

EASY LISTENING?

One might imagine that Paul & Barnabas should have had an easy time going round spreading the good news of Jesus. After all, it was and is *Good News*. God loves us, God has forgiven all our sins, God offers us a way of holiness now & a future full of promise and hope. Perhaps people responded with a: *Well thank you very much. That is really good news. I'll keep that in mind but I must get on with my life now, so, err, thanks and err, good-bye!*

The fact is the good news of Jesus is good news but it is good news for life, for relationships, for work, for the planet and for every one on it. The good news radically changed things. It meant that people we had once shunned and perhaps feared or hated were now acceptable. God was accepting them and so we would no longer have any excuse for treating them differently. This is why Paul & Barnabas and all the other apostles met with constant opposition. They were challenging the status quo. The Jewish people could expel them from the synagogues. The Romans on the other hand had the power to do serious hurt. When it became clear that Christians would not fight in the army, would not worship the emperor and would not take part in pagan religion, the Roman authorities began to get hostile. But that was all to come later. This week's reading from the Apocalypse refers to these first mass persecutions of the Christian church.

The Christian message speaks just as powerfully to our situations today. It challenges us to treat others as we would like them to treat us. It invites our absolute dedication and commitment. We have to ask ourselves who are we listening to, who are we following, and whose orders are we obeying and why? Are we listening to the voices of the politicians, or the academics, or the financial wizards, or the TV commentators, or the magazine writers, or the celebrities, or the commanding officers, or the ecclesiastical superiors? Are we subservient to some other person in our life? Do they call the tune? Do we just follow the crowd? There are many voices competing for our attention and our allegiance. Some have a legitimate call upon us to some extent but none can have the ultimate call upon us that belongs only to God. This is why Peter says in the Acts: Obedience to God comes before obedience to people. The soon to be beatified Cardinal Newman wrote that conscience has the ultimate authority. It is only this that can keep religious institutions healthy.

There is, of course, one more master or mistress striving for dominion. It is our own little self. It is the preferred leader in our own culture. Everyone wants to be their own boss. Again the ego, or the small self has its place. We need a well-developed and healthy sense of self. But it is only a shadow of the true self which is in God: *I and the Father are one.* (DMA)

The Messenger

St Michael's Church,
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

25 April 2010
Year C
divine office WK 4

St Bernard's Church
Southbourne Avenue,
Holbury, SO45 2NT

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sun	25	9 am	SB	Fourth Sunday of Easter
		11 am	SM	Fourth Sunday of Easter
		6 pm	SM	Fourth Sunday of Easter
Tue	27	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass
Wed	28	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass
Thu	29	10 am	LT	Mass: St Catherine of Sienna
Sat	1	10 am	SM	Mass
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am
Sun	2	9 am	SB	Fifth Sunday of Easter
		11 am	SM	Fifth Sunday of Easter
		6 pm	SM	Fifth Sunday of Easter



Mass Intentions: *For the week beginning 25th April:*

People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Joan Olden RIP, Peter Kenny RIP Anniv, Tony Warrilow RIP, Gerard Mangham RIP

For the week beginning 2nd May: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, deceased clergy of the Diocese, Clergy & People of the Diocese.

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)
(8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon)
(8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

Parish Administrator: Helen Hughson (Mon & Tues only 9am—2pm)

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

Tel: 023 8084 3479



For the Ideal Gift
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, Petra Daniels, Bill Feltham, Pat Gallanagh, Amanda Gudge, Irene Mitchell, Roy Nicholas, Michael Peake, Bridget Reeves, Margaret Scott, Valerie Slipper, Lena Westfoot (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY: This will take place on Tuesday, 27th April at 11am in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at St Michael's. It is an opportunity for quiet prayer & reflection with prayerful music. It is led by Christine Olden. All are welcome.

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: This will take place at St Joseph's, Ashurst on Saturday, 8th May, 10am for 10.30am start. The day will finish about 3.30pm-ish. The day will be led by Fr. Ronnie of the Ashurst community. Tea & coffee will be available but please bring your own packed lunch. This day is a joint New Forest East Pastoral Area event open to ministers from Lyndhurst, Totton & Waterside.

General Election: Meetings with Local Candidates

Our Bishops have produced a document entitled "Choosing the common good" in which they suggest that voters ask election candidates where they stand on certain ethical issues. CAFOD too have questions to be put to them on overseas aid, protection of the environment and ending child poverty.

In response to the above, meetings are being arranged with the New Forest East Candidates. Further background and details are on the noticeboard or phone Louise Croll on 80898213. Anyone interested in joining the group meeting the candidate please phone Louise who needs to know numbers. **Meetings arranged so far: Col Terry Scriven, Liberal Democrat, 28th April 11 am, St Bernard's Hall, Holbury. Mr Peter Sopowski (Lab) on 28th April at 12 noon, St Bernard's Hall, Holbury.**

CAFOD just one world **Get CREATIVE! for CAFOD Portsmouth** - Entries are still welcome until the 7th of June (from individuals and/or schools and groups) for CAFOD Portsmouth's "Get Creative" competition, to produce a CD of songs and poems from people across the Diocese. The topic could be anything from environmental justice to live simply, from worship to social action. Full rules and entry forms can be downloaded from www.cafod.org.uk/portsmouth or contact the office at portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329285 for more information.

YOUNG PEOPLE: We still have only 3 adult volunteers for the 9am children's liturgy. We could give the young more and better Catholic-based learning, worship, friendship and fun, both at Mass and beyond - but only with more help. Can **you** help the Church of the future? Irregular/occasional volunteers welcome too: please ring Clare (8084 2232) or Hilary (8084 3173).

Waterside Methodist Fellowship: An invitation to celebrate their Anniversary on Wed. 5th May at 2.30pm at North Rd, Dibden Purlieu. Refreshments after service. If you wish to attend please let Jackie know on : 80-848610

THE 2010 PLANT SALE: will be held on May 15th this year at St Bernard's and organised by Veronica Chadwick. So all you gardeners please get busy.

THE DIOCESAN FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN - "LIVING OUR FAITH":

Message from Bishop Crispian: There have been amazing—and humbling—acts of generous and sacrificial giving from over 3000 families, all of whom have been eager and willing to play their part in building and sustaining the life and future of our diocese". (*So far money given and pledges made amount to £9.4 million; £5.2 million towards the Diocesan target of £6.5 million and the remainder for specific parish projects*).

This campaign is to raise funds so that the Diocese can continue: 1) vocations work for priesthood & diaconate; 2) the training of students for the priesthood; 3) the work of adult formation and training for lay ministry; 4) the provision of financial support for parish projects. **Our Parish Team is now in place. They will be helping Fr David meet with parishioners to invite support for the campaign.**

Celebrating Marriage 2010 - On 12 June 2010 there will be a special Mass at St Bede's, Basingstoke for couples in our diocese celebrating significant wedding anniversaries during 2010. If you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th anniversary during 2010, or any anniversary over 60 years, please let your parish priest know as soon as possible so that Bishop Crispian can send you an invitation. Attendance will be by invitation only and numbers are limited.

For more information contact: Katja Babei, Advisor for Marriage and Family Life, Department for Pastoral Formation. kbabei@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Tel: 01329 835583

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: Anyone who still hasn't got their envelopes please contact Carmel. Anyone wishing to join the the Gift Aid scheme should contact either the Parish Office on 80843479 or Carmel McClatchey 80842403.

PLEASE SAY "YES" TO SHOPPING VOUCHERS next time you do your shopping and you are offered vouchers at Sainsbury or Tesco checkouts. You could then place them in the CAFOD stamps flip-top bins and we will then pass them on to Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School, who are asking for them. Also... ..A huge sack of used stamps, foreign coins and some old mobile phones was handed over to the CAFOD office at Wonersh, Surrey recently. Thank you all very much, and keep them coming in. Why not get friends and relatives, at home and abroad, to collect them too?

WANTED—URGENTLY! Fridge/freezer electric cooker, microwave, kettle, kitchen table and chairs, washing machine, child's bed, double bed, wardrobes, coffee table, 3 piece suite. Also any toys or clothing suitable for 5 year old little boy. All must be in good, usable condition please. Please contact Craig on 07946674199 or leave a message at the Parish Office.

ROOF FUND : Current amount collected £9785.78 (£3714 yet to be raised)

Thank you all, for your enormous generosity