

The Messenger

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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

26th JULY 2009
Year B
divine office wk 1

St Michael's Church
Langdown Lawn
Hythe SO45 5GR

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

PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams

Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)

Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

Parish Administrator: Helen Hughson

To contact The Parish Administrator based at St Michael's
call between 9am - 2pm daily (Mon & Tue only)

PARISH SERVICES

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	26	9 am	SB	Mass: 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time
		11 am	SM	Mass: 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Tue	28	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: of the Day
Wed	29	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: St Martha
Thur	30	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: St Ignatius of Loyola
Sat	1	10 am		Mass: St Alphonsus Liguori
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30 am)

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	2	9 am	SB	Mass: 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time
		11 am	SM	Mass: 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time



For the Ideal Gift visit
Faith, Hope & Charity

8 ST JOHN'S STREET
HYTHE
SOUTHAMPTON
SO45 6DA
Tel: 80207882

This week we will be offering Masses for:
People of the Parish, Betty Powell
RIP, Laura & Robin Gray.

Next week (2nd August) we will be
offering Masses for:

People of the Parish,
Fred Warrilow RIP,
Rebecca Phillips & James Gee
(Wedding in September).

Total Roof Fund collected to date

£3188.94

(Target - £13500)

Thank you all for your generosity

The bread of life: hunger and power

In today's Gospel we see Christ blessing bread. A large crowd of Galileans, impressed by the wonders of Jesus' healing, has followed him into the hills on the far side of the lake. At the sight of the droves of people, Jesus turns to Philip, who is from the locality, to ask where food can be bought. Andrew has spotted a small boy who has five barley loaves and two fish, but this poor man's lunch doesn't appear to the disciple to be much of a resource. What the disciples have to learn is that Jesus is not only resourceful, he himself is the resource.

Jesus takes the food the boy is willing to share; he gives thanks to God for it; he then gives the food to the waiting people. When everyone is satisfied, nothing is lost: the scraps are collected "from the meal of five barley loaves." At the end of the story the emphasis is on *the bread*. With Jesus as the resource, the bread of the poor is seen to be enough to satisfy the hunger of so many people. In the hands of Jesus, shortage becomes abundance, deficiency becomes plenty, nothing is lost of what has been given to him. After the crowds take the food, they want to take Jesus by force and make him king. Their action is the kind of suspect gratitude that Dr. Johnson described as "a lively sense of favours still to come." But Jesus is not going to be tempted to exercise that kind of fragile power and authority. In the Gospels of Luke and Matthew Jesus fights his temptation in the wilderness; here in John's Gospel, the temptation comes not from the devil but from a crowd of Galileans. But Jesus knows when to run. He does, into the hills.

Jesus is happy to satisfy the hunger of the crowd by offering them the bread of the poor; he is not happy to satisfy their hunger for power by agreeing to become their king. There are some hungers Jesus refuses to satisfy: the hunger for domination is one of them. He is bread that is offered, a lordship of care that is a sign of God's ultimate reign when all will be fed. He rejects the lordship of domination, the destructive power of which he sees all around him.

Perhaps Jesus believes that the power which lords it over other people is one that keeps bread from the hungry, a power that steals the community's resources to secure its own superiority. This is something we are beginning to appreciate ourselves – especially with our massive defence spending. And that spending is related to other issues, not least the hunger of many people. As President Eisenhower observed: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, from those who are cold and are not clothed."

The power that dominates with force steals from the hungry multitudes. In saying no to the Galileans who would make him king, Jesus gives us the model of Christian leadership – one that must forever escape from being made in the image of secular power, because it must be free to offer itself to *all* the multitude. That is Jesus' challenge to us all. Only when we share the little we appear to have, will we discover how much we have left over.

That truth can only be discovered by doing it.

(From *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

Information & Notices:

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE ROOF FUND: This weekend we will have a special collection at the end of Mass for the St Michael's Roof Fund. If you are a Gift Aider please use an envelope with your name & Gift Aid number if you can remember it. If we can get the total to £4000 one very generous parishioner has promised to make it up to £5,000. How is that for an incentive?

SWINE FLU CRISIS: A copy of the Bishop's letter is provided, in addition to his directives we will also be removing the holy water stoops until the epidemic passes.

FINANCIAL REPORT: This weekend we will be issuing a report on the financial situation of the parish. Please look at the figures and read the summary. Also, quite out of the blue, the Diocese has invited us to take part in the next phase of "Living our Faith". This is a Diocesan wide initiative to raise funds for ongoing formation, vocations, training of priests and other important works. The fund raising campaign is to begin in September and our target is £85,000 over five years.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Minutes from previous meetings of the PPC will be available on church notice boards and on the website. A brief summary of the recent decisions of the PPC will be made more generally available as soon as we can.

MINIBUS FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORT: Regretfully the PPC have had to come to the decision that it is no longer financially viable to provide a minibus to assist with transport to the Catholic primary school in Lymington. This is due in part to the fact that fewer families would be using the service in Sept '09 and also because neither the parents nor the parish can afford the full cost of providing this service. Special thanks to Pete Weston & Francis Waddington who acted as drivers and maintenance crew, to John & Breda Mulhern & the Diocese whose generosity enabled the parish to purchase the present bus and to the parents who supported the service. The parish will offer to reimburse the major donors in proportion to the proceeds of the sale of the vehicle.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - SUMMER HOLIDAYS - PARENTS although the formal rota stops, DIY resources will be at the back of St B's for the 9am Mass each summer Sunday. Feel free to read the week's Gospel and do the activity and prayer with your child (in the hall or church), and rejoin us at the Offertory. Many thanks to Joy, who has led Children's Liturgy for the past few years and is now taking a well-earned rest!

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK - Many thanks to all those who have donated food to this worthy cause, though we could do better, come on everybody! Any donations can be left in the plastic box in the church porches. There is an on-going need in this area and demand is outstripping supply so please help. Also we will shortly be authorised to issue vouchers for those who are in financial hardship. More details to come.

COME AND SEE THE CAVALIER JAZZMEN - Sat 12th September 7.30-10.30pm at St Bernard's Hall, Holbury. Tickets from Faith, Hope & Charity, after Masses at both churches and from Mike Slipper Tel: 80843908.

FUNDRAISING - We are looking for cracking fundraising ideas, so if you can come up with a fun and original idea please let the ladies of the St Martha Group know.

ST BERNARD'S CHURCH & HALL - Cleaning: volunteer help is needed to keep the hall clean every once in a while. Please give your name to Fr David if you can help.

LOTTO - Total to date—£324

CAFOD GOOD NEWS: "ORPHAN RECEIVES LOVING CARE AND EDUCATION"....."BOREHOLE BRINGS CLEAN WATER TO 500 PEOPLE"....."CHILDHOOD DEATH RATE DROPS BY 60%".

Thanks to CAFOD supporters these things are happening and lives are being changed. Much more first hand information will be available at CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY & the Climate Justice Mass on Saturday 12th September at 1030 am at St Bede's Basingstoke. For details see poster in church porches or phone 01252 329385

PARISH OFFICE HOURS - The Parish Administrator, Helen Hughson has requested to reduce her hours at the Parish Office due to other commitments. The Parish Office will now only be open on Mondays and Tuesdays 9am to 2pm. Please do continue to leave messages and emails in the usual way and Helen will get back to you if required.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: everyone who helped make the celebration of Laura & Robin's wedding a wonderful success, especially the cleaners, flower arrangers & musicians.