

# The Messenger

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

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

**Christmas Day - Divine Office: Wk 1**

Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: Feast, St Stephen, Protomartyr)
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: Feast, St John, Apostle, Evangelist)
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: Feast, Holy Innocents)
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: Feast, St Thomas of Canterbury, Martyr)
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	No Service (Liturgy: Feast, Holy Family)
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas)
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Mary, Mother of God</b> 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels  6.00pm - 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 Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, For Altar Servers, Joy Fenn RIP, All deceased parishioners & relatives being remembered at this time.

**For the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> January:** 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, For Altar Servers, Win & John Cocker (Wedding Anniv), Tony & Irene O'Connell (Wedding 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 8:30am, New Milton at 10am,  
Lymington at 11:30am, Brockenhurst at 6pm

## The Birth of Light in a world born of Light

Do we see Jesus as a bright star falling down to a dark, alienated world? Or do we see Jesus as a bright light in a world born from the same light? The prologue of John's Gospel helps us see that the world owes its existence to the Word (the Mind, Plan, Blueprint) of God. This Word of God gives being and light to all (John 1:3-4).

So Jesus is not one who reveals to us that we are all darkness, but rather one who reveals to us that we are created "very good" (Genesis 1:31) by God who "is love" (1 John). The only place there is darkness is where the light has not yet shone, "but everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes light" Ephesians 5:13).

The experience of Jesus for those who got to know him was that he was an astonishing human being who revealed the deep potential of humanity for goodness, compassion and love transcending every barrier of convention, status, race or circumstance. But more than this, those who got to know Jesus experienced through him a connection with the Divine. They experienced his union with God his "Abba, Father" and the power of God's grace working through him. They experienced his gift of self in love, "no greater love ....than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). They came to believe that this was nothing less than the expression of God's own love for the whole of humanity. Jesus was wholly given and gave himself wholly to the service of this love. Ultimately he came as a gift from God and he returned to the Source, the Father from whom he came, (John 20:17).

He came to bring the light which reveals that we, too, are all sons and daughters of God. The Divine spark, the Spirit, is with us all drawing us towards the light. The more we live by this truth the more we come into the light, (John 3:21). Our darkness is the separation, the alienation, the fragmentation of our lives that does not know its true origin in the Word, the Mind, the Plan or Blueprint of God.

We can look at ourselves, and indeed anything created thing, and say this is God in the finite form of me, in the form of the least of my brothers or sisters, (Matt 25:40), in the form of this dog, in the form of this tree. God is the whole of me but I am not the whole of God. So we can look at Jesus and say this is God in the form of Jesus. The one crucial difference is that we can also say by faith: this Jesus is in the "form of God", (Philippians 2:6). By God's gift we are already God in form of us, by God's gift & grace we are also called, in Christ, to be human beings in the form of God. "And we all, who contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit", (2 Corinthians 3:18). (DMA)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Marion Butler, Barbara Coughlan, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Magdalen Forshaw, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Patrick Martin. 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.)

**IF YOU ARE AWAY OVER THE NEW YEAR:** Fr David wishes you & your loved ones a very happy New Year. May you have safe journeys and enjoyable times with nearest & dearest. May you trust in God's goodness & blessing and may God's angels watch over you.

**A BIG THANKYOU:** from Fr David & Linda for all the prayers, cards & kind gifts from everyone at this Christmas time.

**AN EVEN BIGGER THANKYOU:** To everyone who has helped to prepare the churches for our Christmas celebrations, cleaners, flower arrangers, sacristans, singers, musicians, children's liturgy leaders & helpers, carol service planners & readers & ministers of Holy Communion & altar servers.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:** Deacon Hilary Parsons says: I always remember my former parish in my daily prayers and especially at major feasts like Christmas. I don't want my friends to think it's "out of sight, out of mind." May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours much happiness over the festive season and loads of blessings throughout 2012.

**THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** As usual the whole collection at Christmas time is a voluntary contribution towards your parish priest's annual income. Your generosity in difficult financial circumstances is greatly appreciated. If you want further information about how priests are financially supported please read the leaflet at the back of church.

**CRIB OFFERINGS:** over the period will go to Christian communities in the Holy Land courtesy of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This is in accordance with a Diocesan directive.

**THANK YOU:** to Win & the ladies who worked very hard to make the Christmas Lunch as great success for everyone. Everyone enjoyed the good food and great company. The event raised £142.50p for CAFOD from the raffle & the CAFOD donation map. Thank you everyone.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY:

**FOR CHURCH READERS:** Refresher session to be led by Rev Kevin O'Brien, Parish Priest of Totton on Saturday, 3rd March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst)

**FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** Refresher session led by Rev David Adams, on Saturday, 17th March 2012, 10am-1pm, finishing with soup lunch. Venue; Geo House (Ashurst).

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST - WINTERSHALL:** We are planning a parish/pastoral area outing to experience this amazing dramatization of the life of Christ. This will be on Sat 23rd June, 10am until 4pm. More information to follow.

**CAFOD CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Copies of the CAFOD Christmas catalogue are at the back of the churches. See if there is anything you'd like to give.

**CAFOD EVENING** on Saturday 14 January St Bernard's Hall at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy a social evening and find out how your donations to CAFOD are used. Admission of £2 covers a free glass of wine or juice; please bring a plate of food for the buffet. Raffle. Chase away the January blues!

**WATERSIDE FOOD BANK:** At this time of year don't forget items for Waterside Foodbank. The Foodbank accepts any tinned or dried food as long as it is still in date. The Foodbank provides for local individuals & families in crisis across the Waterside. During the first year some 3845.9kg of food was donated. 224 emergency boxes of food have been prepared meaning that 318 adults & 232 children have been fed throughout the year. And thanks to Terry, Louise & Theresa for getting donated items to the bank.

**A BIG THANKS:** to Tina & her merry band of helpers who worked so hard to make the Christmas Fayre a great success. Thankfully the weather was better than expected. The Fayre raised £2135.37p which is £474.28p up on last year. Well done everyone!

**POINSETTIA REMEMBRANCES:** Next Sunday, New Year's Day and the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, Fr David will bless all the poinsettia plants and pray for all the people who are being remembered at this time.

**ARE YOU SORTING** through your wardrobes, cupboards & toy boxes to make room for those Christmas presents? Why not send the things you don't need to Faith, Hope & Charity, the parish shop. You will be helping parish funds. Remember if you have any clothes which aren't worth selling bag them up & put "Rags" on the bags. These can be sold for recycling.



(also known as St Joseph's, Ashurst)  
INTRODUCING an exciting new venture in the New Forest near to Southampton. VMM with its 40 plus years of experience in recruiting and motivating lay people,

has come together with the Montfort Missionaries to promote Geo House as a 'Centre for Global Mission and Integral Human Development'. The vision for the project is to provide a safe space for people wherever they are coming from—enabling personal growth, learning, deeper spirituality and exploring the demands of global justice.

This brochure, with its handy calendar, shows the variety of events we have planned for the first part of 2012. Remember that Geo House is also available for your private or group bookings

A schedule of professional skills training, such as health & safety/safeguarding will also be made available in 2012 to colleagues in religious congregations and church groups.

**COPIES OF THE 2012 PROGRAMME IN CHURCH PORCH**

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

