

# The Messenger

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

**29th December 2013**

**The Holy Family Yr A (Psalter Week 1)**

**9.00am Mass at St Bernard's**  
**11.00am Mass at St Michael's**

Mon 30th December No Service

Tues 31st No service

Wed 1st January 2014 No Service  
*(Liturgy: memorial Mary, Mother of God)*

Thurs 2nd Jan No Service  
*(Liturgy Memorial Ss Basil & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church)*

**Fri 3rd 10am Mass at SM**  
*(Liturgy: memorial The Holy Name of Jesus)*

**Sat 4th 10 am Mass at SM**

**Sun 5th January The Epiphany of the Lord**  
**9.00am Mass at SB**  
**11.00am Mass at SM**

**Mass Intentions: For the week beginning 29th December:**

*For our clergy, for all the sick & housebound, for those in crisis around the world, for all those who serve on the altar*  
*John Cocker RIP, Bet Cresswell RIP Anniv, Baby Elijah & Baby Dylan (Health), Daphne Gooch RIP, David & Joan Grennell RIP, Ann Harding RIP, George Hutcheson RIP, Pat Leigh (B'day), Sister Mary O'Brien of the Brigidines Order RIP, Tony & Irene O'Connell (Wedding Anniv), Anthony Richards (Health),*

**For the week beginning 5th January**

*Yvonne Mulvenney (B'day), Ann Candrl RIP Anniv, Ann Harding RIP, Daphne Gooch RIP, Sister Mary O'Brien, Anthony Richards, Baby Elijah & baby Dylan (Health), Nita Manghan RIP Anniv, Eileen Simpson RIP Anniv,.*

## WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Pastoral Team: Rev David Adams (Parish Priest), Rev Vincent Convery  
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon & Chair Parish Pastoral Council) (023 8020 7449)  
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)

All correspondence to: The Parish Administrator, The Parish Office, Angel House, 6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR

**Tel: 023 8084 3479** e-mail: [watersidecp@btinternet.com](mailto:watersidecp@btinternet.com)  
website: [watersidecatholics.org.uk](http://watersidecatholics.org.uk)

## New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am  
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am, (Holy Day Vigil 7pm)

## New Forest West Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: Lymington and New Milton at 6pm  
Sunday: Milford on Sea at 9.00am, New Milton at 10 am,  
New Milton 6.30pm Mass in Polish  
Lymington at 10:30am, Brockenhurst at 6.00pm

## Christmas: A Story of Divine Love

First of all, I'd like to wish a very happy and holy Christmas time to all our parishioners, their family members and relatives and all visitors to our parish during this holiday season.

Secondly I'd like to thank everyone who has helped to prepare for this year's celebration and all those assisting at the Liturgy.

Thirdly, thank you all for your kind wishes, prayers, blessings, cards and generous gifts. They are all very much appreciated. And thank you all for your support during the past year.

**The Gospel Stories:** It is inevitable that as the majority of people become more & more disconnected from the Christian faith the Gospel stories of the human and Divine origins of Jesus will be increasingly misunderstood and trivialised. These narratives are not biographical recollections as we would write them today. They are not sweet, little fairy tales. They are rich, carefully crafted, and challenging theological statements that draw on deep connections within the Jewish religious tradition, especially of course the Bible. They were also written within and with reference to particular communities & their needs at the time.

**Valuing Kindness:** Jesus is God's act of undeserved kindness towards humanity. Christmas is therefore a time when we give special attention to kindness and consideration. Though, of course, it must be our first priority every day of the year. In some quarters, strange as it may seem, there is a suspicion of and resentment about kindness. These attitudes probably have their roots in a fear of vulnerability and dependence on others. If we have made up our minds to "take care of number one and to blaze with everyone else" any gratuitous act of kindness is a direct challenge. It reminds us that there is an alternative way of living. Season your day with random acts of gracious kindness and many "thank yous". You'll be introducing something of the "kingdom of heaven". Just don't expect 100% appreciation all the time.

**A Lesson in Acceptance:** We have all been inconvenienced in some way by the cold and snowy weather. It's a salutary reminder that we are not in control. Our relationship with God will never develop properly unless we can be honest with ourselves and fully accepting of reality. This not about giving up hope. It is about replacing naive optimism with responsibility and accepting one's potential as much as one's limitations.

**God becomes a baby and so every baby becomes divine.**

God can put us at the centre and delight in every potential we have. We can rejoice in this and return the gift with thanksgiving. But it doesn't work when we try to make ourselves the centre in competition with every one else and excluding God. On our own we are disconnected from the Source. In Jesus & by following his way we are reunited. (DMA)

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: Baby Elijah, David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Kitty Burroughs, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Peter Gray, Amanda Gudge, Baby Dylan Guilding, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, John & Lena Keane, Michael Kirwan, Betty Marek, Sarah Marshall, Tony O'Connell, Karen O'Donovan, George Raffray, Anthony Richards, Lilly Ricketts, Norma Rudd, Pauline Sharpley, Susan Soutter, Ronald Stevens, Neil Tisdale.

*(If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Linda via the Parish office)*

**ANTHONY RICHARDS-** Mrs Richards son (The Headteacher of our Catholic primary school) has been moved to Salisbury hospital and is making slow but steady progress. Please continue to keep the Richards' family in your thoughts and prayers over the coming days and weeks as they continue on their difficult journey together

**EVANGELII GAUDIUM:** In Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis calls on us to take up a "pastoral ministry in a missionary style" that will reach everyone without exception or exclusion. Each week the New Forest Pastoral Area website will contain a short extract from Pope Francis's Joy of The Gospel. [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)



**PARISH OFFICE:** The office will be closed on Tuesday 31st December. Open again 10am- 4pm Thursday 2nd January.



**CRIB COLLECTION:** This year the Diocese has asked us to collect for *the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The money raised will be used by the KHS in their assistance to needy children in the Holy Land-not the Cabrini*

society as stated in last weeks newsletter. The basket will be at the crib for donations.



**AGE CONCERN:** Our Village Agent is *Becca* who can be contacted during the week on *07806 659448*. Becca is a volunteer working for Age Concern, who can help

older people to find information and services.

**Getting out and about-** finding transport for shopping, organised trips, medical appointments, local activities & events. Finding information on Blue Badge parking & concessionary travel.

**Around the home:** Free Home Fire Safety check, provide information on gardening, maintenance, reputable trades people, care options and how to use a computer.

**Money matters:** your entitlement to claim benefits, grants & loans. Please ring Becca if you need more advice. She is very approachable and keen to help you.

**IF YOU NEED A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY:** If you or your loved one is in hospital and needs to see a priest, please ask to see the Catholic priest from the hospital Chaplaincy team. Please note there isn't a resident priest at St Michael's or St Bernard's.



## FROM THE DIOCESE:

### Year of Faith in Action - Video

I recently filmed a video in which I speak about why I announced the Year of Faith in Action, and what I hope will be the fruits of it in our Diocese. This video can be viewed on the [diocesan website](http://diocesanwebsite) or here: <http://vimeo.com/81748659>. (Bishop Philip)

### Framework for Collaboration - Update

Requests for volunteers have been publicised by several means over the last few months. Volunteer interviews have been scheduled for the fourth Saturday in January, February, March and April.

There are still many more opportunities for volunteers and they will be publicised further in the new year. It is hoped the first teams will be formed by early March (Marriage and Family Life Team and the Social Policy Unit; there will also be a Called and Gifted Teaching Team).

*With an assurance of my prayers in these last days leading up to the 25th. Have a truly blessed and happy Christmas!*

*(Bishop Philip)*



**FOODBANK:** On behalf of Waterside Foodbank please convey our very grateful thanks to all at St. Michael's & St Bernard's Hythe for the wonderful donation of food collected during Advent.

This amounted to a total of **107.1 kg.**

During November we issued Emergency Foodboxes to 250 people. This took approximately **1,300 kg** of food, so you can see that your donation is very badly needed.

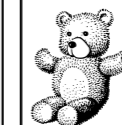
The Christmas food donated has been put into special Christmas Foodbags and have been given out to needy families in the area as well as clients coming into Foodbank.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support, and especially at this time of year. Your donations have helped alleviate some distress at this wonderful but pressured time for some.

Jan Hayter  
Co-ordinator

**THANK YOU** also to Terry George, Theresa Anderson and those who helped them deliver the food from the churches to the Foodbank. Thank you for giving your time to this deserving cause.

**A BIG THANK YOU:** To all of you for a very generous Christmas Offering. The collection at Christmas time is a voluntary contribution towards your parish priest's annual income, this year it was divided between Fr Vincent & myself. Your generosity in difficult financial circumstances is greatly appreciated. (Fr David.)



**Thank you** to all those who responded so generously to the appeal for toys for the children at the refuge. Your generosity is outstanding. Thank you so much. My car was completely full twice!



**THANK YOU** to Father Vincent, Deacons Steve & Ian, Irene & the Choir, Linda in the office, Altar Servers, Readers, Ministers of Communion, our Children's Liturgy Catechists, those who visit the sick & housebound, the PPC, the Welcomers, Flower arrangers, the collectors and those who count & bank the collections, APF Mission collectors, CAFOD representatives, the Martha group, those who work at Faith, Hope & Charity, those who serve coffee every week after Mass at St Bernard's, Terry & Theresa who take food donations to the Foodbank, to those who clean the church, those who clean the Altar linen, those who have helped with our Christmas Fayre and raffles, those who have put out our cribs and decorated our trees for Christmas, the Prayer pottery group and all those who pray for others. And last, and by no means least, all of *you* for keeping our Parish community together. May God bless you. Happy new year! *Fr David.*

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

