

The Messenger

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

23rd December 2012

Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr C (Psalter Wk.4)

9.00am Mass at St Bernards
11.00am Mass at St Michaels
6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst

Mon 24th Christmas Eve
8.30pm Carols & Christmas Night Mass at St Michaels

Tues 25th Christmas Day
9.00am Mass at St Bernards
11.00am Mass at St Michaels

Wed 26th No Service *(Liturgy: Feast, St Stephen)*

Thurs 27th No Service *(Liturgy: Feast, St John)*

Fri 28th No Service *(Liturgy: Feast, The Holy Innocents)*

Sat 29th No Service *(Liturgy: Feast, St Thomas of Canterbury)*

Sun 30th The Holy Family
9.00am Mass at St Bernards
11.00am Mass at St Michaels
6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Phillip Egan, All expectant mothers, For our altar servers, Joan Johns (Intentions), Patricia Leaver RIP, Grace Netto RIP, John Adams RIP Anniv, Brendan Kelly RIP Anniv.

For the week beginning 30th Dec: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Phillip Egan, For our Readers & Ministers of Holy Communion, Tony & Irene O'Connell (Wedding Anniv), Win & John Cocker (Wedding Anniv), Pat Leigh (B'day), Bet Cresswell RIP

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

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

All correspondence to: The Parish Office, Angel House,
6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR
Tel: 023 8084 3479 e-mail: watersidecp@btinternet.com
website: watersidecatholics.org.uk

New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

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

New Forest Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: Lymington and New Milton at 6pm
Sunday: Milford on Sea at 9.00am, New Milton at 11.30am,
Lymington at 10:30am, Brockenhurst at 6.00pm

MARY IS EAGER TO HELP HER COUSIN ELIZABETH

Mary is a young girl. She is pregnant and vulnerable. According to Matthew's Gospel Joseph is at first unwilling to continue the relationship. Yet Mary does not think of herself but goes "with haste" to support her older cousin who is expecting a child of her own. She goes to help, to share her joy and in some mysterious way to share the Spirit of God who is at work in all their lives. Zechariah and Elizabeth were good people according to the Law but they stand at the end of an epoch. With Mary God has begun a whole new thing! It is the beginning of the era of grace when the gracious love and forgiveness of God are poured out on the whole of humanity. Mary is the first one to say Yes to this gracious initiative of God. It is all about letting God work and trusting in what God does and what God will do. Its so much surer, more reliable, more effective and more wonderful than any of our meagre efforts. Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

At this time of year we can let ourselves be overwhelmed by God's goodness and undeserved love. We can like Mary allow this grace to overflow in concern for others and in a desire to share the joy God gives us. Yes we probably do go to excess but if we sweeten it with kindness, forgiveness and forbearance, with gracious and benevolent giving then we honour, celebrate and echo the largesse of God for all. (DMA)

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

As Christmas fast approaches I would like to thank you all for your friendship, your prayers and your support during the past year and for your kind wishes and generous gifts this Christmastide.

Thank you to everyone in the parish for your prayers and commitment, your love of God and your support. A special thank you to those whose faith, good works and service is known only to God.

It is good to know that there are many supporting the parish very generously. God works through and with us all and therein lies our strength as a community. We are all encouraged that despite our busy lives and many responsibilities we can still support our faith community. I know God blesses us all. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Amanda Bowden, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, George Hutcheson, John & Lena Keane, Betty Marek, Judith Morrison, Tony O'Connell, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Pauline Sharpley, Ronald Stevens. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

ACCESS TO THE CHURCHES FOR PRAYER: If you want to go to the church at any time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament access is available via the code lock. If you do not know the code lock please ask Fr David in person.

ELECTRIC COOKER NEEDED: Does any one have an electric cooker with oven that they don't need. It is for a family in the parish. Transport can be arranged. Please see Fr David if you can help.

PASTORAL TEACHINGS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM BISHOP PHILIP: There are copies at the back of the churches of pastoral teachings given by Bishop Philip on "The Care of the Dying" & the "Liverpool Pathway", also included is a pastoral statement on Government proposals for gay marriage and a letter to the Prime Minister, David Cameron on the same subject. If further copies are required they can be found on the Diocesan website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or you can ask Fr David.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING - As is traditional the collection at Christmas is for your parish priest and forms a part of his ordinary income for the year. Fr David will be very grateful for whatever you want to give at this time. A leaflet explaining how priests are financially supported is available at the back of church for your information.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Parents, please contact Fr David if your child is in Year 3 at primary school and will be 8 yrs old in 2013 and you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion. At the moment we are only able to offer support for a home & parent centred programme of preparation.

CHURCH CLEANING AT ST BERNARD'S: At the moment two generous ladies, Veronica & Mary (one of whom worships at St Michael's) keep the church at St Bernard's clean. They would greatly appreciate some help. If anyone feels they can offer some help please see Fr David.

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN: The total number of Christmas boxes for local children via the foodbank was 64! **What a brilliant response!** A big thank you to all who contributed. You have made some families very happy this Christmas. My thanks to Terry & Teresa who are our reps for the Foodbank and transport the food and the children's boxes to the Foodbank. One parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous has also made a £50.00 donation to the Food bank. Linda.

Come Follow Me – A Group for Discerning Young Catholics – this discernment group is aimed at young men and women aged 16-30, who are looking to deepen their relationship with Christ and who are asking themselves how best to follow Him in the future. For some this might mean marriage and for others the priesthood or religious life. The meetings are usually on the 2nd Friday of each month, **and the next will take place on Friday 11th January 2013 at St. Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke RG22 6TY.** It will begin with Mass at 7:30pm and be followed by a meal in the presbytery and an informal presentation on discerning our vocation, followed by a chance to chat and finishing at 9:30pm. It would be useful to have an idea of numbers for catering purposes (please let us know of any dietary requirements) **so if you are able to come, please email vocasst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.** Any under 18s will also require a parental consent form which can be obtained from the same email address.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION & READERS (at both St Michael's & St Bernard's) if you will be attending Mass on Christmas Eve at St Michael's, **PLEASE RING THE PARISH OFFICE a.s.ap. 023-80-843479** and leave a message to that effect as Win Cocker has to organise Ministers & Readers and she likes to have representatives from both churches.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION & READERS (St Michael's only): if you will be attending 11.00am Mass on Christmas Day at St Michael's please let Win Cocker know a.s.a.p. as she has to organise Ministers & readers for that Mass.

THANKS TO ROISIN & EVERYONE AT THE OLD MILL for hosting the Senior Parishioners Christmas Lunch. **And thanks to everyone in the Martha Group** for all their hard work preparing for the event. Great hospitality, lovely venue, delicious food. Well done everyone.

THANKS TO ALL: who helped organise the Christmas Fayre this year & all who came along to support it. Thanks to all who worked hard to make items to sell, to bake cakes, to run stalls and to provide tea, coffee & tasty food. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle & all those who bought raffle tickets. And thanks to St John's Church for allowing us to use their Hall. **The total was £2,284.56, an amazing £150 UP on last year.**

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS. Monica & husband Mike have prepared the crib at St Bernard's & added a stable! Phil has offered to do the tree at St Bernard's. Mary & husband Peter, and Christine & Derek have offered to do the crib at St Michael's and have also made a new stable! Thank you for your help.



GOOD NEWS FOR ST MICHAEL'S - THERE WILL BE A TREE AFTER ALL! Thanks to Joe & Annette Hayward who have volunteered to decorate it.



THANKS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: We had our Diocesan audit on Friday and the auditors were very pleased with everything and will only be suggesting a few minor recommendations. It was good preparation because we have been randomly selected for an external financial audit in February! Oh, the joys of charity status!

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit
Faith, Hope & Charity
8 ST JOHN'S STREET, HYTHE SO45 6DA
Tel: 023 8020 7882

