

## A Willingness to Suffer for Love and Truth

Nobody wants to follow in the footsteps of someone who is heading nowhere. Few people are willing to risk following a person who looks as if he is shaped for failure; few people want to join a movement that looks primed for collapse. We know from experience that in the presence of some people our life is fuller and richer when we're with them. They make an impact on us and we enjoy being in their company. So when a small group of men left the security of their familiar ways to follow Jesus, their new direction indicates the impact Jesus must have made on them. If Jesus made no impact on them they would have no reason to follow him.

We tend not to seek out those people who, as one observer put it, "when they enter a room it's like someone just left." When Jesus entered a room something happened. He generated something in people. He gave them hope. He gave them new life. Because of the impact Jesus made on people, many became interested in discovering who Jesus really was. *Because of the impact of his presence, people became interested in the question of his identity.* It is a measure of the effect Jesus had on people that they were concerned to get his name right.

In today's Gospel we see Jesus actually promoting the question about his own identity. He risks asking his disciples who people really think he is. Asking that question is always dangerous because the answers you are likely to hear will rarely match the answers you hope to hear. Jesus moves on to ask his own disciples: "Who do you say I am?" The question we tend to ask, "Who do you think you are?" doesn't put the questioner at risk. Jesus, however, risks his question. Peter answers that he believes Jesus to be the Christ. But, given the popular overtones of this title within a tradition that spoke of triumph rather than suffering, Jesus insists that he has to suffer for his identity. Because he is who he is, he cannot avoid suffering. It's not that Jesus plans it; rather, he knows that suffering is inevitable if he is to face the future honestly. And he states further that those who become his followers will have to suffer for their identity like their master.

Most people like to keep the subject of suffering outside normal conversation. Jesus brings it to the centre - no doubt because the question is central for him. He refuses to cover up the truth; he will not cheat his followers with a banal optimism that refuses to face the real. He does not seduce his disciples with empty promises but opens them to the question of their own willingness to pay the price for who they are as his followers.

The disciples still follow Jesus. It is a measure of his continuing impact that they stay with him. The disciples are not following someone who is programmed for failure: they are not idiots. They follow someone they sense is not kidding them; someone who faces the real with enormous courage and commitment. Every commitment to love means a willingness to suffer for a while. And it's that kind of commitment that Jesus still expects of all who follow him.

(From *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

*I don't think of all the misery  
but of the beauty that still remains.*

(Anne Frank 1929 - 1945)

# The Messenger

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

20th June 2010  
Year C  
divine office WK 4

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

## TIMES OF SERVICES

Sun	20	9 am	SB	12th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	12th Sunday of the Year
		6 pm	SM	12th Sunday of the Year
Tue	22	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass
Wed	23	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass
Thu	24	10 am	LT	No Service today
Sat	26	10 am	SM	No Service today
Sun	27	9 am	SB	13th Sunday of the Year
		11 am	SM	13th Sunday of the Year
		6 pm	SM	13th Sunday of the Year



## Mass Intentions:

**For the week beginning 20th June:** People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Brida Auger (Intentions), Benefactors of "Living our Faith" Fred Warrilow RIP, All fathers and grandfathers, Paul Sherrington RIP (Anniv), Michael Cox RIP, Jim Manghan RIP Anniv, Phil West RIP Anniv, Dave Beggs RIP Anniv.

**For the week beginning 27th June:** People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Benefactors of "Living our Faith", Phil Manghan, Sue Norris

## 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)

Parish Administrator:

Helen Hughson (Mon & Tues only 9am—2pm)

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.)

**HOLIDAYS:** Fr David will be away on holiday soon and Fr Peter Wilkie will be celebrating Sunday Masses while he is away. Fr Peter will also celebrate Mass for the Holy Day of Saints Peter & Paul on Tuesday, 29th June. Masses on that day will be 10am at St Michael's and 7.30pm at St Bernard's

**OPEN DAY - OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, LYMINGTON.**

The school will have one more Open Day: on Wednesday, 23rd June from 1.30pm to 3pm. There is space available in some years groups for September. The school address is: Ramley Rd, Lymington SO41 8GY, Tel: 01590 672711, [www.ourladyst-joseph.hants.sch.uk](http://www.ourladyst-joseph.hants.sch.uk)

**GOVERNOR NEWS (LYMINGTON)**

Would you like to help to influence the future of our school? We are making huge progress at present and now is a great time to be involved. We would really appreciate your contribution. We have a vacancy for a Foundation Governor – and it could be you! This vacancy must be filled by someone who is BOTH a parent of a current pupil AND a confirmed and practising Catholic. The appointment is for a four-year term – don't worry if your child leaves the school before then; your term of office will continue irrespective – and it's an appointment rather than an election. Governors are responsible for setting the long term strategy of our school, for ensuring that we comply with the law and supporting and challenging the staff. The financial reward is absolutely zero, but the sense of achievement is, I hope, considerable. An extensive range of training courses is also available. This is likely to be the last foundation governor vacancy for at least a year. If you are interested in filling it please contact me on [gb@ourladyst-joseph.hants.sch.uk](mailto:gb@ourladyst-joseph.hants.sch.uk) for an informal discussion, and/or pick up an application form from reception at school. The closing date for completed applications is Tuesday 22nd June 2010. Go on, be brave! You know you want to! David Thornicroft Chair, Governing Body

**INFORMATION FOR ST ANNES CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS:** A Specialist Science & Mathematics College. **Information Evening** on

Tuesday, 22nd June 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Parents of girls in Year 5 are invited to this event for Year 7 admissions in September 2011. For more information see the poster in church porch.

**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.**

**YOUNG PEOPLE & THE POPE'S VISIT:**

We have 4 places for any young people (16yrs to 20yrs) wishing to go to hear Pope Benedict address young people in Central London on Saturday, 18th September. It will be a full day event (early start & late finish) with large crowds attending so it will require stamina! Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis and the parish will cover the cost. The organisers would like a reply ASAP, so please contact Fr David right away if you are interested. Further details will be given then.

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

**COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS for the Mass of Thanksgiving & the unveiling of the sculpture of St John.** I have four tickets available for anyone who wants to participate in this event which takes place on Thursday, 22nd July 2010 at 11am at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. After the unveiling there is a canapé reception in the Cathedral Centre.

**ST GEORGE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE:** is putting on a Summer Arts Evening—Tues 29th June from 7pm. Tickets at the door; Refreshments provided. See the poster for more details.

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HYTHE—BAPTISM & FLOWER FESTIVAL.** Friday, 25th June until Sunday 27th June. Floral displays, Concert & Choir events. See the poster for more details.

**CHORAL FAVORITES** by the Southampton Choral Society on Sat 3rd July, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Southampton. For details see the poster in the porch.

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

