



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

Parish Office 01425 614968

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

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

6th Sunday of Easter

Year A

21st May 2017

THE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF THE EARLY CHURCH – UNITED HEART AND SOUL

Philip in our first reading made a break-through in his preaching with the Samaritans, who became united in welcoming the Good News as a community. His preaching made a deep impression on them and Peter and John were sent by the Apostles to build the Community. This as we know was the beginning of the Church to a people outside Jewish Circles. As a young church a welcoming gesture was very much needed. Can people who move into new areas find a welcoming Church? Do we find this Spirit common and relevant in our churches today?

Many of our Catholic churches are happy to open their doors to new members. It is important for new church members to feel like they have made the right choice, and churches will want their new members to be comfortable and feel at home. The Church must always welcome new members by being accessible, hospitable and helpful in connecting them to other people and groups within the church.

"Should church attendance / going to church be so important?"

The Bible tells us we need to attend church so we can worship God with other believers and be taught His Word for our spiritual growth. The early church "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to the breaking of bread and to prayer". They had no designated church building, but "every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts". Wherever the meeting took place, the Christians shared with one another on God's Word. Church attendance is not just a "good suggestion"; it is God's will for his people. Church is the place where Christians learn to love one another, encourage one another to love and do good works, practice the virtues, serve one another, instruct one another, honour one another, and be kind and compassionate to one another. For these reasons and more, church attendance, participation, and celebrating the Eucharist should be regular aspects of a Christians' life

First what is the Raison d'être (purpose) of the church?

Acts 2:42 could be considered a purpose statement for the church: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." According to this verse, the purposes and activities of the church should be 1) teaching, 2) providing a place of communion for believers, 3) observing the Lord's supper, and 4) praying. The church is out to catechise so that its members will be grounded in the faith. The church is to be a place of communion, where Christians can be devoted to one another and

honour one another, instruct one another, be kind and compassionate to one another, encourage one another, and most importantly, love one another. The church is to be a place where its members celebrate the sacraments and especially the Holy Mass as Christ commissioned "Do this in Memory of Me". The church is to be a place that promotes prayer, teaches prayer, and practices prayer. St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians says "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-7

The church is always proclaiming the gospel of salvation after Jesus Christ. She is called to be faithful in preaching the gospel through word and deed, leading people towards the Saviour Jesus Christ and thus prepare its members to be missionaries of the Kingdom of God. The church is also out as need be, provide to those in need as necessary and appropriate. (food, clothing, shelter) St. Paul gave an excellent illustration to the believers in Corinth. The church is God's hands, mouth, and feet in this world—the body of Christ. We are to be doing the things that Jesus Christ would do if He were still here with us physically. The church is to be “Christian,” “Christ-like,” and Christ-following.

Achieving true unity in the Church with all the faithful.

Unity is absolutely essential because the church is the “body of Christ”, and a body cannot be in disunity or disharmony with itself. If disunity occurs, it essentially ceases to be a body and becomes a disjointed group of individuals. Jesus' plan for His church is people unified in the faith. The secret to unity begins with how we view ourselves within the body and how we view others. The key verse that addresses this is St. Paul's letter to the Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.” All disunity in a church can be traced back to the simple truth that too often we act selfishly and consider ourselves better than others. Paul goes on to explain further in the following verse: “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Sadly, churches that experience disunity and are in conflict and turmoil are generally filled with people looking to their own needs, their own desires, and their own ambitions. Such behaviour is characteristic of unbelievers, not those with the mind of Christ. Worldliness, not godliness, is the hallmark of a church in disunity.

St. Paul tells us that we are to consider others' needs before our own. In all modesty, humility and lowliness of mind, we are to “be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2). A church filled with people as these cannot help but have peace, unity and harmony. The truly humble person sees his own faults in light of the perfections of Christ; he does not seek to see the faults of others, but when he does, he speaks the truth in love and desires their sanctification so they will be built up in the image of Christ. He sees his own heart and the corruption that lies hidden there, along with impure motives and evil ambitions. But he does not seek to notice the errors, defects, and follies of others. He sees the depravity of his own heart and hopes charitably in the goodness of others and believes their hearts are more pure than his.

Most importantly, as Christians, we are to see one another in the light of the cross. Fellow Christians are those for whom Christ also died for to save them. How can we not extend to them the love, compassion, and grace of our heavenly Father? How can we demean, criticize, and defame those covered with the precious blood of Christ? Were we not slaves to sin when He called us, hopelessly lost, dead in our own transgressions and sins?

Fr George Ngwa

Novena to the Holy Spirit The Great Feast of Pentecost will soon be upon us, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit given to Mary and the Apostles, and so also to the early Church. After Ascension, those first disciples were told by Jesus not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there "for what the Lord had promised" (Acts 1:4). We too, then, are invited to "wait for what the Lord has promised us", namely the Holy Spirit. Please would you consider offering a Novena to the Holy Spirit from **Friday 26th May to Saturday 3rd June** for the New Evangelisation in our diocese.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray at this time for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. As Catholics, we can support this initiative with our Pentecost Novena, Prayer of the Faithful and an encouragement for us to pray, as we normally do, with the particular intention for our loved ones to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

IMPORTANT CHANGE - GLASS DOORS. There have been no “entries” so as some of the parish have been away this has been put back 2 weeks. The display will start on 10/11th June in the Church Hall.

Thank you

Please Note. The Secretary is away Friday 26th May.

Sharing the Joy of the Gospel – Day of Prayer for the New Evangelisation

Sat 3rd June, 10am-3pm at St. Edward's Church, 191-193 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford SO53 2DU

The diocese will be hosting a day of prayer for the New Evangelisation, beginning with mass at 10am. Throughout the day, there will be the opportunity to pray before the blessed sacrament. There will also be a prayer workshop either side of lunch (please bring your own), centred on the theme of "using the gifts of the Holy Spirit". You are welcome to come for all or just some of the day. Even if you cannot join us, please take time that day to pray for the New Evangelisation in our diocese – it is essential that all our efforts are founded on a firm bedrock of prayer.

FANNING THE FLAME. Hampshire Camp 2017 : 21st to 25th August

3:00 PM on August 21, 2017 in Hampshire

Theme 'The ACTS of the Apostles'. An exciting week of Faith, Fun and Fellowship! For young people aged 10-25. A week full of: good food, fun games, discovering more about your faith, horse riding, creative workshops, sports, lively worship, Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and of course camping under amazing night skies.

Booking forms for 2017 camp are now available.

Fanning The Flame is a Catholic Mission reaching out to children, youth, young adults and adults. If asked to sum up in one phrase what Fanning the Flame is we would respond: "It is a school of God's love in action".

How it all started

"Let the children run with the Spirit".

This is the vision that has guided our founder, Dominican Sister Maria Natella, when she started what was to become Fanning The Flame in 1991.

Through her experience as a teacher and youth worker, she saw a great gap; many young people are seen in church for their Confirmation and first Communion programmes, never to be seen again. They miss out on the joy of living and growing in faith every day! What could be done to teach faith and make it come alive?

After a long time of prayer, an image of a seated old lady, representing the Church, grew in Sister Maria's heart. The lady may be old, but her heart is young and strong as ever. Later, a picture of a child joyfully running, flying a kite near the old lady, appeared: "Let the children run with the Spirit".

The call to help young people "Fan The Flame" of their faith, combining both joy (the child flying a kite) and wisdom (the old lady looking after the child), was clear.

The first mission

Sister Maria decided to act in response to what was received, and put together a team to organise a week long mission in her area, which took 3 years to prepare, involved many Catholic schools, colleges, and 17 churches, and culminated in a weekend of activities and celebration at the Guildhall in Southampton. The 1995 mission was a great success, and amazingly the £15,000 necessary for its preparation were raised during the preparation.

It appeared quickly that a single week-long mission was not enough, and that the Fanning The Flame movement needed to grow and keep momentum. Thus, a summer camp was organized at St. Joseph's House of Prayer (as it was then known), in Ashurst. Thirty eight young people from the ages of 12-18 came. During camp amazing changes took place; both children and adults experience prayer in a way they had never experienced before. The Holy Spirit was truly present, and has been faithfully with us since then.

All Information taken from their website ! For more information and booking forms: fanningtheflame.co.uk or fff1995@gmail.com

Sun 21 st May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	6pm Vigil Mass- <i>Elza RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Captain Michael Halley RIP</i>	Coffee and tea in Hall after Mass
Mon 22 nd May	St Rita of Cascia, religious, optional memorial	No Mass	
Tues 23 rd May	Weekday of Easter	4pm The body of Gerald Jones RIP is brought into the Church 6.30 Rosary, 7pm Holy Mass- <i>Helen Taylor RIP</i>	
Wed 24 th May	Weekday of Easter	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Scaria RIP</i> <i>11.00 Funeral Mass of Gerald Jones</i>	Rosary intentions for the sick of the Parish.
Thur 25 th May	Weekday of Easter, St Bede the Venerable, Religious, Doctor of the Church, memorial	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Don and Agnes Campbell RIP</i>	Rosary intentions for Peace in the world Choir practice after Mass
Fri 26 th May	St Philip Neri, Priest, Founder, memorial	9.00 Exposition 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Angela Hurst RIP</i>	Holy Communion Classes at 5pm in hall
Sat 27 th May	St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop, feast.	9.30 Divine Mercy Chaplet and veneration of the relic of Sister Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Sheila Vernon for healing</i> 6pm Vigil Mass of Ascension of the Lord – <i>Gehane and Paul Gordelier in thanksgiving for 19th Wedding anniversary</i>	.
Sun 28 th May	The Ascension of Our Lord	10.00 Holy Mass- <i>Joseph Mathew RIP</i>	Coffee and tea in hall after Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

COLLECTIONS for 13/14th May 2017. Loose £355.66
Gift aid envelopes £193.50 . Thank you very much for your continued support. There will be a second collection on 28th May for World Communications.

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. Copies of Baptism certificate Cost £5

Readers and potential are invited on 1st June in the Church Hall at 7pm to meet with father George.

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

Readers 27/28 May
 Sat: M Hobbs Cd'Espagnac
 Sun: S Ramsay J Thomas
 EMofHC
 Sat: B Dempster J Bryer Cd Espagnac
 Sun: J Nichols G Mambo Akhil Joseph

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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

