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For St Bernard &  
St Michael's churches

**20th SEPTEMBER  
2009  
Year B  
divine office wk 1**

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

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

**PASTORAL TEAM****Priest: Fr David Adams****Deacons:** Steve Bowler (8020 7449)

Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

**Parish Administrator:** Helen Hughson

To contact The Parish Administrator based at St Michael's  
call between 9am - 2pm daily (Mon & Tue only)

For the Ideal Gift visit  
**Faith, Hope & Charity**

8 ST JOHN'S STREET  
HYTHE  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO45 6DA  
Tel: 80207882



*This week we will be offering Masses for:  
People of the Parish,  
Parishioners who are unwell,  
Bill Jones RIP,  
Lorna Woodrow RIP*

*Next week (27th September) we will be  
offering Masses for:  
Gabor Marek RIP & John Murphy RIP,  
Anthea Hayward RIP (Anniv)*

**PARISH SERVICES****25th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Sun	20	9 am	SB	Mass: <b>25th Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
		11 am	SM	Mass: <b>25th Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
Tue	22	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: <b>of the day</b>
Wed	23	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: <b>St Pio of Pietrelcina</b>
Thur	24	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: <b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>
Sat	26	10 am	SM	Mass: <b>Our Lady on Saturday</b> followed by
		11 am		Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30 am)

**26th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Sun	27	9 am	SB	Mass: <b>26th Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>
		11 am	SM	Mass: <b>26th Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>

**A New Way to be Great**

In Jesus' time women were virtually powerless, excluded from decision-making in both politics and religion and not accepted as credible witnesses. Jesus is always setting women free, free to listen to his teaching, free from taboos, free to be God's children. Jesus encourages and confirms their faith. Women were socially powerless but Jesus called them to the empowerment of faith and confirmed them in their dignity as daughters of God.

The male disciples were a different kettle of "fish". They had all the presumptions of male privilege, power and prestige. They thought in terms of promotion, advancement, and domination. They were ambitious, envious and contentious. Jesus' language of death and resurrection was completely alien to them and they were "afraid to ask" about it. So the disciples end up arguing about who was the greatest. They must have had some sort of awareness that this wasn't a discussion Jesus would have encouraged because they kept silent when questioned, clearly out of embarrassment. As the reading from James reminds us jealousy and ambition bring disharmony and the temptation to all kinds of wickedness (James 3:16).

In response Jesus turns all their worldly ambitions upside down. If they want to be first they should become last. If they want to be great they must be servant to all. Then we have the visual aid. The child is the symbol of powerlessness, helplessness and unimportance. Jesus identifies with the child and with all the poor and powerless. But he goes even further – to accept such as these is to welcome the very presence of God. This is the wisdom from above—pure in its love and benevolence, it makes for peace, is kindly & considerate, full of compassion and shows itself in doing good (James 3:17). The child symbolises this gentle wisdom of God.

It is this presence of God with the "little ones" that is the basis of all Christian community. They are not to call themselves teachers or instructors because they are all disciples and there is only one teacher – the Christ. They are to call no one on earth "Father" because they have only one Father – God in heaven. Both hierarchy and democracy are alien political concepts. The community is one where all the sisters and brothers share an equal dignity as children of God. All have different gifts from the one Spirit but none is able to claim more importance than another. All are one person in Christ and worldly distinctions have no meaning.

As a Christian community we must constantly struggle against the mentality of the world that so easily influences us. We must seek the way of the peacemaker, the way of gentleness and patience (even if this is abused cfr 1<sup>st</sup> reading). We must not allow people, motivated more by a need for power and control, to abuse us and force us to bolster their own egos. If people, wittingly or unwittingly are pursuing a selfish ambition or seeking something that is really about their own needs or about indulging their desires we mustn't be drawn in as pawns in their game. We must recognise these temptations within ourselves and we should challenge the abuse of power in society and in the church. Similarly we must resist the blindness of the "herd" mentality, the group think, which is not thinking at all but only a solidarity in greed, fear and violence. Only the Spirit of God, accepted and listened to in prayer, can help us follow Jesus' way. Only the infinite love of God has the right to name us and invite us into the dance that is the gracious bestowal of the fullness of life. (DMA)

Total Roof Fund collected to date  
**£7186.68 over halfway now!!**  
(Target - £13500)  
**Thank you all for your continued  
generosity**

## Information & Notices:

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: Ernie Ball, Nigel Bolton, Kath Breen, Anne Candrl, Petra Daniels, Dave Donoghoe, Ruth Freemantle, Pat Gallanagh, Jane McClatchey, Joan Olden, Bridget Reeves, Jack Smith. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David or to Helen in the Office.)

**FINANCE MEETING:** The Finance Committee meet on Thurs, 24th Sept at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's.

**MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION WHO REGULARLY TAKE COMMUNION TO THE SICK OR HOUSEBOUND:** Please see Helen Kitson (St Bernard's), Polly Read (St Michael's) or Fr David to receive information about new safeguarding procedures which should be followed from 1st Sept onwards.

**PRAYER POTTERY**—Tuesday 29th September 11-12 o'clock led by Christine Olden at St Michael's Hythe. Tel: 023 8084 8754

**CELEBRATE WEEKEND—SOUTHAMPTON:** This will take place on Sat - Sun, 26th - 27th September 2009 at St Mary's College, Bitterne, Southampton. There will be Mass, praise & worship, healing prayer, talks, seminars & drama. For more information please contact Lynda & Peter Szymanski on 023-80-292058 or email them at southampton@celebrateconference.org. This will be a popular event so don't leave it too late.

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: 2 October 2009: Collection 4th October.** This Harvest, CAFOD is appealing for our urgent help to support millions of people who are being pushed deeper into poverty. The World Bank estimates that the financial crisis will force 46 million more people to survive on less than \$1.25 a day. The human cost of this is immense. Across the world children as young as six are leaving school to look for work. Families are surviving on one or two basic meals a day and healthcare has become a luxury that few can afford. Envelopes will be available in church next week.

### **MARTHA GROUP SUMMERTIME EVENT: NOT TO BE MISSED**

**CAR TREASURE HUNT - on Sunday, 4th October at 2pm from St Bernard's.** The cost will be £10 per car and a cream tea will be provided at St Bernard's Hall afterwards. An explanation of how the treasure hunt will be on the noticeboards. Tickets are on sale this weekend.

**A BIG THANKYOU:** Big thanks to Mike Slipper and the Cavalier Jazzmen for a great evening; big thanks to the Martha Group who helped it run smoothly and to everyone who donated raffle prizes for the evening. We are pleased to announce that an amazing £560 was raised on the night and after the band were offered a contribution the final figure of £440 was gratefully accepted for the Roof Fund.

**CATHOLIC TEACHERS/EDUCATORS MASS at 4pm on Wed 23rd Sep** at St Ann's School, Carlton Road, Southampton. Reception to follow. All Catholic teachers and auxiliary staff are welcome to attend, irrespective of whether they teach or not in a Catholic School.

### **BOOK FOR PRAYER INTENTIONS**

There is a book in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel where you may write the names of anyone for whom you want prayers.

**150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL -** Did you go to school or teach at St Joseph's. They would love to hear from you if you have copies of old photos or memories. Please send them to the school at Ramley Road, Pennington, SO41 8GY. Are you their oldest ex pupil? Please contact them for invitations to their events and win a prize!

**NEWFOUND FRIENDS SPONSORED RESCUE -** Helen Hughson wanted to thank everybody for their kind donations for this event which took place on Sat 12th Sep. Helen was rescued from the sea (with many others) by a Newfoundland dog called 'Squirrell'. Helen said the event was well attended by volunteers and onlookers alike and she managed to raise in the region of £370 alone. All sponsorship and donations will be given to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.