

## WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

*Part of the New Forest Pastoral Area*

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

**Parish Priest & Pastoral Co-ordinator:** **Rev David Adams** -  
*based at Our Lady & St Joseph Church, Lymington:*  
Tel: 01590 676696

**Rev Vincent Convery**

**Deacon: Rev Steve Bowler** (Chair Parish Pastoral Council)  
Tel: 02380 207449

**Deacon Rev Ian Tobin** Tel: 02380 897354

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### 4th Sunday of Advent 21st December 2014

**Year B, Weekdays Year 1: Psalter week 4**

**9.00am Mass SB**  
**11.00am Mass SM**

Monday 22nd December No Service  
Tuesday 23rd December No Service

**WEDNESDAY 24th DECEMBER THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
7.30pm Carols & Readings followed by Mass at 8pm SM

**THURSDAY 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Holy Day of Obligation

**9.00am Mass SB**  
**11.00 am Mass SM**

**Friday 26th December NO SERVICE**  
*(St Stephen, Protomartyr)*

**Saturday 27th December NO SERVICE**  
*(St John, Apostle, Evangelist)*

**No Sacrament of Reconciliation this week**

**MASS INTENTIONS 21st - 27th December**

**Anniversaries this week:** Brendan Kelly (23rd), Anna Jensen (23rd), Elizabeth Sinclair(23rd), John Adams (24th)

**Remembering those who have died recently:** Doris Lamb  
Frances Jackson, Eve Jackson

### New Forest Pastoral Area

**WATERSIDE: Hythe & Holbury - see above**

**LYNDHURST & TOTTON**

**Parish Priest- Rev Innaiah Maddineni** Tel: 023 8086 2270  
St Theresa of the Child Jesus-Beaumont Road, Totton &  
Our Lady of the Assumption & St Edward the Confessor-  
Furzy Lawn, Romsey Road, Lyndhurst:

**Deacon: Rev Andrew Philpott** (Totton)

**Deacon Rev Stephen Short** (Lyndhurst)

**Saturday Vigil Mass** 6pm Totton  
**Sunday Mass** 9am Lyndhurst  
10.30am Totton

**BROCKENHURST, LYMINGTON, MILFORD ON SEA**

**Parish Priest-Rev David Adams** Tel: 01590 676696

St Anne-Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst  
Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph-High Street, Lymington,  
St Francis of Assisi-Park Lane, Milford on Sea.

**Deacon: Rev Stephen Morgan**

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 6pm Lymington  
**Sunday Mass** 9am Milford on Sea,  
10.30am Lymington  
6pm Brockenhurst

**NEW MILTON**

**Parish Priest: Rev Marcin Drabik** :Tel: 01425 614968

Our Lady of Lourdes-Mount Avenue, New Milton

**Saturday Vigil Mass:** 6pm  
**Sunday Mass** 10 am and 6.30pm (6.30pm Mass is in Polish)

**THE DEANERY** is made up from the pastoral areas of New Forest, Avon Stour, Bourne-  
mouth **Dean: Fr Tom Grufferty**

## LET IT BE DONE ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD

At the beginning of his gospel Luke presents the stories of the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus. Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John, are blameless and upright keepers of the Law. Yet they are barren, they have no children. We can see them as symbolic of the sterility of the Law. No matter how good the rules they cannot ignite one spark of divine love or conceive any divine life. In fact the Law becomes an instrument, not of holiness, but of division and hostility, cfr Ephesians 2:14.

Mary, in contrast, has no qualifications with respect to the law, or at least they are ignored, she is rather "so highly favoured", or as the Latin Bible translated *gratia plena*, "full of grace". Mary is the one who must receive the Divine initiative. This free gift of God's love is promised in the gratuity of creation. And it has been promised in history most clearly through Abraham and the prophets of Israel, including King David who is mentioned in the first reading today. This promise is unconditional and independent of the Law. The two-sided covenant based on the keeping of the Law ended in failure. History has proved we cannot keep the Law and that self-righteousness is achieved only at the cost of self-deception.

God abandoned that covenant and promised a new one. This is the one-sided Covenant based solely on God's love and forgiveness, cfr Jeremiah 31:31 - *for they shall all know me from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.* This new Covenant is realised in Jesus - he will save his people from their sins & reveal divinity in humanity (Matt 1:21).

Mary is the first one to be invited to the wedding feast of God. Her consent is requested because love can only be freely given and freely received. Mary's freedom from the negativity of sin is demonstrated above all in her joyful acceptance of grace. She does not offer any protestations of unworthiness. These only witness to our estrangement from God and to the fact that we are trapped in our own categories of deserving/undeserving, worthy/unworthy. Mary's disturbance arises because she knows her nothingness and could not presume. Her question arises not from doubt but from simple inquiry. Mary's "Yes" to God arises from her joyful willingness to let God's work of love be fulfilled through her. Similarly God invites all of us to let God love us and transform us. (DMA)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Maureen Bolton, Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Alice Bramhill, Philomena Breen, Kitty Burroughs, Marion Butler, Denise Calder, Petra Daniels, Baby Elijah, Derek Faiers, Derek Francis, Mervyn Francis, David & Joan Grennell, Amanda Gudge, Sally Herbert, Catherine Heron, Reg Hills, Trudy King, Doreen Holman, John & Lena Keane, Michael Kirwan, Betty Marek, Sarah Marshall, Sarah Mc Cann, Maureen Mullen, Tony O'Connell, Karen O'Donovan, Julie Poole, Sharon Poole, Norma Rudd, Cath Smith, Susan Soutter, Marion Teague, Emmie Walker, George Watson, Brian Weston.

**If you wish someone to be included for prayers here, or if the person being prayed for is now well & you would like their name removed, speak to Deacons Ian or Steve or Linda via the Parish office.**

**M THE WATERSIDE PARISH SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS MEAL** held on 11.12.14 was a great success and the raffle raised £88. The St. Martha Group would like to say a very big thank you to Roisin for allowing the Old Mill to be used and for providing the vegetables and also to thank Roisin, her family and staff for their hard work and support on the day.

*A special thank you to the Martha group for organising such a successful event. Your efforts were appreciated by all. (Fr David)*

**LOOKING OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER** Do you know the people who sit next to you each week at Mass? If not, why not introduce yourself? Have you noticed that someone who usually sits near you at Mass hasn't been there for a while? If so, please alert Deacons Steve and he will follow it up. We had a situation recently of someone who was ill and hadn't been to Mass for several weeks. They were desperate for a visit, but no one knew they were ill. We need to look out for one another.

**PARISH OFFICE: Advance notice:** The office will be closed on 23rd, 25th & 30th December & 1st January. I wish all my readers a happy and peaceful Christmas.

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT** the "Candle of Peace" or the "Candle of Love" is lit. The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Do not fear, Mary, you shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High..." Lk. 1

**REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS**  
If you wish to remember a loved one at Christmas, bring a Poinsettia to either church on **Sunday 21st Dec** - (NOT BEFORE PLEASE), write the name of your loved one on a tag, attach it to the plant and leave it at the back of the church. The flower arrangers will display the Poinsettias as part of the Christmas display and parishioners, on reading the tags, will pray for your loved one.

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** As usual the collection at Christmas time is a voluntary contribution towards your parish priest's annual income. Your generosity in difficult financial circumstances is greatly appreciated. This year Fr Vincent & Fr David will share the Christmas offering.

**SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT** There are a few copies available in both churches of the Summary financial report for the year 2013-August 2014.

**APOLOGIES** Last week's newsletter had the time of the Carol service on Christmas eve as 7pm. It is of course 7.30pm with Mass at 8pm. My apologies for the confusion

**POPE FRANCIS'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER** This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis' prayer intention "...*That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.*"

**CRIB COLLECTION:** This year the Diocese has asked us to collect for the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The basket will be at the crib for donations. The money raised will be used by the KHS in their assistance to needy children in the Holy Land-

**COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.** Christmas is an ideal time for Catholics who haven't attended Mass in a while to start going again. You can do your bit by bringing someone's attention to the Christmas Mass times, or offering a lift.

**FOR MUMS TO BE** Traditionally on the Fourth Sunday of Advent we remember in our prayers expectant mums-to-be and dads-to-be everywhere, with all the mixed emotion that starting a family brings. We also remember couples who are struggling to conceive, who might need our prayers and support.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

**Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December**  
7.30pm Carols & Readings followed by Mass at 8pm St Michael's

**Christmas Day Thursday 25th December**  
9am St Bernard's,  
11am St Michael's

**Sunday 28th Dec** 9am St Bernard's  
11am St Michael's

**NO WEEKDAY MASS Friday 26th or Saturday 27th December**  
**NO WEEKDAY MASS Friday 2nd January**

**MY THANKS** to Father Vincent, our Deacons Steve & Ian, to Tony, Peter and Wayne who prepare for Mass and serve on the altar, to Readers, Ministers of Communion both at Mass and who take communion to the sick and housebound, to our Parish Pastoral Council, Irene & the Choir at St Michael's, to Kayleigh & Angela & those who prepare the music at St Bernard's, our Children's Liturgy Catechists, the Welcomers, flower arrangers, the collectors and those who count & bank the collections, APF Mission collectors, CAFOD representatives, the Martha group, all those who work at Faith, Hope & Charity, those who serve coffee every week after Mass at St Bernard's, Terry & Theresa who take food donations to the Foodbank, to those who clean the churches, those who clean the Altar linen, the gardening team, those who have helped with our Christmas Fayre, those who have put out our cribs and decorated our trees for Christmas, the Pause for Prayer group and all those who pray for others & Linda in the office. And last, and by no means least, all of you for keeping our Parish community together. May God bless you. Have a wonderful, peaceful and Holy Christmas. Fr David.

**CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY** the central white Christ Candle is lit. The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the sinless, spotless Lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death; his death was for our birth! The Christ Candle in the centre reminds us that Jesus Christ should always be in the centre of our lives!

