

The Messenger

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

19th February 2012

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Divine Office: Wk 3

Sun 19 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Mon 20 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the Day - 7 th Week Ord. Time)
Tues 21 st	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the Day - 7 th Week Ord. Time, or optnl Memorial, St Peter Damian, Rel, Bp, Doctor, 1007 -1072)
Wed 22 nd	ASH WEDNESDAY - MASS TIMES 10.00am - St Anne's, Brockenhurst 12 noon - St Michaels, Hythe 7.30pm - St Bernard's, Holbury
Thurs 23 rd	No Service (Liturgy: Lent - after Ash Wednesday)
Fri 24 th	No Service (Liturgy: Lent - after Ash Wednesday)
Sat 25 th	No Service (Liturgy: Lent - after Ash Wednesday)
Sun 26 th	1st Sunday of Lent 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - 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 Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Peace in the World, For those seeking employment, Margaret Mary Ferrer RIP, Phil West RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 26th February: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, All involved in Women's World Day of Prayer, John Gawthorne RIP Anniv, Dorothy Horner RIP Anniv F/M, William & Sadie Munro RIP Anniv, Norbert Power RIP Anniv, William Roberts RIP Anniv, Neil Tanner RIP

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)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office, Angel House,
6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR
Tel: 023 8084 3479 e-mail: watersidecp@btinternet.com
website: watersidecatholics.org.uk

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 8:30am, New Milton at 10am,
Lymington at 11:30am, Brockenhurst at 6pm

WHO CAN FORGIVE SINS?

Who can forgive sins? Now the real trouble starts. The scribes, who are always numbered among the traditional enemies of Jesus, have enjoyed a front seat in all the drama. They question what Jesus has done: "How can this man talk like that? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God?" They are spokesmen for the traditional Jewish belief that only God is capable of forgiving sins. Jesus moves in to question their attitude- not because he is the Son of God, which he is, but because he believes that the scribes are wrong both about God and about the nature of forgiveness.

Many people agree with the scribes in limiting the forgiveness of sins to God. God does forgive sins, but is he the only one to do that? Do we believe in a God who wants to hoard the practice of forgiveness to himself? If we believe that the forgiveness of sins is God's exclusive right, it lets us off the hook about bothering to forgive those who have sinned against us. For Jesus, forgiveness is not the exclusive right of God, it is the shared duty of all who would follow him. Jesus wants everyone to imitate God's practice of forgiving sins, not sit back and leave the business of forgiving to God alone.

When Jesus teaches his disciples to pray to the Father, he makes an essential part of that prayer the commitment to forgive: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." So too he will instruct his disciples, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven." Jesus is committed to extend the practice of forgiving sins. That is why he vigorously opposes the scribes who would limit forgiveness to God. The scribes are wrong; Jesus is their corrective in what he does.

For Jesus, forgiveness is the most profound healing a person can experience, yet is easier to effect than the healing of the body. We know from experience how people can remain disfigured and paralysed in spirit when they live without forgiveness. We know how our unwillingness to forgive others can keep them (& us! DMA) imprisoned and chained. Jesus opposes that with all his might. God's forgiveness is not an issue: God forgives. As we heard in the first reading: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what has been done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

There is little point in questioning God's generosity in the matter of forgiveness, wondering whether he hides from sinners. The problem is not with God's forgiveness but with our own. The theological question is not whether God forgives, but whether we do. God's track record on forgiveness is impeccable; he is an accomplished forgiver who has been practicing the art since the beginning of time. Jesus' concern is to involve us in the same work, in the same commitment to forgive those who sin against us. This is one of the new deeds that God is doing in the person and ministry of Jesus. The scribes didn't see this new deed coming to light. Hopefully, we do. (from *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Molly Booth, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Marion Butler, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Ken Hemmings, George Hutcheson, Lena Keane, Patrick Martin. Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Ann Wilton, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

BISHOP CRISPIAN'S PASTORAL LETTER: This will be read at all Masses this Sunday.

PRAYER POTTERY: The next prayer meeting will be on Tuesday, 28th February at 11.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michael's. It will be led by Christine Olden & all are welcome.

ST MICHAEL'S CHOIR: The choir are about to start learning new Mass settings for Lent and Easter as a result of the introduction of the new translation of the Roman Missal. New members are urgently required. You do not need to be able to read music, just to enjoy a good sing with friends in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals and attendance at services is very flexible. Please contact Father David or Irene O'Connell

ECUMENICAL PANCAKES: To celebrate Shrove Tuesday and the beginning of Lent. This will take place at St Bernard's this **Tuesday, 21st February at 7.30pm**. Usual fun and singing & enjoying some lovely pancakes courtesy of Sandra Deering & daughter Marianne. All welcome.

FOR CHURCH READERS: Refresher session to be led by Rev Kevin O'Brien, Parish Priest of Totton on Saturday, 3rd March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (St Joseph's Ashurst). Just come along on the day.

FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: Refresher session led by Rev David Adams, on Saturday, 17th March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (St Joseph's, Ashurst).

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER:

1. Throughout Lent at the 9am Mass, our Children's Liturgy will have a special theme to prepare us week-by-week for Easter. We hope to see the children coming as much as possible, to make the most of this special season.

2. After the 9am Mass on Sunday 11th March, our young people will raise money for CAFOD (see CAFOD section): please stay behind and support their initiative.

3. The next two Young People's Masses at the 9am will be on 4th March and then on Easter Sunday, 8th April (note: NOT on Palm Sunday). We hope that the children will once again act out the Gospel reading of the empty tomb, having rehearsed after Mass on 1st April.

4. On Good Friday afternoon we will run a special children's service, in the meeting room at St Michael's, at the same time as the adult service in St M's church. This should help all of our families to join us on this most holy day.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 2 MARCH: GIVE IT UP DURING LENT FOR CLEAN WATER

This Lent CAFOD invites us to help people living without one of God's most precious resources - clean water. A child dies every 20 seconds because of diarrhoea caused by dirty water. **For this Lent only, the UK Government will match pound for pound every donation given to CAFOD**, giving us the chance to help thousands more people to gain access to clean water and other vital services.

4 March: Collection at Mass. Pyramids and boxes available for "Give it Up" collection all through Lent

8 March: Soup Lunch at St Bernard's Hall: 12.30 pm (Tickets from 19 February)

11 March: Sale of Fair Trade goods outside both Churches after Masses. (Fairtrade Fortnight)

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH: Along with the Fair Trade stall on **March 11th**, our younger parishioners at St Bernard's will be raising extra money for CAFOD after Mass. Get your shoes and car cleaned, buy a tempting cake, and win a prize by guessing the baby photos!

18 March: Clean Water Campaign: Thirst for Change. Please sign cards for delivery to Prime Minister to encourage him to keep water and sanitation high on the international agenda.

22 March: Coffee Morning and raffle at 46 Kings Ride, Langley SO45 1ZN at 10.30am.



WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

'Let Justice Prevail' Prepared by the Christian women of Malaysia **2 pm Friday 2nd March, St John's Church, Hythe**. The speaker will be Rev Eileen Wetherell. All are welcome- men, women and young people. **Please note:** As usual, there will be a collection at the Service. If you are a gift aider then please use the brown envelopes in your Service booklet. If you are not a gift aider then just put your donation in the basket. Cheques payable to: "Women's World Day of Prayer". Thank you.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL:

This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. We now have a full coach! Additional tickets can still be purchased online but private transport will need to be arranged. Contact Louise Brown or Rev Steve Bowler if you have any queries.

BINGO WITH FISH & CHIP SUPPER: on Saturday, 17th March at St Bernard's Hall. Tickets will be on sale between 12th February & 11th March at both churches. It is being organised by the St Martha Group.



THE MEAT RAFFLE IS BACK:

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday 4th March £1 a ticket. Prize- Meat voucher for Sargent's the butchers at Dibden Purlieu. The draw will be after 11am Mass at St Michael's on Sunday 1st April- just in time to buy your meat for Easter Sunday!

The profit from the meat raffle will go towards the cost of the Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner in December.



For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882

