

# The Messenger

All correspondence to:  
The Parish Office,  
Angel House, 6 Langdown  
Lawn, Hythe SO45 5GR  
Tel: 023 8084 3479  
e-mail: water-  
sidecp@btinternet.com

For St Bernard &  
St Michael's Churches

22nd Mar 2009  
Year B  
divine office Week 4

St Michael's Church  
Langdown Lawn  
Hythe SO45 5GR

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

## Waterside Catholic Parish

### PASTORAL TEAM

Priest: Fr David Adams  
Deacons: Steve Bowler (8020 7449)  
Ian Tobin (8089 7354)

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



### PARISH SERVICES

#### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sun	29	9 am	SB	Mass: <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> (Gabor Marek RIP & John Murphy RIP)
		11 am	SM	Mass: <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> (Charles Ketley RIP Anniv)
		5 pm	SM	Stations of the Cross
Tue	31	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: <b>of Lent</b> (The King Family)
		11 am	SM	Prayer Pottery led by Christine Olden
		7.30 pm	SB	Lenten Prayer, Adoration and Reflection
Wed	1	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: <b>of Lent</b> (People of the Parish)
Thur	2	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: <b>of Lent</b> (People of Lyndhurst)
		7.30 pm	SM	Reconciliation Service
Sat	4	10 am	SM	Mass: <b>of Lent</b> ( Sick & Housebound of the Parish )
		11 am	SM	Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.30am)

#### Palm Sunday of The Lord's Passion

Sun	5	9 am	SB	Mass: <b>Palm Sunday</b> (People of the Parish)
		11 am	SM	Mass: <b>Palm Sunday</b> (George Krzymuski RIP)

### Information & Notices:

**APF RED BOXES:** Final Spring collection date is Sunday 5th April (Palm Sunday). Tony Cluett will be available after the 9am Mass at St Bernard's and the 11am Mass at St Michael's also to receive any returns then too.

**QUIZ NIGHT/AMERICAN SUPPER NIGHT - SAT 25TH APRIL**  
Donations required for suitable raffle prizes please. If you have any unwanted Christmas gifts, wine, vouchers, etc please drop them into the Parish Office between Monday and Wednesday 9-2pm.

**WATERSIDE FOODBANK:** This is an ecumenical venture to bring practical help to local needy families. There are leaflets available explaining how it works and what food is acceptable, (definitely NO perishables). Please bring your items to church & place them in the box provided.

### Forthcoming Events:

**FANNING THE FLAMES:** Parish Evangelisation Training Saturday 9th May. The Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation (CASE) in partnership with Catholic Evangelisation Services (the creators of café) is holding a series of evangelisation training days across the country. Nearest session is at Springhill School, Southampton Sat 9th May. Fanning the Flames is designed to help people unpack what Catholic evangelisation encompasses, and to equip and resource them to do it, specifically through the setting up of parish evangelisation teams. To register contact the Parish Office or see [www.caseresources.org.uk](http://www.caseresources.org.uk).

### For the ideal gift visit....

Faith, Hope & Charity  
8 ST JOHN'S STREET  
HYTHE  
SOUTHAMPTON  
SO45 6DA  
Tel: 023 8020 7882

### Get your Easter Raffle Tickets after Mass on Sunday

#### CAFOD Lent Fast Day

CAFOD THANKS THE PARISH for its donations for Lent Fast Day of **£688.87** in support of their life-changing work around the world.

#### Plant Sale - Sat 9th May

Its that time of year again to get your fingers green!!  
Donations of cakes and raffle prizes wanted please too - and also any offers of help would be gratefully received. Tel: Veronica 023 8089 7459

#### Catholic Website

For previous copies of The Messenger, Diary Dates and Mass times, take a look at the website - [www.watersidecatholics.org.uk](http://www.watersidecatholics.org.uk) - its still under construction but there is more to come....!



#### SURVIVING STRESS

Marriage Care  
national helpline for  
confidential advice  
and information  
0845 660 6000  
Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00

## FORGIVENESS – WHY IT’S A GOOD THING

Perhaps it would be better to say forgiveness is a “God” thing, as the familiar saying goes: *To err is human, to forgive is divine.*

We will look briefly at reasons why we should forgive. Then we will ask why is it that, having all those good reasons and agreeing with them, we still find it difficult if not impossible to forgive sometimes.

Jesus tells us we are to forgive because God has already forgiven us a debt to God that is always incomparably greater than anything a fellow human being could ever “owe” to us. We are to forgive because despite our little self delusions of righteousness we too are capable of more evil than we dare imagine. Jesus also tells us that unless we forgive from the heart our heavenly Father won’t forgive us either. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned, forgive and you will be forgiven, says Jesus. It is greatly reassuring, if we are worried about our “salvation” – to realise the simple remedy is to forgive, then we are completely assured of God’s forgiveness for ourselves too.

We should forgive because it’s the only way to break the spiral of violence and to establish peace. Not to heal the violence is to become oneself a cause of violence, the very thing that made us so bitter in the first place. We should forgive because whatever we or anyone else has done we are all part of the “self” of God. As Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 2:13: “we may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful for he cannot disown his own self”. We are all part of the mystery of Life, the mystery of oneness and we cannot exist in isolation. We have to re-connect. Deep down beyond all the sin, all the fleeting illusions, we all exist in God. “My deepest me is God!” exclaimed St Catherine of Genoa.

Forgiveness is also a gift to oneself. When we hold on to or even deliberately nurture our resentment, anger, bitterness and hostility there are serious consequences for our overall well-being. Our bodies keep producing chemicals that cause damage to our health both physical and psychological. As someone said “you end up dying on behalf of someone you don’t even like!” Holding onto resentment is like taking poison and waiting for the other person to die!

What forgiveness is and what it is not. Forgiveness is not forgetting. Forgiveness is not a feeling, although feelings of sympathy & compassion can help. Forgiveness is a free decision of the will. You have complete control over it. Forgiveness is a unilateral, one-sided decision. It is not the same as reconciliation. Reconciliation requires that both sides agree to peace and to some sort of restoration of relationship. It takes “two to tango” as they say. Forgiveness does not take away the need for justice or the need for sanctions that protect the safety of innocent people. Forgiveness does not condone evil it just makes a greater good possible.

But we still can find it impossible to forgive, why? We may feel that by forgiving we are betraying a loved one, when in reality we are just stuck in a memory of the past. Our loved one has long since travelled on to the light and left all that behind. We may think we will not know who we are if we let go of the anger we have been nurturing for so long. We may need to trust that we are forgiven by God and so we can begin to forgive ourselves – sometimes that’s the hardest thing to do. At first forgiveness can seem impossible for us. Sometimes the best we can do is to let the Father forgive (“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do”). Forgiveness takes time. The soul needs time to heal. Always, at all times we need the soothing breath of our friend and advocate, the Holy Spirit. We also need people who show us how to forgive, people who, like Jesus, model compassion for us. (DMA)