

CORE CATHOLICISM & INITIATIVE

In the Gospel for this Sunday Jesus praises the astuteness or initiative of the dishonest steward and commends such creative thinking (not the dishonesty) to his disciples. The Gospel we will use for our special Mass this evening will focus on core relationships and responsibilities.

In the light of the papal visit which is drawing to a close I want to reflect on what is core Catholicism and what may be some of the initiatives that will help us be faithful to God's grace and help us to serve the secular, multi-cultural society in which we live.

Core Catholicism is all about love. Not just any love but the unique kind of love God has shown us in Jesus. As John puts it; *we are to love then, because God has first loved us*, (1 John 4:19). For Jesus' people the Commandments were at the centre. For the followers of Jesus the centre is the loving heart of the Father, *the law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ*, (John 1:17). Core Catholicism is accepting God's love as a gracious gift, learning to love God in return and loving others as Jesus has loved us. Everything else, dress, devotions, rituals etc. is peripheral and subservient to this.

We should not be surprised or disconcerted to realise that what is central and most important to us is also central and most important to every other Christian. It is also the heart of every great world religion and spiritual path. We should be delighted by the common ground we share. The Word has enlightened all peoples so it is only to be expected that the *seeds of the Word* (cfr. St Irenaeus) have produced a similar fruit among the *other sheep who are not of this fold* (John 10:16).

The initiative that is called for from the *children of light* is nothing new. It is putting good deeds before fine words. It is giving & showing compassion, respect, good will, patience, perseverance, love of enemies and every other virtue. It is speaking *truth to power* both inside and outside the church. It is bravely following the guidance of the Holy Spirit who gives us *courage to change the things that must be changed, serenity to accept what we cannot change and wisdom to know the difference*.

We must use the wonderful discoveries of science to enrich & expand our understanding of Christ. We need to discover through dialogue what unites us with other Christians, other faiths & those of no faith and together seek to alleviate suffering in the world. We need to shift the emphasis from a backward looking understanding of Jesus (i.e. what Jesus means in terms of the Jewish tradition and experience over 2000 yrs ago) to a present, cosmic, understanding of the Christ. This means learning to see the Divine reality (the Word) at the heart of the unfolding of the universe. Realising that Christ is at the heart of everything means everything belongs and everything "in heaven and on earth" is reconciled, (Eph. 1:10).

This is GOOD NEWS that we can be proud of, God's goodness is something we can boast about, God's love is something we can joyfully dedicate our lives to. (DMA)

The Messenger

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

19th September 2010

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Divine Office: Wk 1

Sun 19th 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass

6pm St Michaels - Special Mass

**'Moving On-Healing the Past, Enjoying the Present,
Preparing for the Future'**

All Welcome - Light refreshments afterwards

Mon 20th No Service

(Memory: St Andrew Kim Taegon & 102 others
19th century Korean martyrs)

Tues 21st 10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass

(Feast: St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist)

Wed 22nd 7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass

(Liturgy: Of the Day)

Thurs 23rd 10.00am LT Mass

(Memory: St Pio of Pietrelcina, 20th cent religious)

Fri 24th No Service

(Memory: Our Lady of Walsingham)

Sat 25th 10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation
until 11.30am

(Liturgy: Of the Day, or Our Lady on Saturday)

Sun 26th **26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass; 6pm SM Mass

Mass Intentions: For this week: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, deceased Clergy of the Diocese & Province, Ernie Ball RIP Anniv, Michael Ball RIP Anniv, Rev John Dunne RIP, Neil Macmillan RIP, Twanny Baxter (health)

For the week beginning 26th Sept: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, deceased Clergy of the Diocese & Province, Anthea Hayward RIP Anniv, Sarah Mitchell RIP Anniv.

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) (023 8020 7449)

Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)

Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

All correspondence to:

The Parish Office,

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For the Ideal Gi 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: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Derry Condon, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Trevor Handol, Norman Haskell, Jenny Lauder, Bridget Reeves, Pete Thorn, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

NEXT WEEKEND: There will be an obligatory second collection for the upkeep of our Diocesan Cathedral in Portsmouth.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: On Thursday, 23rd Sept at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michaels.

PRAYER POTTERY: will take place on Tuesday, 28th Sept at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michaels. All welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Any parent who considers that their child is ready to prepare for their 1st Holy Communion should contact Fr David. Once it is known how many children will be involved we can decide the best way forward.



CONFIRMATION: The parish is inviting young people, usually from the age of 14yrs upwards, to confirm their faith in God's love for them and to make a personal response to God's call. Anyone who wishes to go forward to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation

should contact Fr David after first receiving their parents consent.

CHILDREN'S MASS: On Sunday, Sept 26th the 9am Mass at St Bernard's will be geared more especially for children and young people who will be invited to participate as readers, servers, musicians etc. We hope to do this subsequently on the last Sunday of the month. PLEASE INVITE any families you know to come and join us.



SPIRITUALITY & DEMENTIA: This subject will be examined using a short DVD entitled "Here I am Lord" and a discussion led by Dr John Lester. This will be held at St Joseph's, Lyndhurst Rd, Ashurst, SO40 7DU on **Wednesday, 29th Sept at 7.30pm.** Everyone is welcome & refreshments will be served.

TWO 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.

CAFOD
just one world

CAFOD GROUP: The first meeting will be on Monday, 20th September at 7.30pm

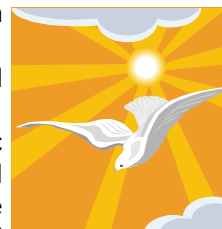
at 46 Kings Ride, Blackfield, SO45 1ZN. (Phone Louise on 80-898213 for directions.) ALL WELCOME. The purpose of the Parish CAFOD group is not fundraising which will continue as normal, but discussion of CAFOD campaigns etc.

CAFOD 50th ANNIVERSARY: Totton parish are celebrating with a party on Saturday, 2nd October at 7.30pm in St Theresa's Church Hall. There will be drinks and nibbles. All welcome.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY: Friday, 1st October will be the Harvest fast day. CAFOD envelopes will be distributed the weekend before and Louise or Clare will say a few words after Mass on that weekend.

CELEBRATE WEEKEND: 9th & 10th October 2010:

The 3rd Celebrate weekend is to be held at St Marys College, Southampton. *Celebrate* is a Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference for people of all ages, a chance for Christians to come together, learn more about their faith and feed the spirit inside. Adults £30; 16-22yrs £20, 3-15yrs £10, under 3s free. For more information and to book contact Peter & Lynda Szymanski 023-80-292058 or via peterszymanski@hotmail.com or ask Angela Slattery after Mass at St Bernard's.



MARRIED COUPLES: Would you like to experience a marriage enrichment weekend organised by Worldwide Marriage Encounter? It's a residential weekend designed to deepen and strengthen good marriages, away from the distractions of everyday life. It's not marriage counselling, therapy or a retreat, but a positive experience that can benefit any couple of any age group. The next weekend to be held in the South takes place in Hertfordshire from 22 - 24 October. Details: Mary & Chris Farrall 02380 275401 or <http://wwme.org.uk>



JAZZ EVENING: The 7th Parish Jazz Night is at St Bernard's Hall on **Saturday, 16th October** with the new Cavalier Jazzmen. Starting at **8pm.** Tickets are £6.00. Raffle prizes. Proceeds will go towards improving parish facilities. Tickets after Mass or from parish shop - F.H.C.

