



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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

Website: www.nfwfp.org.uk Church opening hours 7am to 7pm.

2nd Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy Year A

23rd April 2017

THE JOY OF EASTER AND THE LOVE OF HIS DIVINE MERCY



“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter People and Alleluia is our Song.” St. John Paul II

The proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to Christian faith. It came first from the angel in the empty tomb, "He is not here he has risen" (Mathew 28: 6) and then, from the women who discovered the empty tomb: "I have seen the Lord" (Jn.20: 18) then came the authoritative proclamation of Simon Peter and of the other apostles who witnessed the Lord alive, "We have seen the Lord." (John 20:25). "My Lord and my God."(John 20:28)

Therefore from these testimonies, we can learn to live as Easter people. In particular since Lent is a time to give things up, Easter

ought to be a time to take things up. Since Calvary means putting to death things in your life that need killing off if you are to flourish as a Christian, then Easter should mean planting, watering, and having things in your life that ought to be blossoming, and in due time bear fruits.

There are Easter people in all of our parish communities whose faithfulness inspires us a great deal. They are the ones who trust the Spirit's presence, even in the midst of trouble. They are the ones who accept their own illnesses as opportunities to reveal God's love to others. They are the ones who quietly feed the hungry and share their own resources with faithful abandon, and shape the next generation so they will do the same. They are the ones whose hearts ache with grief as they approach the Eucharist, but surrenders their life to God with the "Amen" on their lips. "So be it, I believe Lord." They are also the ones who gather their families in the face of approaching death and remind them that they are an Easter people.

We are the Easter people who believe that the cross transformed all suffering and pain, and the Resurrection secured the promise of eternal life. It is this paschal mystery, this Easter faith, that we are called to live each day. We are therefore an Easter people! Henceforth we take upon ourselves the obligation to die to our sinful passions and to live as the children of light.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

As Easter People we see among all of the attributes we render God the Praise and Admiration of his Mercy. Today we celebrate this feast of Divine Mercy. Pope St. John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Sr. Faustina on 30 April 2000. In a decree dated 23 May 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that *"throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come."*

Concerning the Feast of Mercy Jesus said: "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (Diary 300) This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies. (Diary 420)". Explicitly Jesus told St. Faustina *"My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment"*. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary 699)

Jesus also wants us to meditate on the following extracts from the Diary of St. Faustina.

At the hour of death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the pardon is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son. (Meditation 811 Pg. 83 CTS Divine Mercy Prayer Book).

My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet. When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one.

Write this for the benefit of distressed souls; when a soul sees and realises the gravity of its sins, when the whole abyss of the misery into which it immersed itself is displayed before its eyes, let it not despair, but with trust let it throw itself into the arms of My mercy, as a child into the arms of its beloved mother. These souls have a right of priority to my compassionate Heart; they have first access to My mercy. Tell them that no soul that has called upon My mercy has been disappointed or brought to shame. I delight particularly in a soul which has placed its trust in My goodness.

Write that when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the Just Judge but as the Merciful Saviour. (Meditations 811 & 1541 Pg. 83 & 84 CTS Divine Mercy Prayer Book).

It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. In return for the love of the sorrowful passion which Christ suffered for all of us we say – Have Mercy on us and on the whole world. **JESUS I TRUST IN YOU.**

Fr. George Ngwa

Don't forget

To come into the hall for the World Youth Day presentation after Mass to his Sunday. Pick up your coffee and cake and let our Youth transport you back in time to their experiences last year made possible by all your contributions. There will be additional cake to entice you in.

2.30pm today is the Divine Mercy Service. A Holy Hour in the Church to celebrate the Divine Mercy and gain the desired Indulgence as granted by the Church.

PALS - Those going on our monthly Day Out Thursday, April, 27th, please be at usual pick-up venue 8:45 for 8:50 a.m. Our next monthly meeting - Friday, May 5th 10:30

Cleaning Rota- Please fill in on the notice board. Please help to keep the church looking good. Even if you only volunteer once in the year every little helps.

New Milton Town Council are pleased to present an Afternoon of Music at the Performance Pavilion, Recreation Ground, New Milton on Sunday 7 May 2017 at 2 pm.

Chicago Jazz Aces were fabulous last year, and they are always a New Milton favourite with wonderful tunes and great vibes. Of course this is a free event and everybody is welcome to join us.

I don't know if you have been to one of these afternoons but it is a great afternoon out with the family!

Catenians Association

After Mass on Saturday 6th May and Sunday 7th May, there will be a brief talk by the Catenians, about the Association's Bursary Award scheme.

This scheme provides some financial support for young Catholics who are volunteering for charitable projects, usually overseas. The Catenians are an Association of Catholic men.

From the Diocese

Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage 18th -25th August. Participants must be aged 14-17 by 18th August and places may be secured with a £100 deposit which contributes to a total cost of £625. For further information check the Portsmouth Diocese website. Participants have the option to extend the pilgrimage for an additional £75(normally £100) to join Bishop Philip at the Youth 2000 Prayer Festival in Walsingham as soon as you arrive back in the UK.

There are still lots of copies of the Portsmouth Diocese magazine for collection in the Church. Please take yours and if you do not wish to keep it perhaps you would consider handing it on to a friend or hairdressers etc. Lots of these magazines are often left over when the next copy arrives so please don't let any go to waste this time. Thank you.

Saint of the Week

St Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort was a catholic priest and missionary who ministered in France. He was born in Montfort in 1673 and died in 1716 aged 43, and canonised in 1947 by Pope Pius XII. His whole life was virtuous. He loved the poor, prayed constantly, lived in the strictest poverty and was joyous in humiliation and persecution.

An excerpt from his prayer to Mary, "May the light of thy faith dispel the darkness of my mind, may thy humility take the place of my pride, may thy sublime contemplation check the distractions of my wandering imagination, may thy continuous sight of God fill my memory with His presence, may the burning love of thy heart inflame the

lukewarmness of mine, may thy virtues take the place of my sins and may thy merits be my only adornment in the sight of God and make up for all that is wanting in me." Amen.

St Louis de Montfort wrote the book **True Devotion to Mary**. Pope John Paul II said that "this book is indispensable to anyone who means to give himself without reserve to Christ and to the work of redemption..." and says he had to reread it often to understand it. It is not a book for the faint hearted but for the determined follower. Pope Leo XIII granted a Plenary Indulgence to those who make St Louis De Montfort's act of consecration to the Blessed Virgin. This is a large part of his book.

Please Note The 10.00 Mass this Thursday 27th April is a Funeral Mass for Dennis Anthony Stewart Holmes. May he Rest in Peace. Amen.

Sun 23 rd April 1	Second Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy	Sat Vigil Mass 8pm 10.00 Holy Mass- <i>in thanksgiving</i> for 40th Wedding Anniversary (Johanna and Andy Thomas) 2.30pm Divine Mercy Service	Coffee and cake in the Hall after Mass and a special presentation by our Youth on their World Youth Day experience. All welcome
Mon 24 th Apr	St George, Patron of England, solemnity	****10.00 Holy Mass ****	
Tues 25 th Apr	St Mark, apostle, Feast	18.00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for adoration followed by Rosary and Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass-	
Wed 26 th Apr	Of the second week of Easter	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass-	Rosary intentions for the sick of the Parish.
Thur 27 th Apr	Of the second week of Easter	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass- Funeral Dennis Holmes RIP	Rosary intentions for Peace in the world NO Choir practice Next practice May 4th after Mass
Fri 28 th Apr	Optional memorials for St Peter Chanel, religious, Martyr or St Louis Grignon de Montfort, Founder	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass- Sister Elsitte for healing	Holy Communion Classes restart today at 5pm in hall
Sat 29 th Apr	St Catherine of Siena, Religious and Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe, Feast	9.30 Divine Mercy Chaplet and veneration of the relic of Sister Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass- 6pm Vigil Mass –	
Sun 30 th Apr	Third Sunday of Easter	10.00 Holy Mass-	Coffee in hall after Mass

PLEASE NOTE. There is a Holy Mass on Monday as it is a SOLEMNITY

Sacrament of Reconciliation

After Wednesday and Saturday morning Mass and before Sat Vigil Mass at 5.45pm and on request

COLLECTIONS last Sunday's collection was for our Parish Priest. The total is still to be calculated. The collection for the Holy Land will be announced next week.

For enquires about Baptisms 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. Enquiries about weddings please email the office with your details.

Readers 22/23 April
Sat: M Newland M Hobbs
Sun: M Tanner G Mambo
EMHC
Sat: M Newland B Coyne J Coyne
Sun: P Clarke S Salinger J Thomas

Readers 29/30 April
Sat: C d'Espagnac C Barfoot
Sun: S Ramsay J Thomas
EMHC
Sat: C d'Espagnac M Harwood J Bryer
Sun: J Kurian J Thomas M Tanner

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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

