

UNIVERSAL SOVEREIGNTY

Our second reading today from Paul's letter to the Christians at Colossae gives us one of the early foundational statements of our faith. It was probably a hymn or canticle used in early Christian worship. It draws connections between the mystery of God, the universal Christ, the creation, the historical Jesus and the Church.

The utterly Other, mysterious and unknowable God (Father) expresses the God Self in his Word, his Image, his Son, his Christ, (*remembering that gender belongs to our language not to God*). We could use other words too like Interface, Plan, Blueprint, Likeness or Form. It is through the Plan, Blueprint, Word or Form that the creation has its being and is held together.

The creation is the free and loving self-expression of God in the world of form, or finite reality. It takes place through the Blueprint or the Word, or in St Paul's vocabulary, the Christ. It is an unfolding, dynamic, evolutionary Universe. The connection between God and the Christ, between the Christ and the world is the Spirit. The Godhead, the Christ and the Spirit we speak of as the Holy Trinity, One God, Three "Persons". The human person Jesus is the free, loving self-expression of God in human nature again through the same Blueprint, Word or Christ. In Jesus the Divine Word, the Christ bridges the two natures, human and divine.

We cannot fall in love with abstractions, with sources of life or presences. To capture the human heart God must enter our world. God must take on a human face. Seeing the human Jesus we "see" the Father (John 14). When we see God (the Christ) in the face of Jesus we can begin to see the Christ in every human face, and then we see every human person in the universal Christ. Then we can "love the other as oneself".

Jesus knew (by shared life & experience) that "he came from God and was returning to God" (John). The Universal Christ was expressing in Jesus' life and death the loving, self-giving of God communicated by the Spirit. The Source of everything does not need anything. One infinitely rich in Being does not need "riches". Grounded in Life itself and totally embraced by Love itself death is powerless to intimidate. On the cross we see the triumph of love. Every finite thing is stripped away, infinite, boundless, unquenchable life & love reign supreme.

God is the whole of the universe, but the universe is not the whole of God. God is the whole of Life but Life is not the whole of God. God is all of me but I am not all of God. Realising and accepting that one is a part of Life, that one belongs to Life, that one must surrender to Life is accepting the Sovereignty of Christ. It is a sweet surrender because the love of God made visible in Jesus is the most wonderful love imaginable. When we allow this love to touch us, heal us and transform us. When we allow it to transform our social relationships, our politics, our workplaces, our commerce, our agriculture then we begin to experience the power of the kingdom on earth. This kingdom is a kingdom of peace, truth, love, compassion, forgiveness, fairness, kindness, gentleness, friendship, passionate benevolence, courage, perseverance, self-giving and very virtue. (DMA)

The Messenger

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

21st November 2010

Our Lord Jesus Christ Universal King - Divine Off: Wk 2

Sun	21 st	9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass;
Mon	22 nd	No Service (Liturgy: Memorial - St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr)
Tues	23 rd	10.00am SM Morning prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Of the Day, or optl Memorials - St Clement I, Pope & Martyr, 1st cent, St Columbanus, Rel. 540 - 615)
Wed	24 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Memorial - St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & companions, Martyrs, d. 1839)
Thurs	25 th	10.00am LT Mass (Liturgy: Of the Day, or optl Memory - St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin, Martyr, date unknown)
Fri	26 th	No Service (Liturgy: Of the Day)
Sat	27 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Of the Day, or Our Lady on Saturday)
Sun	28 th	First Sunday of Advent (Yr A) 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass with Baptism of Caitlin Dugdale

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, deceased clergy of the Province, all faithful departed, all those who are unwell, Katie Evans & family, The Kiely family, Norman Haskell, Janet Sampson, Joyce Grimes RIP, Katherine Tobin RIP, , Desmond Stratton RIP Anniv, Ruth Adams RIP Anniv, Philip Manghan RIP Anniv, Tony Warrilow RIP Anniv

For the week beginning 28th Nov: All members of the Parish, deceased clergy of the Province, all faithful departed, all those who are unwell, Joyce Grimes RIP, Katherine Tobin RIP, The Hand-in-Hand Trust

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, Anne Candrl, Petra Daniels, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Trevor Handol, Norman Haskell, Cath Heron, Bridget Reeves, Norma Rudd, Eileen Shanley, May Sycamore, Betty Williams, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

DEACONS ABROAD! Rev Steve & Rev Ian are both away this weekend. Ian is acting as sponsor for a Confirmation candidate and Steve is assisting at a Wedding.

PRAYER POTTERY: There will be no Prayer Pottery on Tuesday, 30th November. The next one will be held on Tuesday, 14th December at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michael's.

CAFOD COLLECTION - JOYCE GRIMES RIP: This raised £331.05. I'm sure Joyce is very proud and grateful for everyone's generosity.

SPECIAL THANKS: to the Parish Bereavement Group who organised the commemoration of departed parishioners. Joy Lovelock painted over 50 candles! Ruth Freemantle helped with the Liturgy and music. Linda Guilding did all the organisation.

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER: at St Bernard's & St Michael's, we will be remembering all our friends and relatives who have died. Please write the names of your loved ones on the label provided and put it in the basket. The basket of names will be taken up in the offertory procession during Mass at each of the Sunday's in November. You may add new names each week if you wish.

HALF-DAY RETREAT:

Preparing for Advent

on Saturday, 27th November beginning with Mass at 9.30am and finishing at 1pm. The venue is St Joseph's, Ashurst. Tea & coffee only will be provided. Fr Bob Douglas from the Ashurst community will lead the day. It is open to all in our Pastoral Area (Totton, Lyndhurst & Waterside). A suggested donation is £5.00 per person which can be given on the day.

TALK ON THE HAND-IN-HAND TRUST: Next Sunday, 28th Nov, Josie Masters will give a short talk on the work of the Trust which was set up to help children in Peru. This will not involve an appeal for donations.

ADVANCE NOTICES: *Facing Christmas* will be at St Bernard's on the 10th December at 7.30pm at St Bernard's. This is a candlelit service for all those who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason, or for those who just wish to have some peace and quiet before the festivities. It is not just for those who have been bereaved.

On Saturday, 7th May 2011 there will be a Mass of the Risen Lord for the deceased loved ones of the parishioners of Waterside Catholic Parish.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE & RAFFLE: We did very well. Full details will be published next week when the final figures are in. Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation, the stalls, all those who donated gifts and prizes and all those who came along to support and all those who helped clear up and cash up! Special mention to Bebe's Café, ExxonMobile Chemical, Hythe-Southampton ferry, Nich Nickandrou at La Vista Restaurant & Newman's Pie Shop.

QUIZ NIGHT AT ST BERNARD'S: There will be a Quiz Night at St Bernard's on Saturday, 27th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £4.00 and will be on sale at all Masses from today onwards. American Supper to share & bring your own drink. It'll be a great evening.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS

LUNCH: This will take place on Thursday, 2nd December from 12 noon until 2pm at St Bernard's Hall. Please sign up straight away. Please print your name & telephone number and tick the box if you need transport. Only two Sundays to go so don't delay!!!

WORK AT ST BERNARDS: The work has now been satisfactorily completed ahead of time. The area has been restored for parking but it would be advisable to let it settle for a while, particularly as we have had heavy rain recently. The grassed area at the back near the trees is particularly soft & muddy & should be avoided!! **Spaces immediately outside the church should be left free for disabled parking.**

NEW FOREST EAST PASTORAL AREA: There will be a meeting of clergy and lay representatives from parish pastoral councils on Thursday, 25th November at 7.30pm at Ashurst.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS BAND

CONCERT: This will take place at **Waterside Theatre, Holbury on Sunday, 28th November at 3pm.** Senior citizens are warmly invited. The concert will feature the Hampshire Police Band which has provided excellent concerts over several years. If you wish to attend please call Mike Newland on 023-80-841844 or email: mikemary.newland@btinternet.com. If you have any special transport needs they will try to assist. Notifications by Saturday, 20th November.