

The Messenger

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For St Bernard &
St Michael's churches

30th august 2009
Year B
divine office wk 2

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

22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	30	9 am	SB	Mass: 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
		11 am	SM	Mass: 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
Tue	1	10 am	SM	Morning Prayer & Mass: of the Day
Wed	2	7.30 pm	SM	Evening Prayer & Mass: of the Day
Thur	3	10 am	LT	Mass at Lyndhurst: St Gregory the Great
Sat	5	10 am	SM	Mass: Our Lady on Saturday followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation (until 11.00 am)
		12 noon	SM	Wedding: Rebecca Phillips & James Jee

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sun	6	9 am	SB	Mass: 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
		11 am	SM	Mass: 23rd 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, Parishioners who
are unwell, Henry Scott RIP Anniv,
Kath Breen, Joey Ford

Next week (6th September) we will be
offering Masses for:
Bernard Kenny RIP Anniv.

NO RESPECT FOR TRADITION

In today's Gospel Jesus is accused of flouting sacred tradition. Religious officials from Jerusalem and local Pharisees want to know why Jesus permits his disciples to disregard the unwritten tradition of the elders. The problem is that the disciples do not wash their hands before they eat. The complaint is not that the disciples ignore good hygiene, but that they ignore the tradition of ceremonial washing. In doing this they are numbered among the unclean. According to the written law, ceremonial washing was required only of priests before they entered the sanctuary. By the time of Jesus, however, the ritual of hand – washing, before every meal and between each course, had been extended to include all pious Jews. This unwritten tradition of legal interpretation – the oral law - was regarded by the Pharisees to be as binding as the written law. And they expect Jesus to share their religious outlook.

Jesus accuses his accusers of being hypocrites, quoting the prophet Isaiah to underline the point:

*This people honours me only with lip – service, while their hearts are far from me.
The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.*

In clinging to human tradition, they ignore the commandments of God. Jesus wants to free people from the weight of stifling tradition that concentrates on approved performance. When religious performance is lacking in heart, it makes for worthless worship.

Jesus goes on to teach the crowd revolutionary doctrine which puts him at odds with his own religious tradition: nothing that a person eats can defile them, only what comes from their own heart. In this Jesus declares all foods clean and shifts the focus of moral attention to how people choose and what they actually do. For Jesus, eating with unwashed hands is imaginary defilement. So is eating unapproved food. Uncleanliness is a matter of what proceeds from the human heart. It's not people's diet that interests Jesus, it's their heart condition.

Jesus is interested in the stirrings of the human heart, the personal issues that preoccupy us and influence our choices and behaviour. The territory within, with all its complex emotions and desires, holds Jesus' attention. He knows that no external law can change people's hearts, even if it makes them socially conform. That is why, when he began his preaching, he invited everyone: "Set your hearts first on the kingdom of God." Jesus believes that when people's hearts are centred on God, they are emancipated from the litany of human regulations that would script their every move.

For many of his hearers, what Jesus said was bad news because it contradicted the tradition they honoured. We call it good news, Gospel, because it is a word that liberates us from a world of endless regulations. It also challenges us and invites us to live a religion of the heart. To have a heart for Jesus and his values: this will always be our real business as Christians. (From Seasons of the Word by Denis McBride)

Total Roof Fund collected to date

£6117.52

(Target - £13500)

Thank you all for your generosity

Information & Notices:

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers the following who are unwell: Kath Breen, Nick & Anne Candri, Dave Donoghoe, Joey Ford, Ruth Freemantle, Joan Olden, Bridget Reeves, Val Slipper, Jack Smith. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David or to Helen in the Office.)

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION WHO REGULARLY TAKE COMMUNION TO THE SICK OR HOUSEBOUND: Please see Helen Kitson (St Bernard's), Polly Read (St Michael's) or Fr David to receive information about new safeguarding procedures which should be followed from 1st Sept onwards.

SKITTLES NIGHT - Many thanks to all those who supported the recent Skittles Night, a total of £484 was collected from the Raffle as well and the St Martha Group has kindly made it up to £600 which is gratefully received for the Roof Fund.

CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY & CLIMATE JUSTICE MASS: on Sat 12th Sept at 10.30am; Mass at 3.30pm. Venue is St Bede's Church, Basingstoke. For details see the poster in the church porch or phone 01252 329385. Come and learn how lives are being changed by CAFOD. Lynda Mussell has just returned from Ethiopia and Martin from Pakistan. Francis Waddington (tel. 80-843292) has two places in his car if anyone needs a lift. FCFS!

CAFOD thanks you for your parish donations for Lent Fast Day 2009 - A total of £87.23 was collected. Also a grand total of £707.69 was collected for focus[africa](#). What an amazing result thank you.

CELEBRATE WEEKEND—SOUTHAMPTON: This will take place on Sat - Sun, 26th - 27th September 2009 at St Mary's College, Bitterne, Southampton. There will be Mass, praise & worship, healing prayer, talks, seminars & drama. For more information please contact Lynda & Peter Szymanski on 023-80-292058 or email them at southampton@celebrateconference.org. This will be a popular event so don't leave it too late.

MARTHA GROUP SUMMERTIME EVENTS: NOT TO BE MISSED

Jazz Night - Sat 12th September - ONLY TWO WEEKS TO GO AND TICKETS ARE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES! - The return of the ever popular Jazz Night by the Cavalier Jazzmen organised by Mike Slipper! American Supper/bring a bottle + Raffle. 7.30pm until 10.30pm. Tickets will be available shortly from Faith, Hope & Charity, after Masses, from the Martha Group and of course from Mike Slipper himself. Tel: 023 8084 3908 *If anyone has any suitable prizes which could be used for the raffle and would be happy to donate them please drop them at the Parish Office, Monday & Tuesday between 9.30am & 2pm or give them to Fr David.* Thanks.

CAR TREASURE HUNT - on Sunday, 4th October at 2pm from St Bernard's. The cost will be £10 per car and a cream tea will be provided at St Bernard's Hall afterwards. An explanation of how the treasure hunt will work will follow in due course.

GIFTAID - Do you pay Income Tax? Would you like to contribute to the church? Did you know that if you contributed £100 to your parish over the year the Parish church will get back £28 from the taxman. Or even if you gave £500 over the year the church would get back £140! If you are interested in making donations but with no particular commitment to a set amount over the year please contact the Parish Office for more details.

CATHOLIC PAPERS - From 1st October 2009 these papers will no longer be available at the back of the church. If you wish to receive these publications please order them direct from your newsagents. The Tablet can be ordered direct from the publishers by annual subscription.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR GETS RESCUED FROM THE SEA BY LARGE DOG! - Our Parish Administrator Helen, is looking for sponsorship to be rescued from the sea in Hythe on Sat 12th September by the wonderful Newfoundland Rescue Dogs, all in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Helen is looking to raise at least £100 for this event. Please sign up to support her for this wonderful fundraising event—posters at the back of the church.