

The Messenger

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

25th November 2012

Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King Yr B (Psalter Wk.2)

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

Mon 26th No Service (Liturgy: 34th Week of Ordinary Time)

Tues 27th 10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass
(Liturgy: 34th Week of Ordinary Time)

Wed 28th 10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst
(Liturgy: 34th Week of Ordinary Time)

Thurs 29th 10.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst
(Liturgy: 34th Week of Ordinary Time)

Fri 30th No Service (Liturgy: Feast, St Andrew, Aposlte)

Sat 1st 10.00am SM Mass then Adoration of Jesus
in the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation
until 11am. (Liturgy: 34th Week of Ordinary Time)

Sun 2nd **First Sunday of Advent**
9.00am Mass at St Bernards
11.00am Mass at St Michaels
3.00pm Baptism at St Bernard's
baby Eliza Anne Hedges
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, Eva Bateman RIP, Jason Singleton RIP, John White RIP, Charles Duffy RIP Anniv, Alice Gallanagh RIP Anniv, Denise Gallanagh RIP Anniv, Dennis Hewins RIP Anniv, Philip Manghan RIP Anniv, Edna Tisdale RIP Anniv, Tony Warrilow RIP Anniv

For the week beginning 2nd Dec: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Phillip Egan, All Members of the PPC & Finance Committee, David Donohoe 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)

All correspondence to: The Parish Office, Angel House,
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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

Some Light-hearted Thoughts on a Very Heavy Subject

Some years ago, a friend of mine was facing the birth of her first child. While happy that she was soon to be a mother, she openly confessed her fears about the actual birth-process, the pain, the dangers, the unknown. But she consoled herself with this thought: Hundreds of millions of women have done this and have somehow managed it. Surely, if so many women have done, and are doing, this - I too can manage it somehow.

I sometimes take those words and apply them to the prospect of dying. Death is the most daunting, unsettling, and heavy topic there is, for all of us, our occasional false bravado notwithstanding. When we say that we are not afraid of dying, mostly we're whistling in the dark and, even there, the tune comes out easier when our own death remains still an abstract thing, something in the indefinite and infinite future. My thoughts here, no doubt, fit that description, whistling in the dark. But why not? Surely even whistling in the dark is better than denial.

So I like my friend's methodology for steeling her courage in the face of having to face pain and the unknown: Hundreds of millions of women have managed this, so I should be able to manage it too! And in the case of dying, the numbers are even more consoling, billions and billions of people have managed it, and everyone, including myself, is going to have to manage it. A hundred years from now, every one of us reading these words will have had to manage his or her death.

And so I sometimes look at death this way: Billions and billions of people have managed this, men, women, children, even babies. Some were old, some were young; some were prepared, some were not; some welcomed it, some met it with bitter resistance; some died from natural causes, some died through violence; some died surrounded by love and loved ones, some died alone without any human love whatsoever surrounding them; some died peacefully, some died crying out in fear; some died at a ripe old age, some died in the prime of their youth or even before that; some suffered for years from seemingly meaningless dementia with those around them wondering why God and nature seemed to cruelly keep them alive; others in robust physical health with seemingly everything to live for took their own lives; some died full of faith and hope, and some died feeling only darkness and despair; some died breathing out gratitude, and some died breathing out resentment; some died in the embrace of religion and their churches, some died completely outside of that embrace; and some died as Mother Teresa, while others died as Hitler. But every one of them somehow managed it, the great unknown, the greatest of all unknowns. It seems it can be managed. And nobody has come back from the other world with horror stories about dying (given that all our horror movies about ghosts and haunted houses are pure fiction, through and through).

Most people, I suspect, have the same experience that I do when I think about the dead, particularly about persons I have known who died. The initial grief and sadness of their loss eventually wears off and is replaced by an inchoate sense that it's alright, that they are alright, and that death has in some strange way washed things clean. In the end, we have a pretty good feeling about our dead loved ones and about the dead in general, even if their departure from this earth was far from ideal, as for instance if they died angry, or through immaturity, or because they committed a crime, or by suicide. Somehow it eventually all washes clean and what remains is the inchoate sense, a solid intuition, that wherever they are they are now in better and safer hands than our own.

When I was a young seminarian we once had to translate Cicero's treatise on aging and dying from Latin into English. I was eighteen years old at the time, but was very taken by Cicero's thoughts on why we shouldn't fear death. He was stoic, but, in the end, his lack of fear of dying was a little like my friend's approach to giving birth: Given how universal it is, we should be able to manage it! I've long since lost my undergraduate notes on Cicero, so I looked the treatise up on the Internet recently. Here's a kernel from that treatise: "Death should be held of no account! For clearly the impact of death is negligible if it utterly annihilates the soul, or even desirable, if it conducts the soul to some place where it is to live forever. What, then, shall I fear, if after death I am destined to be either not unhappy or happy?"

Our faith tells us that, given the benevolence of the God we believe in, only the second option, happiness, awaits us. And we already intuit that here.
(Fr Ron Rolheiser, Weekly Reflection, 18th Nov 2012)

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, 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 time of prayer will be on this Tuesday, 27th November at 11.00am. It takes place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Michael's. It is led by Christine Olden. All are welcome.

ANDREW CANNING - STREET PASTORS: There will be a collection at both churches next Sunday, 2nd December to support Andrew Canning in his volunteer role as a member of the Street Pastors initiative. The funds will go towards the cost of the uniform & training.

ARTHUR McELEVY RIP: You'll be sad to hear that Arthur died earlier this month. Arthur was a former parishioner who retired back to Ireland a few years ago. May he rest in peace.

£35 RAISED FOR CHILDREN IN NEED: Isabel Lawes would like to thank everyone at St Bernard's for their generous support of her cake sale. Well done, Isabel!

*****YEAR OF FAITH*****

Insights from Vatican 2 on the Liturgy

The first Council document, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, set the global agenda for the Council as a whole: increasing vigour in being a Christian, updating and adapting institutions, promoting Christian unity, evangelization. 'The Council therefore sees particularly cogent reasons for undertaking the reform and promotion of the liturgy.' (para 1) 'In order that the Christian people may more certainly derive an abundance of graces from the sacred liturgy, holy Mother Church desires to undertake with great care a general restoration of the liturgy itself. For the liturgy is made up of immutable elements divinely instituted, and of elements subject to change. These not only may but ought to be changed with the passage of time if they have suffered from the intrusion of anything out of harmony with the inner nature of the liturgy or have become unsuited to it.' (para 21)

EXPLORE YOUR FAITH: At Geo House (St Joseph's, Ashurst) on the first Saturday of each month inspired by the naming of 2013 as the 'Year of Faith' by the Holy Father Pope Benedict, we will be launching our 'Explore your faith days. Starting at 10am with Mass the day includes prayer, music, talks and sharing. Bring a packed lunch. Refreshments available.
December 1st Geoff & Gina Poulter—Catholic Bible School

ADVENT RETREAT (at Geo House, St Joseph's, Ashurst). We are very fortunate to have Fr James McCaffrey OCD to lead our Advent Retreat. 7th-9th December 2012 Theme: 'Prayer in the Gospels and prayer in our everyday lives' Book now on reception@geohouse.org.uk or 023 8029 2337

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN:

The LAST DATE FOR HANDING IN YOUR COMPLETED SHOE BOXES IS: **SUNDAY, 2ND DECEMBER.** How to prepare a box: Decide if the gift is for a boy or girl & what the age is to be. Take a shoe box (or something similar) & wrap box & lid in Christmas paper. Fill it with "goodies" - see list at back of church. Put an unsigned Christmas card in the box. Hold the box together with string or an elastic band. Attach a label to the string or band (not to the box) with "boy" or "girl" & the age. Leave the box at the back of church for collection. If you can't fill a shoe box why not buy a selection box. They will go to local children too via the Waterside food Bank.

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: are happy to receive any of the following seasonal items: tinned ham; instant coffee, Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, long life cream, box of biscuits, children's selection box, box of chocolates, large chocolate bar, nibbles (e.g. peanuts), Christmas crackers, mince pies.

URGENT APPEAL FROM PARISH SHOP - FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY: If you have any unwanted winter clothes could you donate them to our shop. They are urgently in need of children's, men's & women's winter clothes.



The **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**, organised by the St Martha group, for the senior members of our parish will be at a different venue this year. Thanks to the generous hospitality of Roisin Kerr, it will be at The Old Mill, Lime Kiln Lane, Holbury on **Thursday 6th December, 12.30 for 1pm.** If you would like to attend, and/or require a list, please sign the forms at the back of the Church as soon as possible.



TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR SIGNING UP. The food has to be ordered etc.....and the wine and sherry of course!

If you are thinking about buying your **CHRISTMAS GIFTS** why not pop into the **parish shop**- Faith, Hope & Charity- for inspiration? We have a range of new gifts, Traidcraft goods, a fine selection of Christmas cards, Advent calendars and Advent candles, Catholic diaries and calendars. Hurry- the diaries are selling fast!



THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE is on **Saturday 1st December 10 a.m. – 1.30pm in St John's Hall, Hythe.**

Please come along to support your parish. **PLEASE BRING CAKES ETC. TO ST JOHN'S HALL FOR SALE ON THE DAY PLEASE.**

RAFFLE TICKETS: All ticket stubs and money

back by 25th November please. Thank you so much for your help. If you have any good quality raffle prizes we can use for the main raffle on December 1st all contributions will be gratefully received.



WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH – SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT (excluding all exceptional items & Christmas & Easter Offerings)

Ordinary Income: Average per Month	YR 9/10	YR 10/11	YR 11/12
SOs & Envs & Loose:	£3368	£3412	£3345
Gift Aid Tax reclaimed:	£922	£746	£569
Rents	£752	£793	£804
FHC Shop	£449	£568	£743
Other Income	£206	£363	£192
Total Av Monthly Income	£5697	£5882	£5653

Ordinary Expenditure: Average per Month

Ordinary Expenditure	£5093	£5219	£4891
Parish Loan Repayment		£488	£488
Total Av Monthly Exp.	£5093	£5707	£5379

Giving to Other Charities through the Parish:

Average per Month:	£1016	£990	£781
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"Living Our Faith" Statement: for Waterside Catholic Parish as at 22nd Nov 2012

Original Goal:	£85,000
Amount Pledged:	£52,703
Parish Share of Amount Pledged:	£13,176
Amount Received by Diocese:	£24,335
Parish Share held by Diocese:	£6,084

A BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS THE PARISH & THE DIOCESE FINANCIALLY

The Parish Financial Return for the year ended 31st August 2012 has been approved by the Finance Committee & submitted to the Diocese & our own PPC. A copy is available in the Parish office if anyone wishes to see it. Special thanks to our Finance Committee, Eileen Brady, Carmel McClatchey, Angela Falder & Tony O'Connell.

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

