

Music At Mass



In September 2009 when our organist retired, I found myself, a relative newcomer to the Parish (2years), coming out of retirement for the second time. This coincided with the arrival of our new Parish Priest, Father Gerry. I've been involved with music in the Liturgy for some 40 years in various parishes and dioceses.

So I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify my aims and share them with the wonderful people I'm coming to know in the parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace.

There are a number of things I have learnt over the years, and the first is to take it slowly – not too much new music at once, and plenty of time to let it settle before the next new venture. There's always a danger that through excessive zeal, or worse, self-importance, the organist will try to impose his or her taste on a captive congregation. Hence it's important to listen to feedback, both negative and (hopefully) positive, and aim to steer a course acceptable to most.

When choosing hymns it's important that wherever possible they should reflect the character of the readings of the day and the Church Seasons. This may sometimes be difficult in the case of a limited repertoire. There are over 1000 hymns at our disposal, yet we use a very small number on a regular basis. Fear not – I do not aim to learn all of them! So there is a case for learning new hymns to suit specific occasions. Also, with a wide age variation, I feel it's important that we include some of the music the children sing at school, as well as making sure the children learn the best of our traditional hymns.

I think it's also a good thing to involve as many people as possible so that Music at Mass becomes a team event rather than just one person's efforts. Where there are singers or performers let us use their God-given talents so that as a team, we can share what we have been given, and hope that in so doing our music will evolve into an activity through which the whole congregation can give glory to God – after all it was He who gave us our voices, whatever they are like! Let's offer them back to him in our singing.

Finally, my main aim at all times is to give my best to the Lord, helping the whole congregation to rejoice together with the priest, by sharing in the joyous celebration of the Eucharist.

Mary Rickard

Christians In The Holy Land

The Bishops' Conference has just set up a "Friends of the Holy Land" organisation, details of which can be found by keying this into Google etc. It is intended to encourage the setting up of groups in parishes throughout the country to take an interest in our fellow Christians in Israel and Palestine.

There are also websites –
www.h4hl.org & www.openbethlehem.org

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land are available. Pax Christi website will keep you up to date with these, or contact David Marchesi on 01202 420042.

Hospital Chaplains



Fr Ron Hishon
Royal Bournemouth
Hospital Chaplain
t: 01202 513380
m: 07963 617031



Fr John Lee
Christchurch Hospital Chaplain
t: 01202 483340

Salisbury Hospital - Chaplain 01722 336262

Your Pastoral Area Newsletter

The Link will be issued quarterly, but will not be successful unless we have input from parishioners from across the Pastoral Area. Do please let your parish secretary have details of anything of interest within your parish, including information about:

- Social events
- Fundraising activities
- Celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Charitable activities

If you have a problem that you feel may be solved by sharing it with someone else in the Pastoral Area then please feel free to use The Link to establish appropriate contacts.

Mass Times

Immaculate Conception & St Joseph	Our Lady of Sorrows & St Phillip Benizi	St Thomas More	Holy Redeemer	Sacred Heart & St Therese	Our Lady Queen of Peace & Blessed Margaret Pole
Sat: 6.30pm Sun: 9am & 10.45am	Sat: 6pm Sun: 9am	Sat: 6pm Sun: 9.30	Sun: 8am & 10am	Sun: 11am	Sun: 8am; 11am & 6pm
67 Purewell Christchurch Dorset BH23 1EH	15 Salisbury Road Fordingbridge Hants SP6 1EG	42 Exton Road lford, Bournemouth Dorset BH6 5QG	15 Kilmington Way Highcliffe Dorset BH23 5BL	1 The Close Ringwood Hants BH24 1LA	18 Douglas Road Southbourne, Bournemouth Dorset BH6 3ER
t: 01202 483340	t: 01425 653131	t: 01202 471385	t: 01425 274838	t: 01425 477784	t: 01202 424960