

# The Messenger

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

**18<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Yr B (Psalter Wk. 1)**

**9.00am Mass at St Bernards**

**11.00am Mass at St Michaels**

**2.00pm Baptism at St Bernard's**  
*baby Harry James Reeve*

*6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst*

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> No Service (*Liturgy: 33rd Week of Ordinary Time*)

Tues 20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass  
*(Liturgy: 33rd Week of Ordinary Time)*  
 1.00pm SM Funeral Service - Jason Singleton RIP

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst  
*(Liturgy: Presentation of the Bl. Virgin Mary)*  
 11.30am Crematorium - Funeral Service  
 Eva Joan Bateman RIP

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> No Service at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst  
*(Liturgy: Memorial, St Cecilia)*

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> No Service (*Liturgy: 33rd Week of Ordinary Time*)

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am SM Mass then Adoration of Jesus  
 in the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation  
 until 11am. (*Liturgy: Memorial, St Andrew Dung-Lac*)

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King**  
**9.00am Mass at St Bernards**  
**11.00am Mass at St Michaels**  
*6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst*

**Mass Intentions: For this week:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Philip Egan, Pat Davies (Peace), Sir David Price (88<sup>th</sup> B'day), Parish Counters, Parish singers & musicians, Eva Joan Bateman RIP, Jason Singleton RIP, Ruth Helen Adams RIP B'day Anniv, Peter McCormack RIP Anniv, Desmond Stratton RIP Anniv

**For the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> Nov:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Philip Egan, Jason Singleton RIP, Charles Duffy RIP Anniv, Dennis Hewins RIP Anniv, Philip Manghan RIP Anniv, Edna Tisdale RIP Anniv, Tony Warrilow 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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## New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am  
 Geo House (Ashurst) - Sun 9am  
 Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am, (Holy Day Vigil 7pm)

## New Forest Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: Lymington and New Milton at 6pm  
 Sunday: Milford on Sea at 9.00am, New Milton at 11.30am,  
 Lymington at 10:30am, Brockenhurst at 6.00pm

## SEXUALITY - ITS POWER AND PURPOSE

We are all powerfully, incurably, and wonderfully sexed, this is part of a conspiracy between God and nature. Sexuality lies right next to our instinct for breathing and it is ever-present in our lives. Spiritual literature tends to be naïve and in denial about the power of sexuality, as if it could be dismissed as some insignificant factor in the spiritual journey, and as if it could be dismissed at all. It cannot be. It will always make itself felt, consciously or unconsciously. Nature is almost cruel in this regard, particularly to the young. It fills youthful bodies with powerful hormones before those persons have the emotional and intellectual maturity to properly understand and creatively channel that energy. Nature's cruelty, or anomaly, is that it gives someone an adult body before that same person is adult in his or her emotions and intellect. There are a lot of physical and moral dangers in a still-developing child walking around in a fully adult body.

Further, today this is being exacerbated by the fact that we are reaching puberty at an ever younger age and are marrying at an ever-later one. This makes for a situation, almost the norm in many cultures, where a young girl or boy reaches puberty at age eleven or twelve and will get married only about twenty years later. This begs the obvious question: How is his or her sexuality to be emotionally and morally contained during all those years? Where does that leave him or her in the struggle to remain faithful to the commandments? Admittedly, nature seems almost cruel here, but it has its own angle. Its dominant concern is to get each of us into the gene pool and all those powerful hormones it begins pouring into our bodies at adolescence and all those myriad ways in which it heats up our emotions have the same intent, it wants us to be fruitful and multiply, to perpetuate ourselves and our own species. And nature is uncompromising here: At every level of our being (physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual) there is a pressure, a sexual one, to get us into the gene pool. So when you next see a young man or woman strutting his or her sexuality, be both sympathetic and understanding, you were once there, and nature is just trying to get him or her into the gene pool. Such are its ways and such are its propensities, and God is in on the conspiracy.

Of course getting into the gene pool means much more than physically having children, though that is a deep, deep imperative written everywhere inside us that may be ignored only in the face of some major psychological and moral risks. There are other ways of having children, though nature all on its own does not easily accept that. It wants children in the flesh. But the full bloom of sexuality, generative living, takes on other life-giving forms. We have all heard the slogan: Have a child. Plant a tree. Write a book. There are different ways to get into the gene pool and all of us know persons who, while not having children of their own and neither writing a book nor planting a tree, are wonderfully generative women and men. Indeed the religious vow of celibacy is predicated on that truth. Sexuality also has a powerful spiritual dimension.

But, with that being admitted, we may never be naïve to its sheer, blind power. Dealing with the brute and unrelenting power of our sexuality lies at the root of many of our deepest psychological and moral struggles. This takes on many guises, but the pressure always has the same intent: Nature and God keep an unrelenting pressure on us to get into the gene pool, that is, to always open our lives to something bigger than ourselves and to always remain cognizant of the fact that intimacy with others, the cosmos, and God is our real goal. It is no great surprise that our sexuality is so grandiose that it would have us want to make love to the whole world. Isn't that our real goal

As well, sexuality wreaks havoc with many people's church lives. It is no secret that today one of the major reasons why many young people, and indeed people of all ages, are no longer going regularly to their churches has to do, in one way or the other, with their struggles with sexuality and their perception of how their churches view their situation. My point here is not that we and the churches should change the commandments regarding sex, but that we should do a couple of things: First, we should more realistically acknowledge its brute power in our lives and integrate sexual complexity more honestly into our spiritualities. Second, we should be far more empathic and pastorally sensitive to the issues that beset people because of their sexuality.

Sexuality is sacred a fire. It takes its origins in God and is everywhere, powerfully present inside creation. Denial is not our friend here. (*Fr Ron Rolheiser, Weekly Reflection, 11th Nov 2012*)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Amanda Bowden, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, George Hutcheson, John & Lena Keane, Betty Marek, Judith Morrison, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Pauline Sharpley, Ronald Stevens. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

**PRAYER POTTERY:** The next time of prayer will be on Tuesday, 27th November. All are welcome.

**NOVEMBER - MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE DEPARTED:** If you wish to have someone who has died specially remembered in prayer during this month of November please put their name on the slip of paper provided and place it in the basket. All the names will be brought up at the Offertory during the Sundays of the month and collectively those people will be prayed for.

**ANDREW CANNING - STREET PASTORS:** There will be a collection at both churches on Sunday, 2nd December to support Andrew Canning in his volunteer role as a member of the Street Pastors initiative. The funds will go towards the cost of the uniform & training.

**REST IN PEACE:** The Funeral Service for the late **Jason Singleton** will take place at St Michael's on Tuesday, 20th November at 1pm followed by committal at Southampton Crematorium. The Funeral Service for late **Eva Joan Bateman** will take place at Southampton Crematorium on Wednesday, 21st November at 11.30am.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING:** The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 22nd November at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's.

## \*\*\*\*\*YEAR OF FAITH\*\*\*\*\*

'Faith is a personal act - the free response of the human person to the initiative of God who reveals himself. But faith is not an isolated act. No one can believe alone, just as no one can live alone. You have not given yourself faith as you have not given yourself life. The believer has received faith from others and should hand it on to others. Our love for Jesus and for our neighbour impels us to speak to others about our faith. Each believer is thus a link in the great chain of believers. I cannot believe without being carried by the faith of others, and by my faith I help support others in the faith.'  
 (Catechism of the Catholic Church para 166)

**EXPLORE YOUR FAITH:** At Geo House (St Joseph's, Ashurst) on the first Saturday of each month inspired by the naming of 2013 as the 'Year of Faith' by the Holy Father Pope Benedict, we will be launching our 'Explore your faith days. Starting at 10am with Mass the day includes prayer, music, talks and sharing. Bring a packed lunch. Refreshments available.  
 December 1st Geoff & Gina Poulter—Catholic Bible School

**ADVENT RETREAT** (at Geo House, St Joseph's, Ashurst). We are very fortunate to have Fr James McCaffrey OCD to lead our Advent Retreat. 7th- 9th December 2012 Theme: 'Prayer in the Gospels and prayer in our everyday lives' Book now on reception@geohouse.org.uk or 023 8029 2337

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN:

The last date for collection is now: **Sunday, 2nd December.** How to prepare a box: Decide if the gift is for a boy or girl & what the age is to be. Take a shoe box (or something similar) & wrap box & lid in Christmas paper. Fill it with "goodies" - see list at back of church. Put an unsigned Christmas card in the box. Hold the box together with string or an elastic band. Attach a label to the string or band (not to the box) with "boy" or "girl" & the age. Leave the box at the back of church for collection. If you can't fill a shoe box why not buy a selection box. They will go to local children too via the Waterside food Bank.

**WATERSIDE FOOD BANK:** are happy to receive any of the following seasonal items: tinned ham; instant coffee, Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, long life cream, box of biscuits, children's selection box, box of chocolates, large chocolate bar, nibbles (e.g. peanuts), Christmas crackers, mince pies.

**URGENT APPEAL FROM PARISH SHOP - FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY:** If you have any unwanted winter clothes could you donate them to our shop. They are urgently in need of children's, men's & women's winter clothes.

**CAFOD SPONSORED RUNS:** Many thanks from CAFOD and the parish to our three parishioners who raised money by running in various races in recent weeks. David McElhenney raised £590 in doing the demanding Clarendon Marathon. Oscar ran in the Great South Mini Run and raised £113 and Cathy Smith raised over £300 (£80 from the parish) by completing the Great South Run. Warmest thanks to all who sponsored them.



The **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**, organised by the St Martha group, for the senior members of our parish will be at a different venue this year. Thanks to the generous hospitality of Roisin Kerr, it will be at The Old Mill, Lime Kiln Lane, Holbury on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30 for 1pm.** If you would like to attend, and/or require a lift, please sign the forms at the back of the Church as soon as possible. **We shall be closing the list on Sunday 25th November so we can order the food...and the wine and sherry of course!**



If you are thinking about buying your **CHRISTMAS GIFTS** why not pop into the **parish shop**- Faith, Hope & Charity for inspiration? We have a range of new gifts, Traidcraft goods, a fine selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars and Advent candles, Catholic diaries and calendars. Hurry- the diaries are selling fast!



## Date for your diary-



the parish **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** is on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10 a.m. - 1.30pm** in **St John's Hall, Hythe.** Please come along to support your parish.

The **RAFFLE TICKETS** If you sell all your books you can always have more to sell of course! **All ticket stubs and money back by 25<sup>th</sup> November please.** Thank you so much for your help. If you have any good quality raffle prizes we can use for the main raffle on December 1<sup>st</sup> all contributions will be gratefully received.

Forthcoming event: **Quiz Night** A quiz night to be held on Saturday 24th November. St Bernard's hall. 7pm start, tickets £4. Tickets will be available shortly.

**FROM MIKE SLIPPER: 9TH PARISH JAZZ EVENING:** A disappointingly small but enthusiastic number attended the event where some fine music was performed. The evening, nevertheless, raised the sum of £260.00 for the Parish Funds, generated from tickets sales and an excellent raffle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who over the past nine years have supported these evenings, for it has been an enjoyable 'journey'. I feel I must mention my wife who has supported me so well, and also offer a thank you to Veronica from St. Bernards for her help on these evenings. (*Our thanks to Mike and the Jazzmen for a great evening & for the very welcome contribution to parish funds - Fr.D*)

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit  
**Faith, Hope & Charity**  
 8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA  
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