

# 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](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)

Church opening hours 7am to 7pm.



**Palm Sunday**

**Year A**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> 2017**

## HOLY WEEK - THE MOST HOLY AND SACRED PERIOD

Today we walk into a very important period in preparation to celebrate Easter. This is the HOLY WEEK, the most important week in the Church Liturgical Calendar. It is a time when we as a Christian family celebrate in a special way the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We remember his actions, reflect on his messages, and recommit to living as his disciples in the world today. The final week of Lent, Holy Week, begins with Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and concludes with the Sacred Triduum. "**Triduum**" comes from two Latin words - *tres* and *dies* - that mean "a space of three days," But since we have four days with special names - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday - the "three" may be confusing to some. They are however, one liturgical celebration. The confusion is cleared up when we understand how the days are reckoned. On all high festival days the Church counts a day in the same way as Jews count days and festivals: that is, from sundown to sundown. Thus the Triduum consists of three twenty-four periods that stretch over four calendar days. Therefore, the Easter Triduum begins at sundown on **Holy Thursday** with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues with **Good Friday** and concludes with Easter evening prayer at sundown on Easter Sunday: its high point is the celebration of the **Easter Vigil**. During the Triduum we celebrate the core mystery of our Christian faith: we ritualize Jesus' transition from life to death to risen life, and our own participation in that timeless mystery.

If it is so easy this time of year to celebrate these days as a historical commemoration. But we are doing more than recalling historical facts. What Jesus did for us has consequences for all people at all times. His life, death, and resurrection happened to him, but they also happen to all of us as his followers. These days, then, are a reminder and celebration of who we ourselves are and what our own lives are about. As we celebrate the mystery of Jesus' passing, we actually celebrate the same passing over in our own lives. Jesus' self-sacrifice opened the way for us to share in new life. But this does require our own cooperation in God's divine plan of salvation. We must pass over our lives into God's hands and imitate the self-giving of God's Son. This is the way to life. "It is the Passover of the lord".

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Jesus was welcomed by the people with cheers and palms - a symbol of victory and sign that "all is well". Palm-bearing date trees were valued for their dignity, beauty and shade and were widely recognized symbol of peace and victory. It was used at special occasions to welcome heroes and royalty.

No greater love was shown us than Jesus' love for his Father and us, for he gave his life because of his faithfulness to that love. One of Jesus' closest disciples was Peter. Peter loved Jesus, but he didn't always understand what real love required. How very much like Peter we all are! Peter failed Jesus, but Jesus' love for Peter restored their relationship and empowered Peter to learn to love. That should give us all hope. As you listen to the Passion on this day, place yourself in the story. What does it feel like to be part of the crowd or to be a disciple? What does it feel like to be in Jesus' place during the passion? What would you do if you were Jesus' best friend?

Today we join the rest of the Catholic World to celebrate Palm Sunday. It is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was

crucified. On Palm Sunday, the faithful receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the re-enactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. Because the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as trash. Instead, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used in the following year's Ash Wednesday observance.

In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, palms and small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.

### **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**

The first reading describes the Passover meal. In the second reading, the institution of Eucharist is shared, "this is my Body, which is for you." In the Gospel, Jesus washes the feet of the disciples. This is the service and love of Jesus, which we are asked to share in our lives.

We are reminded on Holy Thursday that God always nourishes his people. Jesus fed his followers by multiplying loaves and fishes. Then he fed his apostles at the Last Supper as he not only instituted the Sacred Priesthood but also celebrated with them the First Eucharistic Banquet - the Eucharist. The good news is that God hasn't stopped nourishing us. We can feast on his Word and on the Eucharist. They are great sources of spiritual energy, great in times of need and excellent for our daily diet. Don't starve yourself, but feed daily on God's gifts. On Holy Thursday, we experience the washing of the feet: Put yourself in the place of the foot-washer: How do you feel washing the feet of others? Put yourself in the place of the disciples: How does it feel to have someone, who means so much to you, wash your feet? It is a day of a great Commandment made Manifest in Love and service

### **Good Friday of the Lord's Passion**

The first and second readings, from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Hebrews, describe the mystery of the cross - the Paschal Mystery - suffering turned into victory. The gospel is the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The word passion can also mean strong feelings of love. Jesus' passion is the time from the Last Supper to his death on the cross, during which he shows his great love for us. Jesus warned Peter that he would deny him. When that happened Jesus looked at him, probably with pity and certainly with love. God's love and mercy cannot save us from our own folly and its consequences: after all, Peter had to live with his denial of Jesus. That is why he wept.

The veneration of the cross is a time when a large cross is brought forward. We touch or kiss the cross to show our love and thankfulness for God's love.

If you stood at the cross on which Jesus hung, what would you say to him? How does it feel to touch or kiss the cross? What does this mean to you?

### **Easter vigil - Holy Saturday Night**

The blessing of the Easter fire begins this celebration. From that fire, the Paschal Candle is lit. After the readings, the liturgy of Baptism begins. While the new members of the community are baptized, the whole community joins in renewing our promises and as the whole community is sprinkled with water we, remember our baptism.

The Paschal candle symbolizes Jesus as light of the world. It is from this candle that baptism candles are lit throughout the year, that we celebrate the life of faith of the newly departed and that we celebrate the commitment of faith in the sacrament of Confirmation. It stands as a symbol of our faith and our desire to be light to the world as Jesus is for us. Jesus always speaks about hope. A hope that is not based on chances that things will get better or at least not any worse; His hope is built upon the promise that, whatever happens, God will stay with us at all times, in all places. God is the God of Life. ***How do you renewing your Baptismal Promises on this Holy Night as we celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection?***

**Fr George Ngwa**

**HELP Again.** Does anyone know of a good Piano Tuner? Please let the office or Johanna know. Can anyone help with sorting out the doorbells at the presbytery so father can hear if someone calls.  
**Easter Clean- Anyone wishing to help with cleaning for the Easter services please come after the Morning Service on Holy Saturday.**

There are Gift Aid boxes for Collection at the back of the church. Please take yours. There will be one for you even if you pay by direct debit or standing order as you need envelopes for the Second Collections. Thank you.

If anyone has requested to contribute regularly and has there is no box please let us know. If you would like to start please take a form from the back of the church. It is very helpful if you can be a regular contributor and pay through the bank as it gives the church a regular income as well as cutting down the work of those volunteers who count the collections.

**THE KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA say “Come walking with us!” on our 33rd Annual Sponsored Walk on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April. We will be walking five miles to raise money for Kabanana Care (Zambia) and Michael House (Housing the Homeless) Sponsor forms are at the Church entrance.**

**PLEASE WALK WITH US, OR SPONSOR A WALKER.** Tony Thorpe is our contact for your parish, and will be endeavouring to recruit walkers and obtain sponsors throughout April. Please support him and fill in his sponsor form. Thank you.

There is a letter of thanks for the parish from the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre which was the crib collection and also one from Missio. Please have a look on the Parish notice board by the Confessional.

Please take the newsletter home with you as it contains all the dates and services for Easter. Please note there is no morning Mass on Maundy Thursday and there are Morning prayers on Good Friday and Holy Saturday which is traditional and we have booklets for you to follow and join in with the prayers.

### **EASTER OFFERING TO YOUR PRIESTS.**

The Church is reminding us that wherever we happen to attend Holy Mass on Easter Sunday, we remember that the offerings for the day is to augment the Allowance for the Priest. I must admit that this has been of great help to most if not all the Priest especially at this time of the year as they try to meet up with the expenses for annual Holidays.

Since I came to the UK, I have been able with the help of many Parishioners and Friends, to send back to Cameroon 60 - 70 Cartons of text books to our Secondary Schools and Seminary, some assorted dresses to Children in orphanage, as well as £15,000 for the restoration of water drinking to St. Paul's Comprehensive College. All these thanks to the generosity of the people.

### **Readers over the coming week**

#### **Readers for Palm Sunday**

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> :**

The Passion. Narrator- **B Dempster**, Other -**B Coyne**, Crowd -everyone.

Scheduled readers **T Gearey** and **A Nash**

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup> :**

The Passion. Narrator- **Hugh Fawcett**, Other- **B Coyne**, Crowd -everyone

Scheduled readers **J Thomas** and **P Caffyn**

#### **Readers for Holy Week**

C d'Espagnac- scheduled reader for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

**Good Friday 3pm** – The Passion. Narrator- **B Coyne**, Other **C d'Espagnac** Crowd – everyone

#### **Easter Vigil 8pm**

First Reading- Gen 1:1-2:2 **C d'Espagnac** ( The choir sing Evening came etc.)

Third Reading- Ex 14:15-15:1 **P Thorpe**

Fifth Reading- Is 55:1-11 **B Coyne**

Seventh Reading-Ez 36:16-28 **B Dempster**

Scheduled reader for Epistle and Psalm- **P Thorpe**  
Prayers of the Faithful- **B Dempster**

**Please note** All Psalm responses will be sung but verses said so all readers please lead the congregation in the Psalm following your reading.

**Easter Sunday 10am Mass**  
**Hugh Fawcett and C Fradd**

Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Sat <b>Vigil Mass 6pm- Mary Kallar RIP</b>  <b>10.00 Holy Mass- Edward and Rachel Hogarth in Thanksgiving 8<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary</b>	Coffee in the Hall after Mass on Sundays
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Monday of Holy Week</b>	<b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> celebrated by Fr Halifax	12.45- 13.30 CD Commentary on The Mystery of Christ's Passion in Church Hall
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Tuesday of Holy Week	18.30 Stations of the Cross 19.00 <b>Holy Mass- Holy Souls</b>	<b>Parish coach trip to Portsmouth for Chrism Mass. Assemble in car park at 8.15am for 8.30 prompt departure</b>
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Wednesday of Holy Week	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 <b>Holy Mass- ( )</b>	Rosary intentions for the sick of the Parish.
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Maundy Thursday	<b>8pm Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper- ( )</b> followed by reservation of the Blessed sacrament and watching till midnight at Our Lady's altar.	Please put your name down to be a watcher. List at back of church
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Good Friday</b>	9.30 Office of Readings and Morning prayers 10.00 Stations of the Cross  <b>3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion</b>	<b>There is an ecumenical Walk of witness starting approx. 10.45 outside Bradbeers and goes up to the square for a short service and singing</b>  <b>Good Friday Collection for the Holy Places</b>
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Holy Saturday	9.30 Office of readings and Morning prayers <b>8pm Vigil Mass-Peggy Tolliday RIP</b>	.
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>10.00 Holy Mass- ( )</b>	Coffee in hall after Mass

**Please Note.**

- Fr Halifax who was with us a few years ago to supply for Fr Marcin is staying with Catherine and Louis and is saying Mass on Monday morning.
- There are a few Masses available this week at the time of this printing which you can have said for your intention. Please book through Johanna only so there is no confusion.

Collections for 2<sup>nd</sup> April Loose. £337.94 and gift aid (envelopes only) £293.50 Thank you very much for your continued support of the Church. Please note that GOOD FRIDAY (obligatory) collection is for the Holy Places.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation After Wednesday and Saturday morning Mass and before Sat Vigil Mass at 5.45pm and on request. ( after any Mass before Easter)**

Please see previous page for Mass readers.

**EMHC 8/9 April**

**Sat:** T Gearey, B Dempster K Dempster

**Sun:** M Tanner J Kurian J Thomas

**EMHC 15/16 April**

**Sat:** 8pm Vigil R or M Yon, F Fallon, B Petts

**Sun:** G Mambo, A Joseph, J Nichols

**Parish Priest: Father George Ngwa:**  
**email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).**  
**Emergencies only: mobile 07475753040**  
**Parish Office: Mrs Johanna Thomas:**  
**[lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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**