor, 191-193 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU; **Thu 28th Jan 2010** at the Discovery Centre, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth, PO1 3HG. More dates and details can be obtained from the posters at the back of the churches.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED: If anybody has a folding wheelchair which they no longer require and would be happy to donate it to Waterside Catholic Parish, please contact the Parish Office. We require two wheelchairs in case of emergency, one at each of our churches.

IN THE EVENT OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY: The procedures to be followed in the event of a medical emergency occurring during Mass, which were published in last weeks newsletter, are now displayed on a poster on the church notice boards. We are very happy to receive suggested improvements to the procedures from medically qualified personnel.

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE: THE CHRIST WE ARE; THE CHRIST WE SHARE: Fr David is attending this conference in Bournemouth next Friday & Saturday and so will be unavailable for next Saturday morning. Hence there will be no Mass or Reconciliation next Saturday (23rd Jan).

THANK YOU: Win & John Cocker & Tony & Irene O'Connell would like to thank Fr David & all the parishioners for their cards, presents & beautiful flowers on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversaries. God bless you all.