

The Messenger

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For St Bernard &
St Michael's Churches

22nd Mar 2009
Year B
divine office Week 4

St Michael's Church
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

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

Waterside Catholic Parish

PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams
Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)
Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

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



PARISH SERVICES

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sun	22	9 am	SB	Mass: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Dave & Julie Poole Wedding Anniv)
		11 am	SM	Mass: Fourth Sunday of Lent (People of the Parish)
		5 pm	SM	Stations of the Cross
Tue	24		SM	NO MASS TODAY
		11 am	SM	Prayer Pottery led by Christine Olden
				NO LENTEN PRAYER AT ST BERNARDS
Wed	25	7.30 pm	SM	The Annunciation of the Lord Evening Prayer & Mass (Deceased Clergy of the Diocese)
Thur	26	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: of Lent (Benefactors of the Clergy Retirement Fund)
Sat	28	10 am	SM	Mass: of Lent (Dec'd members of the Chrzanowski family)
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30am)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sun	29	9 am	SB	Mass: Fifth Sunday of Lent (People of the Parish)
		11 am	SM	Mass: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Charles Ketley RIP Anniv)

Information & Notices:

APF RED BOXES: Would Red Box holders please bring in their boxes to Mass on Sunday 29th March for emptying. Final Spring collection date is Sunday 5th April (Palm Sunday). Tony Cluett will be available after the 9am Mass at St Bernard's and the 11am Mass at St Michael's also to receive any returns then too.



Red Box donations made regularly in over 200,000 Catholic homes in England and Wales bring God's love and hope to the poorest and most in need. Red Box holders become

members of the APF worldwide, the only charity to support ALL mission dioceses on their way to self-sufficiency. Many of these churches are young, face extreme difficulties and urgently need your prayers and continued support.

QUIZ NIGHT/AMERICAN SUPPER NIGHT - SAT 25TH APRIL Donations required for suitable raffle prizes please. If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, wine, vouchers, etc please drop them into the Parish Office between Monday and Wednesday 9-2pm.

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH: - Many thanks to all who supported the CAFOD lunch by cooking, serving and attending. As a result of your generosity £442 was raised: £250 from tickets, £100 from the raffle and £72 from the Focus Africa Map.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: meeting on Thurs, 26th March, 7.30pm, Meeting Room, St Michaels.

PASTORAL AREA: On Friday, 27th Mar at Ashurst at 7pm Bp Crispian is meeting clergy & lay representatives of the parishes of Totton & Waterside to discuss the future of the pastoral area.

CROSS STOLEN: Unfortunately the crucifix which was attached to the wall of St Michael's Church has been stolen. Please pray for the sad perpetrators of this crime.



For the ideal gift visit....

Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET
HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON
SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882



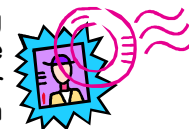
Need to arrange a baptism?

Call the Parish Office on
023 8084 79 and leave a
message.



CAFOD Stamps

A big THANK YOU for your donations of used postage stamps, foreign coins, and old mobile phones. These can be left in either of the marked flip-top bins in the narthex at St Michael's or St Bernard's churches. CAFOD (Arundel & Brighton office) collect stamps and coins for fund-raising and mobile phones for practical use in developing countries.



Hythe & District Voluntary Care Group

Can you spare a few hours a week driving for the group? Help given for expenses. We provide transport to various hospitals for patients who do not have cars, or are unable to use the public transport. Ring Hon Sec on 80842809 or 80842031 for more information.



Catholic Website

For previous copies of The Messenger, Diary Dates and Mass times, take a look at the website - www.watersidecatholics.org.uk - its still under construction but there is more to come....!



Covering all the Angles

Is condemnation language working for us today? I think not. Surely anyone who “refuses to believe” is one of those for whom Jesus prays: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”. To our modern minds loving and condemning seem incompatible. It might be more helpful to think of consequences. Refusing love has consequences, but we need to remember God is never the consequence of our actions. God remains sovereignly free to love and to bless. Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more!

The “Good News of the Kingdom” in its simplest expression is that, in Christ, the shadows of guilt and shame and the threats of Divine punishment and condemnation are consigned to history. God’s Spirit of life and love now sets us free to concentrate on doing good, growing in the knowledge and love of God and of the whole of humanity. We are no longer to be paralysed by fear and anxiety nor constantly pre-occupied with the false notion that we have to repeatedly win back, earn or deserve God’s favour. The forgiveness of God is a pure gift of love given when we were “dead in our sins”. The freedom given us by God’s unconditional love means we have the spiritual energy to deal with sin (all harmful, evil, destructive behaviour, both individual & collective) in a new way. This is the calm recognition of the reality of sin and an unshakeable determination to address and deal with its causes, consequences and cures. For people this is an impossible task to complete but, with God’s help, not impossible to begin. We leave the fulfilment to God!

The coming of the Kingdom is not the completion but is the living in the NOW of the unconditional love of God that surrounds every moment and every situation in hope and mercy. The Kingdom is then trust in the love and mercy, doing the good and struggling against the evil.

We cannot complete the task ourselves because we would uproot both the wheat and the weeds together, our recognition of what constitutes evil is only partial and spiritually immature. We strain out gnats and swallow camels. “Do not judge and you will not be judged, do not condemn and you will not be condemned, forgive and you will be forgiven, give and gifts will be given to you” – words of our Divine Teacher.

Dealing with sin in a new way means first understanding the true nature of sin – as Jesus says in John’s Gospel – “how wrong the world is about sin, about judgement and about who is in the right”. The world so often blames the victim; if the people are poor it’s their own fault. If they seek justice they are rebels and terrorists.

Dealing with sin in a new way means recognising complexity at all levels, social, cultural, genetic, economic, and religious and that the wavelength of consequences is long and persistent, rippling down the generations. The healing of wounds in the individual and collective memory requires patient, thorough and persistent remedies. Diseased plants must be treated and new, healthy stock must be planted.

This is why new growth has to be tended and pruned and the old roots have to be nourished as well. There are huge challenges of discernment as we seek to discover what is the loving response, what is the wise course of action in relation to new and complex issues such as economic globalisation, environmental responsibility, cultural and religious diversity, relationships, gender, sexuality, bio-ethics etc.

We have to work to cover all the angles. If we celebrate new freedoms we must not neglect foundational responsibilities. Supporting and strengthening the traditional family does not mean one has to be unjust to those for whom this model cannot work. St Paul tells us the Spirit works in all sorts of different ways in all sorts of different people. The motivation we need to struggle for a good cause shapes how we see the world. Very understandably we can usually only see things from our point of view.

Only God can cover all the angles, only the Spirit can lead us into the ever wider unfolding of God’s creation. Only the Divine artist sees the whole picture. Relating to others without judgement or condemnation gives respect to God who is “in all, and through all and with all”. (DMA)