

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH in NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT

Our Parish live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton>

Website: www.nfwp.org.uk

Church opening hours 7am to 7pm.



5th Sunday of Lent

Year A

April 2nd 2017

THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISM MASS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Tuesday 11th April will see the Priests, Deacons members of the consecrated life and the lay faithful and representatives of the entire diocesan community, gather around their Bishop in the Cathedral in Portsmouth the celebration of the Chrism Mass. The Chrism Mass is held during Holy Week in every Catholic diocese, or for pastoral reason on a date nearer to it. The Chrism Mass is a beautiful celebration, a significant and powerful moment of togetherness before the joyful celebration of Easter. It says something special about our unity as Catholics and affirm our bonds as a "fraternity" of priests. It's a simple activity, but at the same time a profound symbol. We gather, we pray, and we go out to bring the healing and strengthening presence of the Lord to His people. During this mass, the Holy Oils for use in the coming year are blessed. These are:

- Oil of the Sick
- Oil of Catechumens
- Sacred Chrism

Whenever the Holy Oils are used in a diocese, the ministry of the Bishop who consecrated them is symbolically present.

Renewal of Vows and Promises symbolizing unity

The Chrism mass is also a key moment in which the unity of the Bishop with his priests is manifested and renewed. During the liturgy, the entire assembly is called to renew its baptismal promises; deacons and priests also renew their vow of obedience to the local Bishop and their commitment to serve God's people. This Mass reminds us of our oneness in Christ through Baptism and its holy anointing, made possible by the ministry of the Bishop and his priests. At the end of the Chrism Mass, the Holy Oils are brought back to parishes of the diocese for use in the coming year. The remaining oils not used by the end of the year (next Chrism Mass) are burnt since they cannot be used again.

I. Oil and Anointing: Ancient Greece and Rome

- ✓ Oil was used by ancient Greek and Roman athletes to limber up muscles; it was believed to bring strength and protection.
- ✓ Oil was also used for its healing properties, and poured on head as sign of belonging (for example, in the initiation of Roman soldiers).

b. Oil and Anointing: Old Testament

- ✓ used to consecrate altars, sacred places, and sacred vessels
- ✓ used in anointing priests
- ✓ prophets were also considered anointed by God's Spirit to speak powerfully, and with authority, in God's name.
- ✓ kings were anointed (by prophets) to rule God's people
- ✓ anointing also a sign of God's strength, favour, joy of being God's servant (See Ps. 45, 8: "God your God has anointed you with the oil of gladness...")
- ✓ an important ingredient in preparing food that kept people alive
- ✓ used to add beauty to face; poured over the head of guests as sign of welcome

II. Oil and Anointing: The Messiah: God's Anointed One

The biblical word for one who was anointed was *messiah*. Translated into Greek, the language of the New Testament, it becomes *Christos*, or **Christ**.

a. Jesus: God's Anointed One:

When we call Jesus our *Messiah*, we are saying that he was *anointed by God* to announce God's word –the *Good News* of salvation- to God's people. In Luke, Jesus says: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor..." (Lk 4, 18ff)

b. Oil and Anointing: Christians as Anointed Ones:

Baptism makes us *Christians*, that is, *anointed ones* who share in the life of the crucified and risen Jesus, God's *anointed one*. Immediately before being baptized with water, we are anointed with the *Oil of Catechumens*, which strengthens and purifies us. After baptism, with water, we are anointed with the *Oil of Chrism*, which consecrates us as members of Christ's body who share in Jesus' anointing as *priest, prophet and king*. This anointing with Chrism gives us the Holy Spirit's strength to live out our baptism. Anointing with Chrism at Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism, and seals us with the fullness of the Holy Spirit's gifts.

III. Three Holy Oils:

This quote from the Catechism of the Catholic Church gives a good summary of the importance of the three holy oils: Anointing with oil has all these meanings in the sacramental life. The pre-baptismal anointing with the oil of catechumens signifies cleansing and strengthening; the anointing of the sick expresses healing and comfort. The post-baptismal anointing with sacred chrism in Confirmation and Ordination is the sign of consecration. By Confirmation Christians, that is, those who are anointed, share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit with which he is filled, so that their lives may give off 'The aroma of Christ.' [2 Cor 2, 15]) *Catechism of the Catholic Church* No. 1294.

a. Oil of the Sick

Used in Sacrament of the Sick to bring the strengthening and healing power of Christ, who is at work in the Church by the action of the Holy Spirit. St. James writes: "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders [priests] of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." (Jas 5:14-15)

b. Oil of Catechumens

The Oil of Catechumens is used at Baptism, to strengthen (with wisdom and courage to live the Gospel) and purify candidates (from original sin) before baptizing with water.

c. Holy Chrism

Holy Chrism is a mixture of *olive oil* (a rich oil, symbol of richness of God's grace) and *balsam fragrance* (symbol of sweetness of Christian virtue). The Oil of Chrism is a sign of fullness of grace and spiritual strength; it *consecrates* and enables us to live out the call to follow Jesus the Christ (the *anointed one*) as baptized/confirmed/ordained Christians: "The holy chrism consecrated by the bishop is used to anoint the newly baptized, to seal the candidates for confirmation, and to anoint the hands of presbyters [priests] and the heads of bishops at their ordination, as well as in the rites of anointing pertaining to the dedication of churches and altars. The oil of the catechumens is used in the preparation of the catechumens for their baptism. The oil of the sick is used to bring comfort and support to the sick in their infirmity." (*Ceremonial of Bishops*, 274)

i). Use at Baptism:

Right after the actual baptism with water, the priest anoints the candidate on the crown of the head with Chrism saying: "God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of His body, sharing everlasting life. Amen."

ii). Use at Confirmation:

In the Sacrament of confirmation, the bishop anoints the forehead of the candidate with chrism saying, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

iii). Use in Holy Orders:

When a man is being ordained to the priesthood his hands are anointed with the oil of chrism; and when a priest is being consecrated a bishop his head is anointed by the consecrating bishop with chrism.

iv). Other Uses of Holy Chrism: Holy Chrism is also used in the dedication ceremony of a church. Here, the bishop anoints the altar, pouring holy chrism on the middle of the altar and on each of its four corners. It is recommended that the bishop anoint the entire altar. After anointing the altar, he anoints the walls of the Church in 12 or fourteen places marked by crosses. It is also used to anoint the new bell of church.

The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the entire Christian community:

- A community whose oneness comes from its union with the crucified and risen Jesus – God's *anointed one* – through Baptism,

- A community that shares in the riches and consolation of Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit through the sacramental ministry of its Bishop and priests,
- A community that gathers around its Bishop as one body made up of many parts, with Christ as its head.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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| The living Rosary group will hold on Monday 3 rd April at 5:45 p.m. |
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Pope outlines vision for next World Meeting for Families

In a letter written to Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Pope Francis outlining his vision for 9th World Meeting of Families, which will take place in Dublin in August 2018, has chosen the theme *“The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World.”*

Pope's intentions for April -Young People.

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

Pope Francis expresses his sympathy with the people of Britain.

Deeply saddened to learn of the loss of life and of the injuries caused by the attack in central London, His Holiness Pope Francis expresses his prayerful solidarity with all those affected by this tragedy. Commending those who have died to the loving mercy of Almighty God, His Holiness invokes divine strength and peace upon their grieving families, and he assures the nation of his prayers at this time.

Lenten lunches will be served in the Hall on Fridays during Lent Each lunch will consist of soup, roll and butter, cheese and a piece of fruit. Cost £3.50. Served from 12.00 – 1.30pm. Look forward to seeing you all there. **Robin Bantin.**

Don't forget! Stations of the Cross:

Tuesdays of Lent at 6:30 p.m. followed by Holy Mass at 7:00 p.m and Fridays of Lent at 9.30 am followed by Holy Mass at 10.00am. There will be No exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on these days

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| Date for your diary | Friday 7th April 7.30pm | Penitential Service |
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Our Indian Community are having a Retreat day on Wednesday 5th April and will be using the Hall all day.

Chrism Mass at Portsmouth Catholic Cathedral. Tuesday 11th April. There are some spaces on the coach now as Catherine d'Espagnac has managed to procure a bigger one. Please contact her with payment of £5 for the round trip

EASTER SERVICES

13th April Holy Thursday

8pm Mass of the Last Supper after which the Blessed sacrament is reserved on the altar of Our Lady for Adoration until midnight. A list will go up for “watchers”

14th April Good Friday.

9.30 Morning prayers followed by
10.00 Stations of the Cross
3pm The Passion, with Holy Communion.

15th April Holy Saturday

9.30 Morning prayers.
8pm. Easter Vigil Mass

16th April Easter Sunday

Holy Mass 10.00

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| Sun Mar 2 nd April | Fifth Sunday of Lent | Sat Vigil Mass 6pm- Michael House 10.00 Holy Mass- Missa Pro Populo | Coffee in the Hall after Mass on Sundays |
| Mon 3 rd Apr | | No Mass | 12.45- 13.30 CD Commentary on The Mystery of Christ's Passion in Church Hall 5.45 Living Rosary Group Meeting |
| Tues 4 th Apr | | 18.30 Stations of the Cross 19.00 Holy Mass- Brigid Horan RIP | |
| Wed 5 th Apr | | 9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass- Derrick Hobbs RIP | Rosary intentions for the sick of the Parish. Retreat Day in the hall for the Indian Community. |
| Thur 6 th Apr | | 9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass-Ray and Jean Carlile RIP | Rosary intentions for peace in the world. Choir practice after Mass |
| Fri 7 th Apr | | 9.30 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass- Sister Maria Alonso intentions 5.30- 6.30 Indian Community Stations of the Cross | PALs meeting after Mass 10.30 Lenten lunches from 12-1.30pm in Hall 5pm Holy Communion Classes in the hall 6.30 Latin Mass |
| Sat 8 th Apr | | 9.30 Chaplet of Divine Mercy and veneration of relic of St Sister Faustina, 10.00 Holy Mass- Douglas Yon RIP Vigil Mass Palm Sunday 6pm- Mary Kallar RIP | . |
| Sun 9 th Apr | Palm Sunday | 10.00 Holy Mass- Edward and Rachel Hogarth in Thanksgiving 8th Wedding Anniversary | Coffee in hall after Mass |

Collections for 26th March Loose. £314.72 and gift aid (envelopes only) £237.00 Thank you very much for your continued support of the Church. Second Collection on March 25/26th for the Clergy Assistance Fund raised £228.89 **Please note that GOOD FRIDAY (obligatory) collection is for the Holy Places.**

For enquires about Baptisms and Weddings please contact the office for forms, and for funerals please discuss dates first with the funeral directors and meet the parish priest with a date.

Readers: 1/2nd April

Sat: C Barfoot B Coyne

Sun: S Ramsay M Tanner

EMHC

Sat: J Bryer Cd'Espagnac M Harwood

Sun: A Caneda M Tanner S Salinger

Sacrament of Reconciliation After Wednesday and Saturday morning Mass and before Sat Vigil Mass at 5.45pm and on request.

Parish Priest: Father George Ngwa:

email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Emergencies only: mobile 07475753040

Parish Office: Mrs Johanna Thomas:

lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Tel. 01425 614968;

OFFICE HOURS: Weds and Fri 10.45-12.00

Please leave any messages on answerphone or email.

Thank you.

Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster Tel. 01425 611643

Health and Safety: Lorenzo Bandonill

Hall Booking: via Parish Office

Lenten Spiritual Refreshment. Come along at least for one of the next few Mondays at 12.45 -13.45 cuppa soup and spiritual food-The Mystery of Jesus' Passion.**Listen** to a CD, which is a commentary by Frances Hogan on St Matthew's Passion 45 minutes. A course of 10 sessions in the Church Hall. All are enlightening. Johanna