



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.nfwp.org.uk Church opening hours 7am to 7pm.

5th Sunday of Easter

Year A

14th May 2017

THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD AND MINISTERIAL PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart." 1 Peter 2:9 With these words, the Apostle Peter describes all Christians as a "priesthood" and indeed, that is exactly what Christians are, as the Catholic Church teaches (cf **the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1533-1600**).

The Common Priesthood of Believers: When one is Baptised in the Catholic Church, one is also "christened" with oil, and so anointed as a Priest, a Prophet, and a King. Why? Because, in Baptism, we become adopted sons and daughters of God (Romans 8:14-17); and, in this, we share in the very same Sonship which Christ Himself enjoys with the Father. Becoming members of His Body, we must act as Christ to the world. We are anointed as a King because we share in His royalty (His Messianic ship); we are anointed as a Prophet because we are to speak His words and carry His Gospel to all; and we are anointed a Priest because we are to share in Christ's own High Priesthood. In this, we are to intercede for the world.

This is exactly the definition of a priest: "Someone who is an intermediary and who offers a sacrifice on behalf of another." And, as priests, all Christians do this for the world. As Christians (redeemed by the Blood of Christ), we offer Christ's Sacrifice for the sake of the world. As Christians, we are able to pray: "Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world." (see 1 Tim 2:1-6; 1 John 2:1-2).

And, in the Catholic understanding, this prayer is especially appropriate and powerful just after we have received Jesus in Holy Communion. So, as Christians we are priests; and, as priests, we are intercessors between Christ and the world (Christ being the one Mediator between us and the Father . 1 Tim 2:5). And this is what the Catholic Church refers to as the "common priesthood of the laity." However, aside from this common priesthood a priesthood which ministers directly to the world, there is also a priesthood which ministers to the Church itself. St. Paul says in Romans 15:15-16 that "But I have written to you rather boldly in some respects to remind you, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in performing the PRIESTLY service of the Gospel of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

This is the ministerial priesthood of the Catholic (and Orthodox) Church, a priesthood which does not minister directly to the world, but which ministers to those within the Church itself, which builds up the Church and aids the "little ones" through a ministry of unity, leadership, teaching authority, and the Sacraments. A ministry which succeeds to that of the Apostles themselves.

Pope John Paul II: The Holy Father's Address on September 21, 2002, to the fourth group of Brazilian Bishops to make their 'ad limina' visit. (Read below)

Collaboration of lay people with the sacred ministry of priests

To encourage your pastoral solicitude, I would now like to share some thoughts with you, prompted by the concrete situation in which you exercise the ministry of making known and "declaring the mystery of Christ" (Col 4,3). In the context of your vast and binding responsibility, I wish in particular to reflect on the *collaboration of lay people in diocesan life and, especially, with the sacred ministry of priests*.

After the Second Vatican Council, the Synod of Bishops in 1987 and the resulting Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles laici* highlighted the fact that the identity of lay people is based on the "radical newness of the Christian life that comes from Baptism" (*Christifideles laici*, n. 10). The call to all the members of the Mystical Body of Christ to take an active part in building up the People of God has been repeated in the documents of the Magisterium (cf. *Lumen gentium*, n. 3; *Apostolicam actuositatem*, n. 24).

In 1997, the Magisterium presented once again the principle of the different identities, common dignity and mission and difference of functions of the laity, sacred ministers and religious. It is important to reflect on this collaboration in order to put it into practice in the most appropriate way, especially in the communities that normally constitute the life of the dioceses and in which their members actively collaborate.

The Church is born from the "utterly free and mysterious decree of his own wisdom and goodness" of the Father to save all people through his Son and in the Holy Spirit. In founding his Church, Christ does not make her a simple institution that would be juridically self-sustaining, into which human beings would be inserted to obtain salvation. She is far more than all this. The Father has called men and women to build a People of sons in the Son, in Christ, through the immolated flesh of his Son made man: in other words, so that they might become the Body of Christ.

The liturgy is the action of the whole Mystical Body of Christ, Head and members (*ibid.*, n. 1070). It is the action of all the faithful, because they all participate in the priesthood of Christ (cf. *ibid.*, n. 1141 and 1273). However, all do not have the same function, because all do not participate in the same way in the priesthood of Christ. Through Baptism, all the faithful share in the priesthood of Christ; this is what has been called the "common

The Council opened itself to a positive vision of the specific character of the laity: its special feature is to "seek the Kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God" (*Lumen gentium*, n. 31). All those who live in the world and from it draw the raw material of their sanctification, seek to transform human realities in order to foster the common good of the family, of society and of politics, but, above all, to elevate them to God glorifying the Creator and living in a Christian way in the world.

The Church has the goal of continuing in the world Christ's saving mission. In the course of history, she is dedicated to fulfilling this mandate with the light of the Holy Spirit through the action of her members, within the limits of the proper function that each one exercises within the Mystical Body of Christ.

Among the objectives of the liturgical reform established by the Second Vatican Council, there was the need to bring all the faithful to "that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people' (I Pt 2,9), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism" (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, n. 14). The Council held that the liturgy is "an exercise of the priestly office of Jesus Christ", which involves "the sanctification of man ... manifested by signs perceptible to the senses, and is effected in a way which is proper to each of these signs; in the liturgy full public worship is performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the Head and His members" (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, n. 7). Redemption is fully accomplished by Christ. Indeed, in this great work in which God is perfectly glorified and men are sanctified, Christ always associates the Church, his beloved Bride with himself (cf. *ibid.*, n. 7). Through the liturgy, the Lord "continues the work of our redemption in, with and through his Church" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 1069).

priesthood of the faithful". In addition to this priesthood and to serve it, there is another form of participation in Christ's mission: the ministry conferred with the Sacrament of Orders (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 1591), or the "*ministerial Priesthood*". "The common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are nonetheless related to each other. Each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power he enjoys, moulds and rules the priestly people. Acting in the person of Christ, he brings about the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and offers it to God in the name of all the people. For their part, the faithful join in the offering of the Eucharist by virtue of their royal priesthood. They likewise exercise that priesthood by receiving the sacraments, by prayer and thanksgiving, by the witness of a holy life, and by self-denial and active charity" (*Lumen gentium*, n. 10).

Fr. George Ngwa

On Tuesday evening at the 7pm Mass, Father George is being inducted as Parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes. Please attend if you are able.

GLASS DOORS. On 27/28th May and 3/4th June you are asked to please come to the Hall after Mass and see some options for decorating the Glass doors to replace the Year of Mercy ones. Let the office know if you want to do a display. A lot of people have had lovely suggestions but these need to be something concrete for people to visualise and not just ideas. The chosen design has to be able to translate easily to the doors so consider the size of your offering. We look forward to seeing and choosing. Many thanks.

We desperately need altar servers- male and female- for our weekday masses. Approx. every 4 weeks. Training given. Contact Fr George Ngwa, Tony or Manuel. Thank you.
Thank you very much to all volunteers. There are lots of you beavering in the Parish and often unseen.

The Fete will take place on Saturday 24th June in the Church garden and hall between 11am and 4pm. There will be a raffle. Tickets £1 each, five tickets to a book. If you can provide a prize, it would be appreciated. Cake Sale - nearer the time, please bring to the hall. Jams chutneys for sale. Bring and buy sale items for same would be appreciated. Food will be provided to buy. Afternoon teas, some help would again be welcome to help and sell. Face painting by Anita. Game by Jill O'Sullivan. Jar sweets game- guess amount in the jar. Music will be provided by The New Forest Dixieland Band, between 12 to 3.30. Chairs and tables will be needed. Ice cream will be on sale. Help needed on Friday afternoon to erect stalls and bunting. Help needed to man stalls and sell raffle tickets on the day.
Thank you all for your support, as usual. Robin Bantin. Joseph Kurian.

Attention all Readers

Father George would like to meet with all readers and potential readers on Thursday 1st June 2017 at 7pm in the Hall before the new rota starts at the end of July. If you wanted to come off the rota please let Johanna know.

This weekend at all masses there is a letter from Bishop Philip being read out. It is entitled. *God is calling you*. Some copies are at the back of the church. If you wish a copy and cannot find one or require large print please inform the office. Thank you.

If anyone wants a short break this Summer and would like company and a new experience there are some lovely courses being run at Buckfast Abbey which are very good value if only for the full board in lovely surroundings and the modern comfortable hotel room. Each course begins at 5pm on the first day and finishes at lunchtime on the last day. The Courses are for anyone who would like to expand their knowledge of the Catholic faith. The courses run between 24th July to 20th August. There are lots of choices, for eg. "*The Sacred Beauty in a Catholic Culture*" teaches you how to read Christian paintings. Cost: for three nights- £345 with £50 registration on application There is a Poster on the notice board at the back of the Church with more details. If you have never been to Buckfast Abbey in Devon it is worth a visit. For more information you can phone them on 01364 645660.

Sun 14 th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	6pm Vigil Mass- <i>In thanksgiving for blessings received – the Yon family</i> 10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Holy Souls</i>	Coffee and tea in Hall after Mass
Mon 15 th May	Weekday of Easter	No Mass	
Tues 16 th May	Weekday of Easter	***** 19.00 Holy Mass- Induction Ceremony for Father George as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes *****	
Wed 17 th May	Weekday of Easter	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Philip Sloman RIP</i>	Rosary intentions for the sick of the Parish.
Thur 18 th May	Weekday of Easter, optional memorial <i>St John I, Pope, Martyr</i>	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Brigid Horan RIP</i> 12.00. <i>Wedding of Abigail and Tomas</i>	Rosary intentions for Peace in the world Please Note There is No Choir practice until 25th May
Fri 19 th May	Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth, Feast	9.00 Exposition 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass-	Coffee morning after Mass in Hall 10.45-11.30 Holy Communion Classes at 5pm in hall
Sat 20 th May	St Bernadine of Siena, religious, optional memorial	9.30 Divine Mercy Chaplet and veneration of the relic of Sister Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass- 6pm Vigil Mass of 4 th Sunday of Easter– <i>Elza RIP</i>	.
Sun 21 st May	6 th Sunday of Easter	10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Captain Michael Halley RIP</i>	Coffee and tea in hall after Mass

The celebration of the Dedication of the Cathedral has taken place in July and October at different times in the history of the diocese. In order not to conflict with other celebrations, it is now celebrated on 19 May, the anniversary of the founding of the Diocese in 1882. The actual anniversary day of the dedication of the Cathedral is 1 July.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

We are planning a coffee morning after Mass on Friday this week for anyone interested in stopping for a natter. Father George will be there.

COLLECTIONS for 6/7th May 2017 Loose £368.86 Gift aid envelopes £297.00 . Second collection for the Clergy Training fund. Loose £101.69 Gift aid envelopes £168.82 Thank you very much for your continued support.

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 13/14th May
Sat: A Nash, P Thorpe
Sun: C Fradd, H Fawcett
EMofHC
Sat: F Fallon, B Petts, Mor R Yon
Sun: S Salinger, A Caneda, P Clarke

Readers 20/21 May
Sat: B Dempster, M Newland
Sun: G Mambo, P Caffyn
EMofHC
Sat: B Coyne, J Coyne, M Newland
Sun: J Thomas, P Clarke, Joseph Kurian

Parish Priest: Father George Ngwa:
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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

