

BECOMING WHAT WE ALREADY ARE

There is a disturbing truth about holiness. It is not that holiness is very difficult, or that it requires heroic self-sacrifice or that you have to be born in the right place, at the right time and with the right background.

The disturbing truth is almost the opposite of the above. Holiness is very simple. It requires nothing more than the acceptance of a child. The giving of it, far from being hedged around with awkward conditions, is totally unconditional, indiscriminate, lavish and undeserved. What is more disturbing is that it is already here, already fully given. Every grace, every virtue, every blessing, every healing, every joy that we could even dare to imagine, even the impossible things, all these have already be given to us in Jesus Christ. And Christ is not far away from us but actually our true and deepest identity. In other words everything we could aspire to is already within us and already is us. It is the *treasure hidden in the field* for which we let go all else because it just cannot compare to it.

Why do I say this is disturbing? It is because something so wonderful, good news so great is so close to us and yet we are, most of the time, blind to it and unaware of it. John tells us: *We are already the children of God.* Our task is to become what we already are. This is not difficult. God does all the hard work we have only to let ourselves be carried there back to our true selves which is Christ.

This spiritual journey is along the way of the cross, the way of contradictions and paradoxes. It is the way of dying to the false self in order to rise and live in the true self. It is about falling and rising, losing and finding. The journey embraces reality in all its dimensions. It is a journey inward to discover the God self within, the Christ within. It is also a journey outward to engage with the world and with others, because everything is encompassed by the mystery of God. Paul writes: *Christ is in everything, Christ is everything.* This is the true reality.

Even though Paul at one time murdered and persecuted the early Christians he was given to see that deep within he had a spiritual self which delighted in God's will. Mother Julian of Norwich, the 14th century English mystic wrote: *there is in every soul ...a godly will that never has assented to sin and never will.* This is Christ within us, God's being shared with us.

The task of holiness is to receive this precious gift and live in its power and light. God looks on us with tremendous love and tenderness, it is a love graciously given, undeserved, unmerited which flows over us whether we are good or wicked. Prayer opens the door and enables us to look back at God and receive that love. Just one glimpse of that love will change our lives forever, sin will begin to lose its power over us and freedom and joy will grow. DMA

The Messenger

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

31st October 2010

All Saints - Divine Office: Wk 3

Sun	31 st	9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass;
Mon	1 st	No Service (Liturgy: <i>Of the Day</i>)
Tues	2 nd	No Service (Liturgy: <i>All Souls - transferred to Remembrance Sunday, 14th November</i>)
Wed	3 rd	7.30pm SM Evening Prayer & Mass (Liturgy: <i>Of the Day, or optl Memorials: St Martin de Porres, 1579-1639, religious laybrother; St Winefride, 7th cent.; Bl. John Body, Martyr, 1549-1580</i>)
Thurs	4 th	10.00am LT Mass (Liturgy: <i>Memorial - St Charles Borromeo, Bishop, Cardinal, 1538-84</i>)
Fri	5 th	No Service (Liturgy: <i>Of the Day</i>)
Sat	6 th	10.00am SM Mass followed by Reconciliation until 11.30am (Liturgy: <i>Of the Day, or Our Lady on Saturday</i>)
Sun	7 th	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9am SB Mass; 11am SM Mass

LAST MASS COUNT THIS SUNDAY

Collection for Bamenda - Sunday, 7th November

Mass Intentions: For this week: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Ray Critchell, Peter Gray, Joyce Grimes, Louisa Tempest, Seamus Brannigan RIP Anniv, Dot Manghan RIP Anniv, Peter Mulvenney RIP Anniv., deceased of the Brown & Mulvenney families

For the week beginning 7th Nov: People of the Parish, Parishioners who are unwell, Florence (Trixie) Eileen Johnson RIP Anniv, Eric Parker RIP Anniv,

New Forest East Pastoral Area - Sunday Mass Times

St Theresa, Totton - Sat Vigil Mass 6pm; Sun 10.30am
Ashurst Community - Sun 9am
Our Lady & St Edward, Lyndhurst - Sun 9am

WATERSIDE CATHOLIC PARISH

Pastoral Team:
Rev David Adams (Parish Priest)
Rev Steve Bowler (Deacon) (023 8020 7449)
Rev Ian Tobin (Deacon) (023 8089 7354)
Kevin Barnett (Chair: Parish Pastoral Council)

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



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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep in your prayers: Nigel Bolton, Marion Butler, Anne Candrl, Petra Daniels, Pat Gallanagh, Joyce Grimes, Amanda Gudge, Trevor Handol, Norman Haskell, Cath Heron, Bridget Reeves, May Sycamore, Betty Williams, Anne Wyatt. (If you wish someone to be included for prayers here please give their name to Fr David.)

COLLECTION FOR THE MISSIONS:

Last week's collection raised £208 for the Missions. Thank you all for your generosity.

11am MASS AT ST MICHAELS TODAY: Fr Peter Wilkie will be celebrating the Mass. I'm sure you will give the usual warm welcome. Fr David is visiting the new retreat centre for Action-Contemplation UK in Wales & needs to get an early start! Please note there will be no service on Tuesday 2nd Nov.

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER: at St Bernard's & St Michael's, we will be remembering all our friends and relatives who have died. Please write the names of your loved ones on the label provided and put it in the basket. The basket of names will be taken up in the offertory procession during Mass at each of the Sunday's in November. You may add new names each week if you wish.

ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 14th NOVEMBER- we shall not only be remembering those who have died or were injured in conflicts around the world, we shall also commemorate all our departed. We will use the Scripture readings for the All Souls Mass (Isaiah 25: 6-9; Ps26; Romans 5: 5-11; Luke 7:11-17).

At St Michaels at 11am parishioners will also be joined by bereaved families whose loved ones had their funerals at St Bernard's or St Michael's over the last two years. We shall be reserving seats for the families as they will be coming forward during the service to lay a candle in front of the altar in memory of their loved one. Also the 6 New Forest East Scout Group will be joining us. They recently did great work cutting down the weeds behind St Michaels.

ADVANCE NOTICES: *Facing Christmas* will be at St Bernard's on the 10th December at 7.30pm at St Bernard's. This is a candlelit service for all those who find Christmas difficult for whatever reason, or for those who just wish to have some peace and quiet before the festivities. It is not just for those who have been bereaved.

On Saturday, 7th May 2011 there will be a Mass of the Risen Lord for the deceased loved ones of the parishioners of Waterside Catholic Parish.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Any parent who considers that their child is ready to prepare for their 1st Holy Communion should contact Fr David. Once it is known how many children will be involved we can decide the best way forward.

CONFIRMATION: The parish is inviting young people, usually from the age of 14yrs upwards, to confirm their faith in God's love for them and to make a personal response to God's call. Anyone who wishes to go forward to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation should contact Fr David after first receiving their parents consent.

ALLOTMENTS: The area behind St Michaels church needs looking after. Is there anyone who might like to turn it, or part of it, into an allotment? Please contact Fr David.



CAFOD GROUP MEETING: The next of our parish group will take place on this Monday, 1st November at 7.30pm at 46 Kings Ride, Langley (02380-898213). There is also meeting with Julian Lewis MP on Climate Chaos arranged for 5th November.

CAFOD MEMORIAL MASS - The CAFOD Portsmouth Office will be holding a Memorial Mass at Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, RG7 5TQ, on Sunday 7 November at 3pm, to remember and hold in prayer all deceased CAFOD supporters from our diocese and to celebrate their lives, faith and compassion. Everybody is welcome to attend. If you would like to remember a loved one (even if you cannot attend the Mass), please send their names to portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or phone the CAFOD office on 01252 329385 by Oct 29th and they will be included in our Book of Remembrance.

VACANCY FOR PARENT FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Lymington Bishop Crispian, who has absolute discretion in the appointment of Foundation Governors, is seeking applications from committed baptised Catholics who wish to be considered.

Those seeking to become a Parent Foundation Governor will have a child/children currently registered at the school.

The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all staff. In addition to the legal responsibilities of the Governing Body, the Foundation Governors have a responsibility for preserving the religious character of the school, sustaining and developing the school as a Catholic educating community in accordance with Canon (Church) law and the teaching of the Catholic Church and giving clear witness, as individuals, and as a team, to the Gospel message and to the Church's teaching.

Appropriate training is available during the period of service. Lack of experience in education in a Catholic school should not deter anyone from applying if there is a genuine desire to serve the mission of the Church.

Application packs are available from the Parish Priest, the School Office or the Department for Schools Governance, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, PO17 5HA. Tel: 01329 835363 schools@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications: 8th November 2010

CHRISTMAS FAYRE & RAFFLE: Please take raffle tickets this weekend if you haven't yet done so & do your best to sell them. Any bottles (non-perishable) gratefully received for the Bottle Stall & Raffle prizes gratefully received also.

WORK AT ST BERNARDS: On Monday, 1st Nov The contractors will be making a start preparing the foundations for one bungalow on the grass area. The work will take about 3 weeks. This will reduce parking space considerably for the time being, so please be patient.