

REALITY PRAYER

The gospel passage this weekend is Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the publican. Pharisees despised publicans because, of necessity, they mixed with all sorts of people most of whom were considered by the religious elite as either ritually unclean or morally compromised. They were the "sinners". *In Jesus' day sinners were clearly defined by the Levitical Law of Holiness. If you were not able to follow the purification rules, the debt codes and the purity codes, you knew you were a sinner and others did too. These codes, ironically, created more and more sinners. In Jesus' day there was increasing emphasis on the codes. You had to jump the hoops at the temple and pay money to jump each hoop. Thus, it was getting so that lots of people couldn't afford not to be sinners, because their location, job or money kept them from ritual observance (R. Rohr).*

For Luke, the Gospel writer, the Pharisee is profoundly out of touch with reality. He "said this prayer to himself". He is not even addressing God, although he thinks he is! He is ignorant of the Scripture, which says, "Do not call your servant to judgement, for no one is just in your sight" (Psalm 143). He presumes his own righteousness. He presumes the sinfulness of the publican, a complete stranger. He is acting as if he knows everything, like God! He sees only his successes and is blind to his sins. He is totally wrapped up in his ego world: I, I, I, - it is I-dolatry. His prayer is totally unreal!

The publican is connected to the real. He addresses God as Lord. He looks to God for mercy. He acknowledges his own sinfulness. There is truth. There is real person to person communication going on. There is humility. There is reality. Jesus says he goes home at rights with God.

Our prayer must be reality prayer. We must hold on to the reality of God – a loving merciful Father and Mother. But we must not run away from the reality of life. We are tempted to seek a prayer that is all peace, sweetness and light. It is futile. If we force the issue we will end up in serious self-deception and illusion. When we try to pray we must not be surprised that the stuff of life comes into our minds, the past, the present, the future, pleasure, pain, anger, lust, hope, shame etc etc. It is only by facing the realities in the presence of God that we open ourselves to the blessing of God and the healing of God. Reconciliation is a duty that takes precedence over worship (Matt 5:24). Deal with the real in hope and love and prayer will bring many blessings.

Many of the problems we face as Church stem precisely from the fact that we are ignoring reality. We will go to any lengths to keep doing what we have always done, the way we've always done it. We would rather do anything except seriously engage with reality and face the things we do not want to face. As long as this attitude prevails we are blocking many of God's blessings. (DMA).

The Messenger

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

24th October 2010

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Divine Office: Wk 2

Sun	24 th	9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass;
Mon	25 th	No Service (Liturgy: Of the Day)
Tues	26 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Of the Day, or optl Memorial: Ss Chad & Cedd; 7 th Century) 11.00am SM - Prayer Pottery until 12 noon
Wed	27 th	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: Of the Day)
Thurs	28 th	10.00am LT Mass (Liturgy: Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles, Feast)
Fri	29 th	No Service (Liturgy: Of the Day)
Sat	30 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Of the Day, or optl Memorial: Blessed Winchester Martyrs (16 th cent.) or Our Lady on Saturday)
Sun	31 st	All Saints 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass

MASS COUNTS DURING OCTOBER

Collection for Foreign Missions - Today

Mass Intentions: For this week: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, especially Joyce Grimes & Eileen Shanley

For the week beginning 31st Oct: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Dot Manghan RIP Anniv, Peter Mulvenney RIP Anniv., deceased of the Brown & Mulvenney families

New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am
Ashurst Community - Sun 9am
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

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

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



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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Anne Candrl, Petra Daniels, Pat Gallanagh, Joyce Grimes, Amanda Gudge, Trevor Handol, Norman Haskell, Cath Heron, Bridget Reeves, Betty Williams, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

OBLIGATORY COLLECTION FOR THE MISSIONS: This Sunday, (24th October) there will be a collection for *Missio* (formerly APF). This is the organisation that distributes funds to mission territories on behalf of the Catholic Church world-wide.

PRAYER POTTERY: (2 Cor 4:7 - Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. Mould us, Lord, shape our destinies, guide our ways, that we may have life and have it to the full. No, we don't make pottery but we do have an hour of quiet prayer, scripture readings and reflection. In this busy world we live in, take some time out for this quiet moment. All are welcome on Tuesday, 26th Oct 11am - 12 noon, at St Michaels in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. (from Christine Olden)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER: For St Bernard's & St Michael's, as we have done for the last two years we will combine Remembrance Sunday and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. The readings for that Sunday will be as for All Souls. We will take up to the altar the Parish Remembrance Books and there will be an opportunity to place other names of departed loved ones in a basket. At St Michaels only: relatives of those who have died in the past two years have been invited to place an unlighted candle in remembrance of their loved one. Also a date for your diary, on, Friday, 10th December at St Bernard's there will be a prayer and reflection event entitled "Facing Christmas" (a change of name from last years "Blue Christmas")

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Any parent who considers that their child is ready to prepare for their 1st Holy Communion should contact Fr David. Once it is known how many children will be involved we can decide the best way forward.



CONFIRMATION: The parish is inviting young people, usually from the age of 14yrs upwards, to confirm their faith in God's love for them and to make a personal response to God's call. Anyone who wishes to go forward to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation should contact Fr David after first receiving their parents consent.



CHILDRENS MASS: Our next Young People's Mass will be on Sunday, 31st October (the last day of half-term). It's All Saints Day, so please could your child wear or bring something to represent a particular saint? (Just for the homily and offertory, NOT to donate this time) St Francis (animals) and St Peter (keys) are very obvious, so we hope you'll try to find another one! Try this website for ideas: <http://saints.sqpn.com/>

CAFOD
just one world

CAFOD MEMORIAL MASS - The CAFOD Portsmouth Office will be holding a Memorial Mass at Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, RG7 5TQ, on Sunday 7 November at 3pm, to remember and hold in prayer all deceased CAFOD supporters from our diocese and to celebrate their lives, faith and compassion. Everybody is welcome to attend. If you would like to remember a loved one (even if you cannot attend the Mass), please send their names to portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or phone the CAFOD office on 01252 329385 by Oct 29th and they will be included in our Book of Remembrance.

SCOUTS HELPING AT ST MICHAELS:

We are very grateful to Jim Ross & the 6 New Forest East Scout Group who have begun tidying up the ground at the back of St Michaels.

VACANCY FOR PARENT FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Lymington Bishop Crispian, who has absolute discretion in the appointment of Foundation Governors, is seeking applications from committed baptised Catholics who wish to be considered.

Those seeking to become a Parent Foundation Governor will have a child/children currently registered at the school.

The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all staff. In addition to the legal responsibilities of the Governing Body, the Foundation Governors have a responsibility for preserving the religious character of the school, sustaining and developing the school as a Catholic educating community in accordance with Canon (Church) law and the teaching of the Catholic Church and giving clear witness, as individuals, and as a team, to the Gospel message and to the Church's teaching.

Appropriate training is available during the period of service. Lack of experience in education in a Catholic school should not deter anyone from applying if there is a genuine desire to serve the mission of the Church.

Application packs are available from the Parish Priest, the School Office or the Department for Schools Governance, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, PO17 5HA. Tel: 01329 835363 schools@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications: 8th November 2010

CHRISTMAS FAYRE & RAFFLE: Please take raffle tickets this weekend if you haven't yet done so & do your best to sell them. Any bottles (non-perishable) gratefully received for the Bottle Stall & Raffle prizes gratefully received also.

ALLOTMENTS: The area behind St Michaels church has become a wilderness. Is there anyone who might like to turn it, or part of it, into an allotment? Please contact Fr.David.

WEEKENDS IN OCTOBER: These are designated for the collection of Diocesan and National statistics so there are Mass Counts at all Sunday Masses during October.