

The Messenger

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

22nd December 2013

4th Sunday of Advent Yr A (Psalter Week 4)

9.00am Mass at St Bernard's
11.00am Mass at St Michael's

All Liturgies are for Advent unless otherwise stated

Mon 23rd December No Service

(Liturgy: memorial St John of Kanty, Priest)

Tues 24th THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
7pm Carols followed by Mass at St Michael's Church

Wed 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
9.00am Mass at SB
11.00am Mass at SM

Thurs 26th No Service

Fri 27th No Service

Sat 28th No Service

(Liturgy: memorial St Stephen, Protomartyr)

Sun 29th December The Holy Family
9.00am Mass at SB
11.00am Mass at SM

Mass Intentions: For the week beginning 22nd December:

For all expectant mothers, for all parishioners, for all the sick & housebound, for those in crisis around the world, for all those who serve on the altar

John Adams RIP Anniv, Baby Elijah (Health), Baby Dylan Guilding (Health), Daphne Gooch RIP, David & Joan Grennell RIP, Brendan Kelly RIP Anniv, the Manghan family RIP Anniv, Sister Mary O'Brien of the Brigidines Order RIP, Anthony Richards (Health), Tony, Fred & Flo Warrilow RIP

For the week beginning 29th December

Bet Cresswell RIP Anniv, Pat Leigh (B'day), Tony & Irene O'Connell (Wedding Anniv)

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Pastoral Team: Rev David Adams (Parish Priest), Rev Vincent Convery
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon & Chair Parish Pastoral Council) (023 8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)

All correspondence to: The Parish Administrator, The Parish Office, Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR

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New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am, (Holy Day Vigil 7pm)

New Forest West Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: Lymington and New Milton at 6pm
Sunday: Milford on Sea at 9.00am, New Milton at 10 am,
New Milton 6.30pm Mass in Polish
Lymington at 10:30am, Brockenhurst at 6.00pm

Fanciful Tales or Narratives of Divine Mystery?

Some years ago we were walking our two springer spaniels when suddenly two deer emerged from the bushes, came up the embankment, crossed over the path and disappeared into the bushes again. They were only 10 yards ahead of us but the spaniels had their noses firmly fixed to the ground. They weren't in a world of sights, they inhabited a world of smells! The deer passed by unnoticed, when the springers eventually got the scent the deer were no where to be seen!

Often we miss things because we "haven't got the eyes to see". Sometimes we dismiss what is really big & important because we can't understand a small little, perhaps inconsequential, detail in the "story". This is one of the major problems for Christianity in our culture today. One little difficulty, one misunderstanding and the whole treasure of over three thousand years of spiritual gift, wisdom and experience is instantly dismissed. And if we cannot discover any of the other gifts of Divine wisdom and love in the world we can be empty and aimless.

This is not only sad it is deeply damaging because without a spiritual wisdom which connects us to the Source we cannot negotiate the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" with hope and purpose. If we can find no other meaning than this brief span of existence it is difficult to resist desperate clinging and fatalistic despair.

The stories of Jesus' conception and birth are trying to express his connection with the Divine in terms of the relationship between God and the descendants of Abraham that unfolded over many centuries.

With our limited understanding, our disconnected experience and our undeveloped spiritual appreciation we don't see everything as GRACE. Our minds tend to stop short at physical, biological connection. We get stuck in "either or" thinking and have difficulty seeing the "both and". We have difficulty seeing through all the different layers of life and existence to the One who is the source of everything.

For the Gospel writers and for us it is of ultimate importance that we correctly understand the Gift that God is giving us in Jesus. This gift comes right from the being and heart of the Divine Mystery. Jesus is a gift of love and a gift of life and the whole purpose of the universe is to enable this gift to be given and to be received with joy and thanksgiving. That is why it is Good News. The biology, the legal relationships, the cultural and religious connections are all pressed into service to communicate this one central and overriding gift - Emmanuel, God Is With Us.

It would be a tragedy if our difficulties over the details in the story were to lead us to miss what it is all about. The most urgent task for the Church today is to communicate the Gift using all that is true in our current world view. We must also acknowledge that our understanding of the natural world is very different now from what it was in the past.. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Baby Elijah, David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Kitty Burroughs, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Peter Gray, Amanda Gudge, Baby Dylan Guilding, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, George Hutcheson, John & Lena Keane, Michael Kirwan, Betty Marek, Sarah Marshall, Tony O'Connell, Karen O'Donovan, George Raffray, Anthony Richards, Lilly Ricketts, Norma Rudd, Pauline Sharpley, Susan Soutter, Ronald Stevens, Neil Tisdale. *(If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Linda via the Parish office)*

ANTHONY RICHARDS- Mrs Richards (The Headteacher of our Catholic primary school) is still by her son's side in Bristol, however, he is steadily improving and is now stable. This is of course fantastic news but because he has been so ill please can I ask you all to continue to keep the Richards' family in your thoughts and prayers over the coming days and weeks as they continue on their difficult journey together

EVANGELII GAUDIUM: In Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis calls on us to take up a "pastoral ministry in a missionary style" that will reach everyone without exception or exclusion. Each week the New Forest Pastoral Area website will contain a short extract from Pope Francis's Joy of The Gospel. www.nfwp.org.uk

WEEKDAY MASSES: Please note- NO WEEKDAY MASS 27th OR 28th DECEMBER

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 your Christmas offering.



PARISH OFFICE: The office will be closed on 24th & 26th December.
May I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas.



TWELVE POEMS FOR CHRISTMAS by Lexley George will be on sale at the back of Church for £3. £1 from each booklet will be given to Waterside Cancer Support Centre. It would make a nice gift for Christmas.

Please put the money in the repository box in the wall.



REMEMBERING LOVED ONES AT CHRISTMAS

Did you forget to bring your Poinsettia to church today? The flower arrangers will be in church THE MORNING of Monday 23rd December, so you could bring your plant then. Please don't bring it in the afternoon or Christmas eve as they will have finished.

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.



CRIB COLLECTION: This year the Diocese has asked us to collect for the Cabrini Society The basket will be at the crib for donations.



AGE CONCERN

Please take a leaflet today.
Our Village Agent is *Becca* who can be contacted during the week on 07806 659448.

Becca is a volunteer working for Age Concern, who can help older people to find information and services.

Getting out and about- finding transport for shopping, organised trips, medical appointments, local activities & events. Finding information on Blue Badge parking & concessionary travel.

Around the home: Free Home Fire Safety check, provide information on gardening, maintenance, reputable trades people, care options and how to use a computer.

Money matters: your entitlement to claim benefits, grants & loans.

Please ring Becca if you need more advice. She is very approachable and keen to help you.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:
Christmas Eve Tues 24th December
7pm Carols & Mass St Michael's
Christmas Day Wed 25th December
9am St Bernard's,
11am St Michael's

NO WEEKDAY MASS 27th OR 28th DECEMBER

Details of the Christmas Masses across the New Forest area are on the church doors, giving you times of Masses if you are visiting friends or relatives in the area over Christmas. They details are displayed by area and also by date.

Please note Fr Inahiah at Totton has changed his Christmas eve Mass from 6pm to 8pm.

FROM THE DIOCESE:

Home Mission



Advent and Christmas are wonderful times of the year for every member of the Catholic community to share the joy of his/her faith in Jesus Christ. Why not invite three people that you know to celebrate *the reason for the season* with you and your parish?

Priestly and Diaconal Ordinations: It was with great joy that, last Sunday, I was able to ordain to the Sacred Priesthood, Fr. Darryl Jordan, a priest of the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. During the same Mass, I ordained Deacon Peter Kelly to the Diaconate. Please keep both in your prayers. Fr. Darryl will serve at St. Thomas More's, Iford, and in the Avon Stour Pastoral Area, and Deacon Peter will be assisting Fr. Vincent Flanagan in Twyford. (Bishop Philip)



Thank you to Joy Lovelock who has taken over the reins from Linda and has chosen the readings for our Carol service.

Thank you from the Foodbank for your generous gifts of food for the families in crisis at this time of Year.

Thank you to all those who responded so generously to the appeal for toys for the children at the refuge. Your generosity is outstanding. Thank you so much.



THANK YOU to Father Vincent, our Deacons, Irene & the Choir, Linda in the office, Altar Servers, Readers, Ministers of Communion, 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, 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 church, those who clean the Altar linen, those who have helped with our Christmas Fayre and raffles, those who have put out our cribs and decorated our trees for Christmas, the Prayer pottery group and all those who pray for others. And last, and by no means least, all of *you* for keeping our Parish community together. May God bless you. Have a wonderful Christmas. *Fr David.*

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
Faith, Hope & Charity

