

Welcoming the Lord, welcoming the Word

Jesus is found, remarkably, alone with two women in their own home. It is an intimate domestic scene. Perhaps the story also echoes the experience of women hosting gatherings of the early church in their homes. Martha gets annoyed and asks Jesus to tell her sister to help her. I wonder why she doesn't ask her sister directly! Perhaps she knows her sister well enough not to and assumes Jesus will agree with her. But he doesn't. These women are his friends and he knows now that time is short. The story is less about whether the contemplative life is preferable to the domestic vocation for women, than about how aware all of us are in the moment of our priorities. Reflection, listening, stillness – these may be seen as of little value. Which of us wants to be caught apparently doing nothing?

The story says something about the choices we make. Perhaps there was no problem with Martha preparing the meal in the kitchen – but there was a difficulty with her knowing what was best for her sister. Perhaps Mary has realised that time with Jesus is precious. The story makes it possible for each of us to imagine what it might be like sitting in friendship, with friendship's listening, silences and conversation, with Jesus – not as the beginning and end of our life of faith, but as an essential, even the better part of the discipleship.

In the somewhat comical story about Abraham, meanwhile, the Lord appears to Abraham in the form of three visitors who arrive at the entrance to his tent while he is taking his siesta during the heat of the afternoon. The Lord does not complain while Abraham fusses around preparing and serving a meal for him and his companions. Sarah stays out of sight in the tent, but is the subject of this strange encounter, for this is a visitation of angels, which leads to a miraculous conception in her barren old age. God is present and can intervene in surprising ways during the most humdrum moments of our daily lives, if we are sufficiently aware to recognise him.

Mary was privileged to sit at the feet of the human Jesus, and to know how important this moment was. Not everyone – in fact, relatively few – recognised Jesus for who he was during his earthly ministry. Now, Christ is still among us, but as a mystery, the mystery of the Church as the Body of Christ. Our faith enlightens the mystery. Hope, glory, wisdom: these are the signs of Christ's presence among us. We can be 'instructed' and 'trained' to recognise the mystery of Christ among us.

For the sake of proclaiming and revealing this mystery, Paul has been happy to endure many hardships. This does not make suffering for its own sake worthwhile, but it may be necessary or inevitable on behalf of some greater cause. (*From Priests and People: Vicky Costick, Learning and Staff Development Manager for CAFOD*)

FAREWELL TO HELEN HUGHSON: Helen leaves us this week. We are very grateful for all she has done for the parish and the clergy over the past three and a half years. We wish her every success with her business venture. We will not be employing another administrator. My housekeeper, Linda, will assist me with the parish administration on a voluntary basis. This will help to reduce parish expenses.

The Messenger

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

18th July 2010
Year C
divine office WK 4

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

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sun	18	9 am	SB	16th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	16th Sunday of the Year
		2 pm	SM	Baptism: Liam McCormick
		6 pm	SM	16th Sunday of the Year
Tue	20	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass
Wed	21	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass
Thu	22	10 am	LT	Morning Prayer & Mass
Sat	24	10 am	SM	Mass
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30
Sun	25	9 am	SB	17th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	17th Sunday of the Year
		6 pm	SM	17th Sunday of the Year



Mass Intentions:

For the week beginning 18th July: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Benefactors of "Living our Faith", Deacon Steve Bowler's Birthday, Eric Powell RIP, Herbert Sans RIP, Mary Lees (Peace)

For the week beginning 25th July: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Laura & Robin Gray 1st Wedding Anniversary, Rosalind Adams 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)

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: Brida Auger, Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Trevor Handol, Amanda Gudge, Jenny Lauder, Nora Newman, Bridget Reeves, Sheila Krzymuski. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY CANCELLED on Tuesday, 27th July because there is a Funeral Service for the late Herbert Sans.

JAZZ EVENING: (from Mike Slipper) If there is sufficient support I might organise another Jazz evening to enhance the church roof fund - possibly during October.

THE PAPAL VISIT—OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND

There are two events.

1) Prayer Vigil, Hyde Park, London, Sat 18th Sept, beginning early afternoon and ending 9pm.

People make their own way on public transport, but they pay £10 for a pilgrim pack & a London central zone travelcard. They must meet up with a Pilgrim Leader (yet to be appointed, from our Pastoral Area) and attend the venue as a Pastoral Area group.

The Pastoral Area allocation is 70 places (30 - Waterside; 30 - Totton; 10 - Lyndhurst)

Put your details on the sheet provided at the back of the church if you wish to go. Closing date is 26th July.

2) Mass for the beatification of John Henry Newman, Sunday, 19th Sept at 9.30am at Cofton Park, Birmingham.

Travel is **ONLY** on a Diocesan coach & only for those who have signed up to go. The cost will be £25 and the coach will leave from the Pilgrim Point which is St Theresa's, Commercial Rd, Totton. Departure will be very early approx 5am (to be confirmed). People must make their own private arrangements for getting to and from Totton.

The Pastoral Area allocation for this event is 100 places (40 - Waterside; 40 - Totton; 20 - Lyndhurst).

Put your details on the sheet provided at the back of the church if you wish to go. Closing date is 26th July. I don't think the events are suitable for the elderly or infirm due to the demanding travel & walking & standing that will be entailed.

Pair of Solid Wood Extending Ladders each 14 Rung. Free to anyone who can collect. Phone Malcolm Kitson Tel: 07989289781.

2 SEATER SOFA/SETTEE: Doreen Holman has a 2 seater sofa if anyone wants it. It is cream colour, velvety fabric, in good condition. It is free. Transport can be arranged. If anyone is interested contact Fr David after July 16th.

Free to good Home Teak finish extending wooden table and four matching chairs all in find condition. Could deliver locally. Mike Slipper 80843908

SPECIAL THANKS TO CLERGY & PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO FAR TO THE DIOCESAN FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN - "LIVING OUR FAITH". If you are still considering whether you can make a contribution, please return the pledge form to Fr David when you have made your decision.

Solemn Mass with Dedication of Statue of St. John the Evangelist Thur, 22nd July 2010, 11.00am with Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster. (Tickets will be allocated to each parish) St. John's Cathedral, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 3HG. Two complimentary tickets (first come first serve) are available see Fr David if you wish to go.

WATERSIDE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: the next meeting is on Thursday, 29th July at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's.

CAFOD: ACT ON POVERTY— You can help by signing a card telling the Prime Minister we want him to take action on AID, BUSINESS FAIRNESS and CLIMATE CHANGE. We need 10,000 messages to make an impact. Cards will be available to sign after Masses on 18th July.

APF—Mill Hill Annual Mission Mass 2010 offered for all our members by Fr Frank Thompson MHM at 7.30 Wednesday 21st July at Christ the King Bitterne Road, Southampton followed by a film: "Parkari Kohli" Pakistan. Everybody welcome. Tea and Biscuits.

Ordinations to the Priesthood - Sat 24th July 2010 11.00am. (The choir will assemble at 9.00am.) St. John's Cathedral, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 3HG

WALK the WORLD - Join us at 10am on Saturday 28 August 2010 at Immaculate Conception, Bells Lane, Stubbington for Walk the World - an 8 mile sponsored walk around Stubbington and the Lee on Solent area to raise funds for World Youth Day and CAFOD. For more information and to register your place by 16 August contact Dave Hill at the Department of Pastoral Formation on 01329 835583. Sponsorship forms can be downloaded from <http://cafodportsmouth.wordpress.com>

Pilgrimage 2011: In the Footsteps of St Paul & the 7 Churches of Asia Would you like to know the churches where St Paul Missioned? Want to see where Mary, mother of Jesus, spent her last years and was taken-up into heaven? Plus 2 days in Istanbul a city of Christian and Islamic culture beyond compare!

Fr Ray Lyons and Fr Sean Tobin are leading a 9 Day Pilgrimage to Turkey in May/June 2011. To find out more and hopefully be a part of it, email Fr Ray at raymlyons@aol.com for more information. **You will need to return the Application slip and £100 Deposit by 24th July to secure your place.** Places may still be available in August, but cannot be guaranteed.