

# The Messenger

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

24<sup>th</sup> February 2013

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (Yr C) (Psalter Wk.2)

9.00am Mass at St Bernard's

11.00am Mass at St Michael's

6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> No Service (Liturgy: of the Day)

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass  
(Liturgy: of the Day)

7.30pm Stations of the Cross at St Bernard's  
Wed 27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst  
(Liturgy: of the Day)

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Service of Word & Holy Communion  
at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst (Liturgy: of the Day)

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> No Service (Liturgy: Feast, St David)

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am SM Mass then Adoration of Jesus  
in the Bl. Sacrament and Reconciliation to 11am.  
(Liturgy: of the Day)

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

9.00am Mass at St Bernard's

11.00am Mass at St Michael's

3.00pm Stations of the Cross - St Michael's

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, Pope Benedict's Intentions, Bishop Phillip Egan, Lena Keane (Peace), The Unemployed, For participants in Women's World Day of Prayer, Linda Hayes RIP, Judith Morrison RIP, Christina Tiani RIP, Jim Walker RIP, Ellen Henderson RIP Anniv, Dorothy Horner RIP Anniv F/M, Phil West RIP Anniv,

**For the week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, The Papal Election, Bishop Phillip Egan, Linda Hayes RIP, Jim Walker RIP, John Gawthorne RIP Anniv, Alice Manghan RIP Anniv, Patrick Martin RIP Anniv, Norbert Power RIP Anniv, Roland Slipper RIP Anniv,

## 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)

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## 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

## Life Changing Encounters

It seems to be one of those twists of Divine providence that an easily overlooked, obscure story from the Hebrew Bible should become (later in Paul's theology) the pivotal point for God's work in Christ which is received "by faith". The whole weight and burden of the Law is side-stepped and bye-passed. "Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified". Abram is at rights with God, not because of obedience to Law, but by accepting and trusting the God who makes us holy. An ancient and, to our minds, crude cultural sacrifice involving the split carcasses of animals is the ritual context for a deep and life changing experience of the Divine. The setting sun, the deep sleep, the terror, the darkness, the fire and the smoke all symbolic images evoking and expressing something of the awe, mystery and power of God's self-revelation. For Abram, (whose name was changed to Abraham to signify his new relationship with God), it was the beginning of a journey of faith - he set out "not knowing where he was going" (Heb 11:8).

The Gospel gives us Luke's account of what we have come to call the Transfiguration. Again we have the language of spiritual experience in its different aspects: prayer, seeing the Divine aura, the connection with the Law & the Prophets, the "passing" that was to happen, the heavy with sleep, keeping awake, seeing the glory, wanting to stay in a comfortable "place", being drawn further into the mystery of Christ - the cloud, the shadow, the fear, the Voice, the revelation, Jesus now alone - the Son, the Chosen One, the counsel of wisdom - "Listen to him". God has taken Peter, James & John way out of their comfort zone. They realise Jesus is not just another like Moses & Elijah. They could settle down to that quite easily. No, the Law and the Prophets have done their work. They now fade away. The old religion is now an empty shell, a vacated cocoon, an empty tomb. Only trusting, having faith in God, guides them through the fear, the shadow and the cloud. It is anything but certainty, clarity and self-assurance. It is incomplete, imperfect, "through a glass darkly". Intriguingly, when Peter is giving encouragement to the new Christians he refers back to this experience: For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 16ff).

Paul reminds in the extract from Philippians that a shallow consciousness, focussing only on outward things, blocks out the things of the Spirit. When we begin to be open to the heavenly realms within the mystery of our being, or when we are awakened to this, we begin to experience the transfiguring of our mortal nature. The awakening happens by the action of God's Spirit. It happens when we are ready. It is not something that is in our control. However a growing desire for God or the experience of great joy or suffering can open us up to this Divine initiative. The old self, with all its anxieties and preoccupations, with all its living in the past or the future, has to die so that the new self, the Christ-self can shine through. When we are drawn into prayer, into silence, we enter the landscape of our soul. In this landscape we begin to experience the healing light of Christ which is one with the light of our own being. All the stuff of our life, the memories, the wounds, the hurts, the joys and pleasures, all our little ego world is "passed over", is relativised, is seen for what it is, good but ephemeral and passing. We begin the journey of Passover into the Promised Land of Divine Life. This is what Eucharist celebrates, expresses and realises: "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the Divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity" (Prayer said when the water is added to the wine). (DMA)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, 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, Michael Kirwan, Betty Marek, 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.)

**PRAYER POTTERY:** The next Prayer Pottery will take place on Tuesday, 26th February at 11.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Michael's. Then on every Tuesday during Lent. It is led by Christine Olden. There will be prayer, music & quiet reflection. All are welcome.

**CAFOD LENTEN COLLECTION:** This will be taken at all Masses today before the end of Mass. Please have your envelopes ready and don't forget to gift your donation if you are a taxpayer.

**SERVICES DURING LENT: Stations of the Cross:** Tuesday, 26th Feb, 7.30pm at St Bernard's; Sunday, 3rd March, 3pm at St Michael's; Tuesday, 12th March, 7.30pm at St Bernard's; Sunday, 17th March, 3pm at St Michael's, Good Friday, 29th March, 7.30pm at St Michael's. **Service of Reconciliation:** Tuesday, 19th March at 7.30pm in St Michael's.

**LINDA HAYES RIP:** Anna Hayes's daughter Linda has died after some years of illness. As yet funeral arrangements have not been decided. Our condolences to Anna & her family.

We extend our condolences to all the recently bereaved families and we pray for those who have died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen

## YEAR OF FAITH The Gift of the Spirit

One of the great gifts of the Second Vatican Council was the affirmation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Traditionally, the Eastern Churches (Catholic and Orthodox) strongly emphasised the reality of the Holy Spirit and at the Council, these representatives encouraged the inclusion of references to the Spirit in the documents of the Council. The Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium* 12) recognises that the Spirit is to be found, not only in the sacraments and ministries of the Church but also in the gifts given to each individual for the building up of the Body of Christ. Whether the gifts are remarkable or more simple, they are to be received with thanksgiving and those who have charge over the Church have a special responsibility not to extinguish the Spirit but to "test all things and hold to what is good" (see 1 Thessalonians 5:12 and 19-21.)

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER- 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'** -prepared this year by the Christian women of France. **Friday March 1st, 2p.m. Cornerstone, United Reformed Church, Hythe.** The speaker is Mrs Joan Shewry. Calling all males of the species! Although it is called *Women's world day of prayer* it does not exclude men. You will be made very welcome.

**YEAR OF FAITH: "EXPLORE YOUR FAITH DAYS"** at St Joseph's Chapel, Geo House, Lyndhurst Rd, Ashurst: Saturdays, 10.00am to 4pm. Starts with Mass, bring your own packed lunch, tea & coffee provided. Donations welcome to cover the cost of the day. March 2nd - Geoff & Gina Poulter; April 6th - Fiona Castle, (& more afterwards!)

**LIVING THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE:** John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* and the language of God's love in *Natural Family Planning & Naprotechnology*. Day Conference at the Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, Sat. 16th March 2013. See poster in church porch for details.

## CAFOD: HUNGRY FOR CHANGE

Go hungry for Tabita this Lent. Three years ago, Tabita from Kenya was dying from hunger. Her mother kept her alive by feeding her milk from a goat provided by your donations. Make a difference to a child's life this Lent by supporting Family Fast Day and by signing a card to the Prime Minister calling on him to work for changes in the global food market to redress the current injustices against smaller producers.

**Fast Day Collection:** 24 February  
**Soup Lunch** Thurs. 28 February 12.30pm at St Bernard's Hall  
**Signing of Cards to the Prime Minister**, and  
**Fair Trade Stall** after Masses on Sunday 3 March  
**Pyramids** available all through Lent

**THANKS:** to Eddie & Sandra Deering, to Louise, Theresa & Jill for the lovely pancakes & refreshments for the ecumenical event on Shrove Tuesday.

**BEING CATHOLIC IN A SECULAR CULTURE.** How does our relationship with Jesus lead us to respond to the world around us? **Speaker: Bishop Philip Egan.** Thurs, 7th March in Christchurch, Tues, 19th March in Portsmouth. Evenings 7.30pm until 9.00pm. For more details see the poster at the back of church.

**TWO CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED FOR ST MICHAEL'S:** join the happy band of Peggy's helpers. It will only involve one hour & a half (max) once a month on a Wednesday morning & you get January off! You also get loads of appreciation from Fr David & special heavenly credits!

**PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT:** for the 1st Quarter of 2012/2013, (Sept to Nov), copies are available at the back of church.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

**Quiz night and American supper :** Saturday 20th April 7 p.m. @ St Bernard's. Tickets will be on sale at both Churches Sundays 7th & 14th April.

**Bingo & fish n' chips supper:** Saturday 22nd June 7 p.m. @ St Bernard's. Tickets will be on sale at both Churches Sundays 9th & 16th June.

**Skittles & BBQ:** Saturday 31st August 7p.m. @ St Bernard's. Tickets will be on sale at both Churches Sundays 18th & 25th August

**Quiz night and American supper :** Saturday 5th October 7 p.m. @ St Bernard's. Tickets will be on sale at both Churches Sundays 22nd & 29th September.

For the Ideal Gift or Gift Voucher visit  
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