

The Messenger

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

27th November 2011

1st Sunday of Advent (Yr B) - Divine Office: Wk 1

Sun	27 th	9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - Brockenhurst
Mon	28 th	No Service (Liturgy: 1st Week Advent)
Tues	29 th	10.00am SM Morning Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: 1st Week Advent)
Wed	30 th	10.00am Mass (at St Anne's, Brockenhurst) (Liturgy: Feast, St Andrew, Apostle)
Thurs	1 st	10.00am Mass (at Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst) (Liturgy: 1st Week Advent)
Fri	2 nd	No Service (Liturgy: 1st Week Advent)
Sat	3 rd	10.00am SM Mass followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: Memorial, St Francis Xavier, Priest)
Sun	4 th	2nd Sunday of Advent 9.00am Mass at St Bernards 11.00am Mass at St Michaels 6.00pm - Brockenhurst

Mass Intentions: For this week: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop, Prayer for Migrants, Doris Christy RIP Anniv, Gabor Marek RIP, Edna Tisdale RIP Anniv,

For the week beginning 27th November: All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Bishop Crispian (Health), Guidance for choice of new Bishop

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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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

SERENE REALISM

The word reality comes from a word which means "kingdom". We see this reflected in the word realm. The modern phrase "get real" has the sense of wake up to the situation, recognise what rules around here. Of course the popular rulers are fear, status, money and power.

The irony of human life is that these "rulers", these "realities" are often little more than escapes, protections or denials of another, less comfortable and relentlessly unstoppable reality or power – that of death. This is the more certain of the so-called two most certain things (death and taxes).

If people of understanding, faith and spirit refuse to accept the domination of a fear driven obsession with temporary and futile refuges it is not because they are fleeing from reality. On the contrary it is because they are able to face reality fully and squarely and serenely.

People of spiritual vision, understanding and faith rejoice in the beauty, accept the pleasure, acknowledge the pain, see the darkness and know death. They can embrace these realities with serenity because they see another higher Realm – the presence of Spirit, of Life, of God. All experience, all reality is included and accepted but all reality is transcended in its source.

The witness of those (saints & mystics from every religion, age and culture) who have seen, who have tasted, who have experienced this higher Realm is that it is an overwhelmingly benevolent, compassionate, loving and accepting embrace of all that is. It is a mystery of Life itself, of Being itself. God – Spirit is not one life among others, not one being among others but rather Life itself, Being itself.

Our existence is given, a created gift. So inherently, as we are not the source of the gift ourselves, so of ourselves we are subject to dissolution. But if we look beyond ourselves to the Source, to the Giver there is only pure, endless Being. This Being is experienced as the One who freely and lovingly shares being with everything. Faith is the openness to this gift appropriate to beings/creatures who experience consciousness, self-identity and choice. This is the level of the personal and the spiritual.

The ultimate realist is one who can face everything because they have touched, sensed, seen, perceived, intuited, believed, glimpsed the Reality that embraces everything in love, light and life. As St Paul prayed: *that according to the riches of his glory, he (the Father) may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth, and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.* (Ephesians 3:16-19).

This gift is already given, always and already present. We need only to wake up & stay awake. This is the wakefulness not of anxiety but of serenity. (DMA)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Marion Butler, Bill Duncan, Bishop Crispian, Petra Daniels, Mavis, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sally Herbert, Ray Holland, Doreen Holman, Gillian Plummer, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Jason Singleton, Ronald Stevens, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

PRAYER POTTERY: The next meeting is on Tuesday, 29th Nov at 11am in the little chapel at St Michaels. It is led by Christine Olden and all are welcome.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Minutes of the previous PPC Meeting have been approved and are available for inspection on the church noticeboards.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MASSES: the next date for young peoples Mass at St Bernard's is: 4 Dec.

PARENTS: If your children sometimes attend Children's Liturgy and/or the Young People's Masses (including the older children who help), please complete a yellow parent consent form (at the back of St B's) and pass it to Clare Davies or Fr David, or drop it off at the Parish office.

PARISH FINANCIAL RETURN: A copy of the financial return for the year Sept 2010 - August 2011 is available for consultation in each of the churches. Copies of the Summary Financial Report approved for distribution by the PPC are available at the back of church. This report also includes the latest "Living Our Faith" parish statement.

ADVENT COURSE AT ASHURST (NOW GEO HOUSE):

This course will focus around the new CaFE resource "Saints - Helping us today". The course will be on Thursdays at 7.30pm: 1st Dec; 8th Dec; 15th Dec. The series of presentations covers Therese of the Child Jesus & Holy Face, Benedict, Francis of Assisi, Patrick, Ignatius of Loyola & Catherine of Sienna. Just turn up on the night.

Stop! Get Ready! Go! *You must come away to a lonely place all by yourselves and rest a while.*

Our third annual conference will be structured around the theme of prayer. It is a great opportunity for people in the diocese to gather together for practical sessions, input, prayer, reflection and liturgy. **The dates are Fri 3rd – Sun 5th Feb 2012** Led by Department for Pastoral Formation (DPF) Venue: Hallmark Hotel, Durlley Chine Road, Bourne-mouth, Dorset BH2 5JS. More details on the Diocesan website.

OAP CHRISTMAS LUNCH: on Thursday, 8th December from 12noon to 2pm at St Bernard's Hall. Sign-up forms are at the back of both churches. Please tick if you need a lift or are vegetarian. The deadline is 4th Dec as food has to be ordered.

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.

WATERSIDE FOOD BANK: Please could we have more donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank. And thanks to Terry, Louise & Theresa for getting donated items to the bank.

OUR PARISH SHOP - FAITH HOPE & CHARITY (just by the side of Waitrose) a great selection of **Christmas cards, calendars & gifts for sale.** Please do pop in and support the shop.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE & RAFFLE TICKETS:

are on sale after Mass in both churches. The draw will take place at the Christmas Fayre. on Saturday, 3rd December in St John's Hall, Hythe, 10am until 2pm.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS: Have you bought yours yet?? Then come along to our Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 3rd December in St John's Hall, Hythe, 10am until 2pm. There'll be lots of gifts, cakes to buy & things to do - so don't miss out!! Meet Father Christmas & his little elf!

CALLING ALL CAKE MAKERS!! The Christmas Fayre needs you! Well, your cakes! If you can make a cake & take it along to Christine Olden at St John's Hall between 9-9.30am on Sat 3rd Dec, you will be helping to make the Fayre a success. Thank you.

AN APPEAL: We need someone to decorate the Christmas tree at St Michael's. It will also involve dismantling it & putting it away.

ANOTHER APPEAL: We need someone to put the crib out in front of the altar at St Michael's & to put it away again. The tree, lights & baubles are all available.

Please contact the Parish Office or Fr David if you are willing to do either of these, or even both??. Thank you.

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

