

# The Messenger

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

**30<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**The Holy Family Yr C (Psalter Wk. 1)**

**9.00am Mass at St Bernards**

**11.00am Mass at St Michaels**

*6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst*

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> No Service (Liturgy: Octave of Christmas)

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> **10.00am SM Mass for New Year's Day**  
(Liturgy: Solemnity, Mary, Mother of God)

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> *10.00am Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst*  
(Liturgy: Memorial, Ss Basil & Gregory)

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> *10.00am Mass at Our Lady's, Lyndhurst*  
(Liturgy: Christmastide before Epiphany)

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> No Service (Liturgy: Christmastide before Epiphany)

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 10.00am SM Mass then Adoration of Jesus  
in the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation  
until 11am. (Liturgy: Christmastide before Epiphany)

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany of the Lord**

**9.00am Mass at St Bernards**

**11.00am Mass at St Michaels**

*6.00pm Mass at St Anne's, Brockenhurst*

**Mass Intentions: For this week:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Phillip Egan, For our Readers & Ministers of Holy Communion, Tony & Irene O'Connell (Wedding Anniv), Win & John Cocker (Wedding Anniv), Pat Leigh (B'day), Judith Morrison (Intentions), Bet Cresswell RIP, Anna Marie Jensen RIP, Patricia Leaver RIP, Grace Netto RIP, Elizabeth Sinclair RIP

**For the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> Jan:** All members of the Parish, All those who are unwell, Holy Souls, Deceased Clergy of the Province, Bishop Phillip Egan, Tony & Simone Cluett (Wedding Anniv), Yvonne Mulvenney (B'day), Anna Marie Jensen RIP, Patricia Leaver RIP, Elizabeth Sinclair RIP, Anne Candri RIP Anniv, Nita Manghan RIP Anniv, Eileen Simpson RIP Anniv

## 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,  
6 Langdown Lawn, Hythe, Hants SO45 5GR  
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**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 9.00am, New Milton at 11.30am,  
Lymington at 10:30am, Brockenhurst at 6.00pm

## PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

to be read in all churches and chapels of the Diocese of Portsmouth  
on 30th December 2012, the Feast of the Holy Family

## JESUS CHRIST, THE PERFECT HUMAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this second Pastoral Letter, I want to discuss something that many people find very challenging and controversial. But let me first, on this feast of the Holy Family, wish you the continuing joys of Christmas. Since becoming your bishop a few weeks ago, I have been visiting our priests. I thank God for all the wonderful priests we have and for their inspiring love and service of Jesus and his Church. I thank God too for the many beautiful churches in our diocese and not least for you, the People of God, for your perseverance in faith and Christian discipleship in these difficult times. As we enter the New Year 2013, I urge you, in the words of today's Second Reading, often to "think of the love that the Father has lavished upon us by letting us be called God's children."

The context of this Pastoral Letter is two-fold. First, the Year of Faith, in which I want to explore the articles of the Creed. Today, let us consider the second article: "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God." Jesus Christ is Divine. He is God the Son. He is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, or to use that daringly non-Scriptural term, "consubstantial with the Father". This is an important doctrine to teach today. For many would acknowledge Jesus to be a great religious leader, a Prophet and teacher, a good and holy man. But in fact He is infinitely greater: He is God the Word. When Jesus speaks, it is God speaking. This changes everything. In this Year of Faith, it would be good to review our prayer and catechesis to ensure it reflects the fullness of this truth. We should also study afresh the Creed and its origins so we can understand better the Church's teaching and why Jesus Christ is the only Way to salvation.

The second context of this Letter is today's feast of the Holy Family, which presents us with the humanity of Christ: that he became incarnate "for us and for our salvation". Or to paraphrase St. Leo, "He came down from heaven that we might go up to heaven". In taking on human nature, Jesus also took on a human history and a human culture. He was brought up in Nazareth in the home of Mary and Joseph. Mary, His mother, taught him his prayers and the religious traditions of his people. Joseph, as a father, gave him a trade and initiated him into the society of the day. We recall all of this in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, which it would be good to recite every day during the Christmas season. You might also consider reading the new book by Pope Benedict: "Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives".

So the Creed affirms that Jesus Christ is truly divine, God from God; but it also states that He is the New Adam, the Perfect Human. To say this today is highly controversial. In the fourth century it was the doctrine about how Jesus could be divine yet human, today the hot-button issue is what it means to be human. Indeed, most of the big debates in our society revolve around two matters: sex and authority. What is the truth about human sexuality? And who can tell me how to live my life?

In 1968, at the height of the Sixties, Pope Paul VI wrote an Encyclical Letter that then and now many Catholics find difficult. He repeated the traditional teaching of the Church, based on the natural law and confirmed by revelation, that sexual intercourse is an integral act for love and for life, and that these two aspects of sexuality – love and life - cannot be divorced. Humanae Vitae was a prophetic document. Pope Paul spoke of catastrophic consequences for society and culture if these two ends of marriage were split. 45 years on, we can see what he meant in such things as the reduction of sex to a leisure activity, the trafficking of people for prostitution and pornography, broken family relationships, and the explosion of addictive behaviours leading to despair, shame and guilt.

As Catholics, we believe in the natural way of life. We believe that the purpose of sexual intercourse is to express the love between a man and a woman, a love which, within the permanent commitment of marriage, is open to being fruitful to life. This is the way to lasting happiness and fulfilment, even if to become chaste - that is, to develop a mature and fully integrated sexuality, as a single person or a married couple - involves a life-long struggle and "apprenticeship in self-mastery". To help us, Jesus calls us to be his disciples, and offers us the healing balm and the strength we need, above all in confession and Holy Communion.

Jesus Christ is the way to personal happiness and authentic humanism. Sadly, the teaching of Humanae Vitae about sexual morality and family values has become something of an 'elephant in the room' that no-one seems to mention. In this Year of Faith then, I would like to invite everyone to discover again the Church's wonderful vision of love and life, as expounded in the Catechism. I would also like to ask all families, whatever their form or circumstances, to think about developing a deeper and richer Catholic ethos in the home, so as to give a clearer witness to contemporary culture. For instance, why not spend an evening together as a family, occasionally switch off the computer, make the Sign of the Cross on entering the house, adopt a communal work of justice and charity, or keep special the fast-days and feast-days? I am sure you will think of many other ways of preserving our Catholic distinctiveness.

In this Mass of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, let us thank God for our own families, and pray for them. Let us pray for those who struggle to live a chaste life in imitation of Christ. Let us pray for families who are struggling or who have suffered tragedy and pain. And let us pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our land. Like Mary and Joseph who found Jesus in the Temple, may the people of England find their way to salvation and happiness in Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, ever present and active in his Church. Indeed, in this Year of Faith, may the Spirit lead us all to the living waters that stream from the Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us. **In Corde Iesu, + Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth**

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep in your prayers: David Bazley, Janice Bird, Nigel Bolton, Amanda Bowden, Russell Bowlds, Philomena Breen, Helga Butler, Marion Butler, Vicky Carter, Petra Daniels, Derek Faiers, Mervyn Francis, Terry Francis, Amanda Gudge, Sarah Hedges, Sally Herbert, Doreen Holman, Serena Hoskyns, George Hutcheson, John & Lena Keane, Betty Marek, Judith Morrison, Tony O'Connell, Norma Rudd, Lilly Ricketts, Ronald Stevens. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

**ACCESS TO THE CHURCHES FOR PRAYER:** If you want to go to the church at any time to pray before the Blessed Sacrament access is available via the code lock. If you do not know the code lock please ask Fr David in person.

**OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY:** begins on Friday, 18th January ending on Friday, 25th January.

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17th January at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 24th January at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at St Michael's.

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

**GRACE NETTO RIP:** Grace's Requiem Mass is taking place in Middlesex and the burial of her body will take place at Blackfield cemetery on Friday, 4th January at about 1.30pm.

**PATRICIA LEAVER RIP:** Patricia's body will be received into St Michael's Church on Monday, 7th January at 4.30pm. The Requiem Mass will take place in St Michael's on Tuesday, 8th January at 10.30am. The Committal will take place at Wessex Vale Crematorium.

**ANNA MARIE JENSEN RIP:** Anna's Funeral Service will take place at Southampton Crematorium, West Chapel, on Friday, 11th January, at 11.30am.

**ELIZABETH SINCLAIR RIP:** Elizabeth's Requiem Mass will take place at St Michael's Church on Wednesday, 16th January at 1.00pm. The Committal will take place at Southampton Crematorium, West Chapel, at 3.15pm.

We extend our condolences to all the bereaved families and we pray for those who have died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen

**PASTORAL TEACHINGS & COMMUNICATIONS FROM BISHOP PHILIP:** There are copies at the back of the churches of pastoral teachings given by Bishop Philip on "The Care of the Dying" & the "Liverpool Pathway". If further copies are required they can be found on the Diocesan website [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or you can ask Fr David.

**A BIG THANK YOU FROM FR. DAVID:** for your prayers, kind wishes, cards and gifts and for the very generous Christmas offering this year.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Parents, please contact Fr David if your child is in Year 3 at primary school and will be 8 yrs old in 2013 and you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion. At the moment we are only able to offer support for a home & parent centred programme of preparation.

**CHURCH CLEANING AT ST BERNARD'S:** At the moment two generous ladies, Veronica & Mary (one of whom worships at St Michael's) keep the church at St Bernard's clean. They would greatly appreciate some help. If anyone feels they can offer some help please see Fr David.

**WHITE FLOWER APPEAL:** On Sunday, 13th January there will be a voluntary appeal for S.P.U.C. The Society for the protection of the Unborn Child.

**THANKS FOR GENEROUS DONATION:** A parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous has donated £300 towards the cost of a new electric cooker for the family in the parish that needed one. Our thanks and our prayers are offered for all concerned.

**Come Follow Me – A Group for Discerning Young Catholics** – this discernment group is aimed at young men and women aged 16-30, who are looking to deepen their relationship with Christ and who are asking themselves how best to follow Him in the future. For some this might mean marriage and for others the priesthood or religious life. The meetings are usually on the 2nd Friday of each month, **and the next will take place on Friday 11th January 2013 at St. Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke RG22 6TY.** It will begin with Mass at 7:30pm and be followed by a meal in the presbytery and an informal presentation on discerning our vocation, followed by a chance to chat and finishing at 9:30pm. It would be useful to have an idea of numbers for catering purposes (please let us know of any dietary requirements) **so if you are able to come, please email [vocasst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocasst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).** Any under 18s will also require a parental consent form which can be obtained from the same email address.

**ANNUAL WATERSIDE CHURCHES TOGETHER WORSHIP** at St. Andrews, Dibden Purlieu on **Sunday 20th January at 6.30pm.** Jan Hyter, local ecumenical co-ordinator says: *Please urge as many of your fellowship to attend as possible. In these times, Christians must stand united in fellowship and prayer. We are so blessed that there are ecumenical projects on the Waterside. These and other things need our prayers. Please do come!*

**YEAR OF FAITH: "EXPLORE YOUR FAITH DAYS"** at St Joseph's Chapel, Geo House, Lyndhurst Rd, Ashurst: All Saturdays, 10.00am to 4pm. Starts with Mass, bring your own packed lunch, tea & coffee provided. Donations welcome to cover the cost of the day. January 5th - Emily Duffy (formerly Emily Davies); February 2nd - David Matthews; March 2nd - Geoff & Gina Poulter; April 6th - Fiona Castle, (& more afterwards!)

**WHAT IS THE STREET PASTOR INITIATIVE?:** Street Pastors is an inter-denominational Church response to urban problems, engaging with people on the streets to care, listen and dialogue.

It was pioneered in London in January 2003 by Rev Les Isaac, Director of the Ascension Trust, and has seen some remarkable results, including drops in crime in areas where teams have been working. There are now some 9000 trained volunteers in around 250 teams around the United Kingdom.

Each city project is set up by Ascension Trust and run by a local coordinator with support from Ascension Trust and local churches and community groups, in partnership with Police, Council and other statutory agencies.

## WATERSIDE STREET PASTORS SCHEME

**NOW OPERATIONAL:** More than 20 street pastors aged from 18 to over 60 will mingle with people leaving pubs in the Hythe, Dibden and Marchwood area every Friday. The Waterside Street Pastors will work in teams of four and talk to people to offer their help & support to vulnerable people, especially teenagers, for example trying to ensure they can get home safely. The chairman of Waterside street pastors Brian Hill said: "We are just ordinary men and women who want to help."

Anyone interested in helping with this scheme should contact Karen McGill for further information ([karenmcgill16@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:karenmcgill16@hotmail.co.uk))

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