

Refreshments are available after 9am Sunday Mass in the St Bernard's hall. Thank you to the volunteers who facilitate this.



Office and Presbytery Tel. No: 02380 891866

Email: office@watersideparish.org.uk

www.nfwp.org.uk

Waterside Parish NEWSLETTER

Sunday 4th June 2023: HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday Masses: 9am at St Bernard's and 11am at St Michael's

Weekday Masses: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 9am at St Michael's

Wednesday – 9am at St Bernard's followed by Adoration and Grandparents' Group

Confessions: Saturday after 9am Mass (St Michael's) "Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." Pope John Paul II

We keep our First Holy Communion candidates in our prayers as they prepare to receive the second Sacrament of Initiation on the feast of Corpus Christi, 11th June: **Daniel, Daniel, Eryk, Jaspar, Santiago, Sofia and Vivienne.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT NEXT SUNDAY, 11th JUNE, WE WILL HAVE ONE PARISH MASS AT ST BERNARD'S CHURCH AT 10AM.

Please bring small plates of party food to share after the First Communion Mass; the parents of the First Communicants will provide for the children, but would appreciate some help in catering for parishioners and visitors staying after Mass to celebrate with them.

We invoke the intercession of Blessed Imelda Lambertini, patroness of Holy Communicants, as they prepare for this special day.

It will be lovely to have two new members of the Icons of Mary group, which meets on the third Saturday of each month. This is our parish group for girls who have made their first Holy Communion, providing fellowship within our community to continue their faith development once Holy Communion classes are completed.

Along with Pope Francis, Bishop Philip urges us to pray the Rosary daily – "The Rosary, which developed in the High Middle Ages period, is a wonderful prayer to say, praying to Our Lord for protection from all danger, sickness and evil." Here is a link to some information provided in eNews to support anyone new to the Rosary:

[The Rosary – FREE Download!](#)
(mailchi.mp)

Fr Marinko Sakota, OFM, wrote an article in the recent edition of The Children of Medjugorje publication in which he says:

'People seem to be turning a blind eye to the wrong direction we as humanity have gone. Admittedly, many are becoming more and more aware that we have to make a big turn in our relationship with nature... However, the first and most important turn we must make is not about our relationship with nature, but our relationship with God. We have moved away from God – this is the cause of all our serious problems. Moving away from God causes the loss of personal peace, peace between people and an unacceptable relationship with nature. That is why the most important call of Our Lady, both in Fatima and in Medjugorje, is: "Convert!"'

We keep in our prayers the sick and housebound members of the parish:

John Allen and Pauline Moore

Please note that a GDPR issue has been drawn to our attention. We must now have express permission from the sick person to name him or her in this section of the parish newsletter. If we don't have a signed Parish Registration Form, it will be very difficult to include the sick in this section of the newsletter.

We pray for the dear departed of the parish and for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

4th: Kathleen Holt (1984)

5th: Dilys Newell (1994)

6th: Myra Coffey (2001)

7th: Elizabeth Barnacle (1988)

8th: John Alcock (1965)

9th: Guiseppe Martinez (1996)

3rd: Timothy O'Brien (1978) Ethel Judge (1980) Edith Jackson (1986) Theresa Chainey (2016)

Pious tradition holds that Jesus promised St. Gertrude that a thousand souls would be released from purgatory each time the following prayer is said devoutly: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

Scott Hahn's reflections on today's readings:

'We often begin Mass with the prayer from today's Epistle: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." We praise the God who has revealed Himself as a Trinity, a communion of persons.

Communion with the Trinity is the goal of our worship—and the purpose of the salvation history that begins in the Bible and continues in the Eucharist and sacraments of the Church.

We see the beginnings of God's self-revelation in today's First Reading, as He passes before Moses and cries out His holy name.

Israel had sinned in worshipping the golden calf (see Exodus 32). But God does not condemn them to perish. Instead He proclaims His mercy and faithfulness to His covenant.

God loved Israel as His firstborn son among the nations (see Exodus 4:22). Through Israel—heirs of His covenant with Abraham—God planned to reveal Himself as the Father of all nations (see Genesis 22:18).

The memory of God's covenant testing of Abraham—and Abraham's faithful obedience—lies behind today's Gospel.

In commanding Abraham to offer his only beloved son (see Genesis 22:2, 12, 16), God was preparing us for the fullest possible revelation of His love for the world.

As Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, God did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all (see Romans 8:32).

In this, He revealed what was only disclosed partially to Moses—that His kindness continues for a thousand generations, that He forgives our sin and takes us back as His very own people (see Deuteronomy 4:20; 9:29).

Jesus humbled Himself to die in obedience to God's will. And for this, the Spirit of God raised Him from the dead (see Romans 8:11), and gave Him a name above every name (see Philippians 2:8–10).

This is the name we glorify in today's Responsorial: the name of our Lord, the God who is Love (see 1 John 4, 8, 16).'

Collections 28th May 2023:

St Michael's £116.30

St Bernard's £64.61

Envelopes £124.50

On 31st May Pope Francis said:

"Today, the Church celebrates the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, who proclaims her blessed because she believed the word of the Lord (Lk 1:45). Let us look to Mary, and implore from her the gift of an ever more courageous faith."
@Pontifex

100 Club

The next draw for the 100 club will be next today, after the 9.00am Mass at St Bernard's church.

Cornerstone Hythe URC Women's Guild invites the Women's Fellowship of the Waterside Catholic Parish to their Anniversary Service on Thursday 8th June 2023 at 2.30pm. The service will be followed by tea in the hall.

Some thoughts on the Sacrament of Reconciliation

As we celebrate the solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity a week after Pentecost, it seems fitting to contemplate one of the greatest gifts handed on by Jesus to his Apostles and, subsequently, to Catholic priests.

“God has bound himself to his sacraments... At the same time, God is not bound by his sacraments. Can Jesus forgive outside of confession? Yes... At the same time, that is extraordinary..... That is saying to God, I know what you want, you established the sacrament of Reconciliation for me to receive your mercy, your reconciliation and restoration, but I don't want that, I want the extraordinary way!”

“Jesus in His work, God revealing Himself to the world, has revealed not only justice, has revealed mercy as a good thing and as a possibility... Then Jesus makes it a reality... How does He do this? As God He could have said I declare this whole world saved...But in many ways that wouldn't be just, because justice is still real... He takes on Himself and He bears the weight of the consequences of all the sins of the world. Of MY sins.... Then he goes on to say in John Chapter 20: ‘As the Father sent me so now I send you’ and he breathed on the Apostles and said ‘receive the Holy Spirit. Those whose sins you forgive, are forgiven them. Those sins you hold bound are held bound. The very first day of the Resurrection the Apostles received this ability to reconcile people to the Father... Jesus made it in that moment absolutely clear that these Apostles are now the new priests. In the Old Covenant the ministry of reconciliation was through the Old Testament priesthood.

‘Jesus has given us this great sacrament to use. So why do I have to go to confession? A. Mercy is a good thing because of Jesus. It's a possibility because of Jesus and it's a reality because of Jesus. He could forgive us outside of confession if He wants, but the way He's asked us to be reconciled, the way he's asked us to receive his forgiveness, the way he's asked us to be restored is through confession. This is not meant to be a burden, it's a gift of God's love. The love that we deserve the least and need the most. It comes to us in confession.”

This is a summary of the key points in a 10 minute presentation: “Do I need to go to confession?” Fr Mike Schmitz & Ascension Press

Have you explored the Diocese's new project, “The Liturgy Project”? It is very user friendly and informative, a link to the section on today's solemnity is: [Next Sunday \(theliturgyproject.com\)](http://theliturgyproject.com)

There are sections headed: Commentary, The Word, Liturgy Notes and Music.

To give anyone who has yet to visit the site an indication of content, Fr Anthony Fyk begins his Commentary thus: *“Preaching on the Most Holy Trinity is a daunting task. A mystery that human minds will never be able to comprehend. Human analogies have been used throughout the centuries, and although they may help us a little bit, they will never do justice.”*

He concludes: *“We are now in this liturgical period of Ordinary Time where we make use of the colour green. Green is a colour of hope and of renewal. May this period for us be a time of a deepening presence of the Holy Trinity in our lives. As St Elizabeth remarked, “Let us lose ourselves in this Holy Trinity, in this God Who is all love and let Him carry us away into those regions where there is no longer anyone but Himself, Himself alone.”*

MASS READINGS FOR THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

First Reading: Exodus 34:4-6,8-9

With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there.

He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'

Responsorial Psalm: To you glory and praise for evermore

[Each verse is only one line, so the response forms every alternate line. The full text is set out below]

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. **R/ To you glory and praise for evermore**

Blest your glorious holy name. **R/ To you glory and praise for evermore**

You are blest in the temple of your glory. **R/ To you glory and praise for evermore**

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. **R/ To you glory and praise for evermore**

You are blest who gaze into the depths. **R/ To you glory and praise for evermore**

You are blest in the firmament of heaven. **R/ To you glory and praise for evermore**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia

Gospel: John 3:16-18

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'