

The Messenger

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

17th April 2011

Palm Sunday - Divine Office: Week 2 & Proper

Sun 17 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels
Mon 18 th	No Service (<i>Liturgy: of Holy Week</i>)
Tues 19 th	11.00am SM Prayer Pottery 11.00am Portsmouth Cathedral - Chrism Mass (<i>Liturgy: of Holy Week</i>) 7.30pm SM Reconciliation Service
Wed 20 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (<i>Liturgy: of Holy Week</i>)
Thurs 21 st	8.00pm SM Holy Thursday Mass with watching & prayer at the Altar of Repose until 10.30pm
Fri 22 nd	10.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness (from Hardley Pentecostal Church to Baptist Church, Blackfield) 10.45am for 11am Ecumenical Gathering of Witness (from St John's carpark to Waitrose) 3.00pm SM Good Friday Liturgy (with collection for Holy Places) 7.30pm SM Stations of the Cross
Sat 23 rd	10.00-11.00am SM Sacrament of Reconciliation
CELEBRATING THE LORD'S RESURRECTION	
Sat 23 rd	9.00pm St Bernards Easter Vigil Mass
Sun 24 th	9.00am St Bernards Easter Sunday Mass with Baptism of Oscar Davies 11.00am St Michaels Easter Sunday Mass

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian, Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Win Cocker (B'day), Ellen Pick (Intentions), baby Tyrell Rawes-Samuels (Health), Bill Feltham RIP, Mick Harrington RIP, Dorothy Minchington RIP, Gilbert Myland RIP, David Roberts RIP, John Weaver RIP

For the week beginning 24th April: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Vera West RIP Anniv

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Pastoral Team:
Rev David Adams (Parish Priest)
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon & Chair Parish Pastoral Council) (023 8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)

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HOW DOES THE CROSS OF CHRIST SAVE US?

Long before the time of Jesus the prophets of the Jewish religion, especially Jeremiah, Ezekiel & Isaiah, had recognised that the Covenant with Moses was not working. They had reached an impasse. They had fallen into a deep pit and there was no way out. Basically they had broken their side of the Covenant and there was now no remedy. A new beginning was needed but only God could do that.

The problem with the first covenant is that it created sin & guilt. By sin I don't mean wrong or destructive behaviour but behaviour that is deemed to separate us from God and from God's love. By guilt I do not mean personal or collective responsibility but self & social hatred & rejection. Personal responsibility is just a fact that must be come to terms with. Immoral & destructive behaviour has to be recognised, confronted and ultimately changed. Neither of these human experiences can negate God's love for us. If you only read half a story you are liable to get it completely wrong. The Jewish people got it completely wrong when they accepted accusation, judgement & condemnation as the last word. Jesus came to bring the true light to this situation.

When the Christian Bible refers to the death of Jesus it relies heavily on metaphors of ransom, payment and blood sacrifice. This is because the first believers in Jesus had to understand the death and resurrection of Jesus in terms of what went before in their own religion. What preceded it, of course, was the Law and the Prophets and all the ritual of animal sacrifice associated with the Jewish religion before the destruction of the Jerusalem temple. While this provided a rich, interpretative framework for the first Christians it is not so important for us now. And in some ways it has become a barrier to the proclamation of the Good News precisely because of its richness, complexity and historical remoteness. We really need to leave behind all these metaphors which if interpreted logically end up completely distorting the image of God. Unfortunately many Christians are still unaware of the implications of these crude metaphors which if used unthinkingly without qualification can make God appear as an angry monster demanding a blood sacrifice in order to be appeased.

Abandoning the biblical imagery may appear dangerously presumptuous if it wasn't for the biblical writing itself attributed to John the Evangelist. The text is: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:16). And in another place we are told quite emphatically "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Jesus remained faithful to his Father, refusing to deny his goodness and compassion even when it cost him his life. Jesus' love for the Father is the expression of God's love for us. Jesus' forgiveness of his enemies is God's forgiveness of us. This is the light, the truth of love and this love takes our sins away. They are taken away not by ceasing to be, for what was and what is will always be. They are taken away in the sense that our behaviour no longer has the power to separate us from God. This power of condemnation was given by the Law but the Law has been abolished as the sole arbiter of our relationship with God. It is replaced by God's invincible graciousness. "Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. (*but now the law is abolished so*) thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:56). God sacrifices God's self for us to bring us the revelation of the love that reconciles and unites all things in heaven and all things on earth (Eph 1:10; Col 1:20). (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Christina Drury, Mervyn Francis, Amanda Gudge, Doreen Holman, Joan Hopper, Ellen Pick, Joy Prestage, Norma Rudd, Eileen Shanley, Ronald Stevens, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY THIS WEEK: will be on Tuesday, April 19th, at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michaels. It is a time for quiet prayer and reflection guided by Christine Olden. All are very welcome.

EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE: Ecumenical Gathering at Lepe Country Park—upper level car park at 6am. We join together as One to proclaim 'Jesus is Risen, Jesus is Alive'.

THE EASTER OFFERING - As is traditional the collection at Easter is for your parish priest and forms a part of his ordinary income for the year. Fr David will be very grateful for whatever you give at this time. A leaflet explaining how priests are financially supported is available at the back of church for your information.

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: There is a continuing need for regular donations of food for Waterside Foodbank. Especially in these times of economic difficulty, there is a growing number of individuals and families suffering hardship through redundancy, illness, unemployment, homelessness, etc. Collection boxes are in the foyers of St Michael's and St Bernard's churches, with leaflets listing the types of food needed. We are in Lent - the ideal time to be generous to those in need, and to resolve to continue to donate regularly throughout the year ahead.

St BERNARDS - THIS SUNDAY - REQUEST TO PARENTS - CAN CHILDREN STAY 15 / 20 mins after Mass to practice acting out the Gospel for Easter Sunday?

EASTER SUNDAY - ST BERNARD'S - We very much look forward to Oscar Davies' Baptism. There will be breakfast refreshments after Mass so, if you can, you're very welcome to stay behind a while and celebrate with the family.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS - PARISH SHOP: As you know the parish depends heavily on the Faith, Hope & Charity shop for financial support. At the moment volunteers are needed to cover a couple of mornings. It's a service to the parish, its meeting people and its having fun with Tina & the great team of volunteers. A regular commitment is what is needed, once a week, once a fortnight or once a month for Thursdays 9.30am - 1pm &/or Saturdays 9.30am - 1.30pm. A share arrangement with a friend would also be possible. Training & support given.

SOUTH HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC CLUSTER SCHOOLS There will be a celebration of the Year of Catholic Education at St George Catholic College, Southampton on Thursday, 26th May with Mass at 6.30pm followed by cheese & wine & a race night. All proceeds will go to CAFOD. If you would like to attend let Fr David know at the Parish Office as space is limited.



CAFOD - CARD CAMPAIGN Our CAFOD parish group will soon be inviting us to take part in a new CARD CAMPAIGN. CAFOD are asking the Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell, to back small businesses so that people can raise themselves out of poverty.

CAFOD RAFFLE VOLUNTEERS: - Could you help selling CAFOD raffle tickets this spring, as a great way to raise funds for poor communities? Great prizes, and the chance to win one for your parish. No experience or special skills needed, just a winning smile and the desire to help a good cause. If this sounds like you (and you are 16 or over) please contact the CAFOD Portsmouth office at portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329385 by the end of April 2011.

GREAT SOUTH RUN - Do you enjoy a challenge? Would you like to help CAFOD in a different way this year? We are looking for runners to take part in the Great South Run in Portsmouth on Sunday 30 October (10 miles), or, if you are aged 3-8 or 9-15, in the Mini (1.5 km) and Junior (2.5 km) Great South Runs! We will be there on the day to cheer you on! For more information and/or to register please contact Sian Hughes: shughes@cafod.org.uk or 020 7095 5333

THANKS TO THE MARTHA GROUP & STEVE BOWLER for a great QUIZ NIGHT. £282 was raised for the parish. Thanks to those who contributed raffle prizes. The raffle raised £82 on the night.

PLANT SALE: The annual plant sale will be held on the 14th May 2011. Now is the time to start sowing those seeds or deciding which plants could be potted up. Oh yes - and pray for good weather. Any queries or offers of help to Veronica Chadwick tel. 80897458

JUST LISTEN! Because we have 2 ears we think that we listen well. We may hear well, but do we listen effectively? On **Saturday, 14th May, 10.30am – 3.30pm (coffee from 10.00am)**, the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation will provide an introduction to listening skills called 'Just Listen'. It will be of interest to anyone who would like to explore how to listen more effectively. Can you spare time to listen to others? Do you visit the sick or house bound? Are you a Catechist helping with Children's Liturgy, or preparing children for Holy Communion or Confirmation? Do you listen to others who come to you with problems? Then this day is for you.

Cost: £7.50. Advance booking is essential. Please bring a packed lunch (tea and coffee will be provided) Booking forms are available from Fr David. If you would like to go but don't have transport, please let Fr David know as he may be able to pair you up with someone else who is attending.
Venue: St. Edward the Confessor, 191-193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2DU

GARDENER / HANDYMAN NEEDED: by elderly couple on a part-time basis. Please ring 023-80-840288

ROTARY CLUB - SPRING BAND CONCERT 2011: This will feature the Waterside Youth Orchestras and will take place at Waterside Theatre, Holbury on Sunday, 22nd May at 3.00pm with a break for cold drinks & biscuits. The event will finish at 5pm. If you wish to attend please notify Leslie Sharpe on 80-424240 by Wednesday, 11th May.