

The Messenger

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

25th March 2012

5th Sunday of Lent - Divine Office: Wk 1

Sun 25 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - St Anne's, Brockenhurst
Mon 26 th	No Service (Liturgy: Solemnity - Annunciation of the Lord)
Tues 27 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: of the 5th Week of Lent)
Wed 28 th	10.00am - St Anne's, Brockenhurst (Liturgy: of the 5th Week of Lent)
Thurs 29 th	10.00am - Our Lady's, Lyndhurst (Liturgy: of the 5th Week of Lent)
Fri 30 th	No Service (Liturgy: of the 5th Week of Lent)
Sat 31 st	10.00am SM Mass & Reconciliation until 11.00am (Liturgy: of the 5th Week of Lent) 12 noon SM Baptism James Roche-Adams
Sun 1 st	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst (courtesy of Mgr Jeremy Garrett) 11.00am Mass at St Michaels

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, deceased members of the Chrzanowski family

For the week beginning 1st April: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, deceased members of the Chrzanowski family, Diane Echelbarger RIP, Lewis Hull RIP, John Reidy 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 8:30am, New Milton at 10am,
Lymington at 11:30am, Brockenhurst at 6pm

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

We are used to hearing phrases like: Jesus died to save us; Jesus died for our sins etc. Yet it is difficult to understand why this had to be so and how Jesus' death actually saves us.

Like everything we have to be cautious and humble before the Divine mystery of God's love. However we can receive with confidence whatever light God gives us through Scripture and the Church.

First of all we need to recognise the different levels involved. At a physical, biological level Jesus probably died from blood loss, shock and congestion of the lungs. He suffered judicial murder because of the hatred and jealousy of the religious authorities and the moral weakness of the Roman governor, Pilate. Jesus became a victim of their malice because his fearless proclamation of the Reign of God brought him into direct conflict with them. It was a collision of opposites. Jesus did not run away from this conflict because he had an overriding conviction that he had to speak and do the truth of God's love regardless of the consequences. To take any other course would be to violate the relationship of love, faith and trust that existed between him and his Father.

It is clear that Jesus had a pretty good idea of the probable outcome of his conflict with the authorities. It is also reasonable to assume that Jesus himself had already begun to interpret the *rejection, suffering and death* in terms of the great spiritual lessons, events and teachings of the past – Passover meal, sufferings of the prophets and the teaching of the prophets – especially Isaiah and the so-called "Suffering Servant" passages. His faith was that somehow his Father would use his death to bring salvation to the human race. Even though in the garden it was the last thing he wanted he was able to trust to the Father's purpose (*Not my will, but yours be done*).

But this still doesn't answer our question –How does Jesus' death save us? Jesus deals with sin and forgiveness at the same time. Sin is exposed for what it is – the hatred and evil that leads us to make victims and kill the rejected ones.

This sin is the dark origin of human groups. All groups form by distinguishing between those who are in and those who are out. It begins with rejection, it becomes persecution (suffering) and it ends in elimination, i.e. death. Jesus reveals this "scapegoating" as the fundamental evil and that God is there with the victim.

Yet because Jesus accepts death in love and refuses to hit back, refuses to take revenge, his death becomes the expression of God's inexhaustible forgiveness and love. The judgement of sin calls us to change our behaviour. The expression of unquenchable, loving forgiveness is the assurance of mercy and reconciliation. This is received by trust and faith in thanksgiving.

John's Gospel gives us the mature reflection on this mystery. Jesus's death was not a price that had to be paid to God or to the devil. It was not an appeasement of God's anger. It was purely an expression of love: *no greater love has anyone than to lay down their life for their friends. God so loved the world!* This is how we are saved. Of course, death is the only way back to God and God is the source of new life and resurrection. Faith and trust in God is the personal openness, the personal connection that enables us to receive the gift of new life and resurrection. In this context both Jesus and all of us have to die. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Pat Bolton, Molly Booth, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Marion Butler, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, George Hutcheson, Lyndsey Keggin, Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Ann Wilton, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY: The next prayer meeting will be on this Tuesday, 27th March at 11.00am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at St Michael's. Prayer Pottery will revert to the normal monthly pattern after Easter with the next meeting being on Tuesday, 24th April. The prayer time is led by Christine Olden & all are welcome.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next Sunday (Palm Sunday), there will be a collection for Easter flowers at both churches. Your donations to the Clergy Assistance Fund (for sick & retired clergy) amounted to £239.26. Thank you very much for your generosity.

JUBILEE MASS: After further discussion and in view comments from parishioners it has been decided by the PPC that there will be **only one Parish Mass on Sunday 3rd June at 10.00am at St Bernard's** but there will **not** be any picnic afterwards.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS & SERVICES

Prayer Pottery: every Tuesday in Lent at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michael's.

Stations of the Cross on Friday, 30th March at 7.30pm at St Bernard's, & on Good Friday at St Michael's at 7.30pm

FEET NEEDED!!! - Please sign up for free foot washing on Maunday Thursday. Sign up sheets in the church porches.

EASTER CARDS: available in the Church porches priced 25p and 75p each; money to Repository box please.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S EVENTS FOR LENT AND EASTER:

1. Throughout Lent at the 9am Mass, our Children's Liturgy will have a special theme to prepare us week-by-week for Easter. We hope to see the children coming as much as possible, to make the most of this special season.

2. The next Young People's Masses at the 9am will be on on Easter Sunday, 8th April (note: NOT on Palm Sunday). We hope that the children will once again act out the Gospel reading of the empty tomb, having rehearsed after Mass on 1st April.

3. On Good Friday afternoon we will run a special children's service, in the meeting room at St Michael's, at the same time as the adult service in St M's church. This should help all of our families to join us on this most holy day.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES are now available at the back of the churches. Please note Special Collection envelopes are now all together at the back of the 1st Collection envelopes. You may want to put them all in date order.

STREET PASTORS: Prayers are requested for this initiative in the New Forest as the organisers seek: a) a volunteer administrator, b) more members for the co-ordinating committee and c) to organise the training of street pastors.

CAFOD CAMPAIGN: GIVE IT UP DURING LENT FOR CLEAN WATER

FAST DAY COLLECTION: It has been a great effort so far and money is still coming in so we will announce the final total soon.

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH raised **£405!** Many thanks to all who supported it by cooking, serving and attending and spending money. This will provide **£810** for CAFOD to spend on clean water and sanitation. Thanks also for some very generous donations!

CAFOD COFFEE MORNING was a great success & thanks to some generous donations raised an amazing **£250**. Thanks to Theresa Anderson and Louise Croll & everyone who attended.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: 1st April

Chrism Mass: 11am, Tues, 3rd Apr at Portsmouth Cathedral

Reconciliation Services:

Monday, 2nd April at **7.00pm** in St Theresa's, Totton;
Tuesday, 3rd April at **7.00pm** in St Michael's, Hythe

Maundy Thursday: 8pm, Thurs, 5th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Michaels.

Good Friday: Ecumenical Walk of Witness (Holbury) 10.00am, starts at New Hope Church, Hardley roundabout to Blackfield Baptist Church for service at 11.00am. Ecumenical Service (Hythe), 10.45am for 11.00am, outside Waitrose.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion:

3pm, Fri, 6th. April at St Michaels.
7.30pm, Stations of the Cross at St Michaels

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil, 9pm, on Sat. 7th Apr at St Bernards.

Easter Sunday: 9am Mass at St Bernards (Childrens Mass)
11am Mass at St Michaels

FAITH FILLED FAMILIES: workshop on ways to pass on the faith to our children. Immaculate Conception hall, Portswood, Wed 25th April at 7.30pm. Some of our parents are already going; you can book online. See poster in church, or online at: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/forms/faithfilledfamilies.

PLANT SALE/SPRING FAIR; SATURDAY 19 MAY

The annual Plant Sale (St Bernards) is being widened this year into a Spring Fair which will include the traditional plants but also offer giftware, jewellery, crafts as well as home made cakes and a grand raffle. Gardeners, please get planting and craft experts please get crafty! Raffle prizes welcome. Info on plants from Veronica (80897458, other items Tina at Faith Hope and Charity (80207882) and publicity Louise (80898213)

MEAT RAFFLE: As there have been several requests for money over the last few weeks, the St Martha group meat raffle will be postponed until after Easter. If you bought a ticket at St Michael's last Sunday it will still be entered in the draw after Easter.

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

