



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.

The Ascension of The Lord

Year A

28th May 2017

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 51st WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

«Fear not, for I am with you» (Is 43:5): Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time

Access to the media – thanks to technological progress – makes it possible for countless people to share news instantly and spread it widely. That news may be good or bad, true or false. The early Christians compared the human mind to a constantly grinding millstone; it is up to the miller to determine what it will grind: good wheat or worthless weeds. Our minds are always “grinding”, but it is up to us to choose what to feed them (cf. SAINT JOHN CASSIAN, *Epistle to Leontius*).

I wish to address this message to all those who, whether in their professional work or personal relationships, are like that mill, daily “grinding out” information with the aim of providing rich fare for those with whom they communicate. I would like to encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster a culture of encounter, helping all of us to view the world around us with realism and trust.

I am convinced that we have to break the vicious circle of anxiety and stem the spiral of fear resulting from a constant focus on “bad news” (wars, terrorism, scandals and all sorts of human failure). This has nothing to do with spreading misinformation that would ignore the tragedy of human suffering, nor is it about a naive optimism blind to the scandal of evil. Rather, I propose that all of us work at overcoming that feeling of growing discontent and resignation that can at times generate apathy, fear or the idea that evil has no limits. Moreover, in a communications industry which thinks that good news does not sell, and where the tragedy of human suffering and the mystery of evil easily turn into entertainment, there is always the temptation that our consciences can be dulled or slip into pessimism.

I would like, then, to contribute to the search for an open and creative style of communication that never seeks to glamourize evil but instead to concentrate on solutions and to inspire a positive and responsible approach on the part of its recipients. I ask everyone to offer the people of our time storylines that are at heart “good news”.

Good news

Life is not simply a bare succession of events, but a history, a story waiting to be told through the choice of an interpretative lens that can select and gather the most relevant data. In and of itself, reality has no one clear meaning. Everything depends on the way we look at things, on the lens we use to view them. If we change that lens, reality itself appears different. So how can we begin to “read” reality through the right lens?

For us Christians, that lens can only be the good news, beginning with *the* Good News par excellence: “the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Son of God” (*Mk* 1:1). With these words, Saint Mark opens his Gospel not by relating “good news” *about* Jesus, but rather *the good news that is Jesus himself*. Indeed, reading the pages of his Gospel, we learn that its title corresponds to its content and, above all else, this content is the very person of Jesus.

This good news – Jesus himself – is not good because it has nothing to do with suffering, but rather because suffering itself becomes part of a bigger picture. It is seen as an integral part of Jesus’ love for the Father and for all mankind. In Christ, God has shown his solidarity with every human situation. He has told us that we are not alone, for we have a Father who is constantly mindful of his children. “Fear not, for I am with you” (*Is* 43:5): these are the comforting words of a God who is immersed in the history of his people. In his beloved Son, this divine promise – “I am with you” – embraces all our weakness, even to dying our death. In Christ, even darkness and death become a point of encounter with Light and Life. Hope is born, a hope accessible to everyone, at the very crossroads where life meets the bitterness of failure. That hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts (cf. *Rom* 5:5) and makes new life blossom, like a shoot that springs up from the fallen seed. Seen in this light, every new tragedy that occurs in the world’s history can also become a setting for good news, inasmuch as love can find a way to draw near and to raise up sympathetic hearts, resolute faces and hands ready to build anew.

Confidence in the seed of the Kingdom

To introduce his disciples and the crowds to this Gospel mindset and to give them the right “lens” needed to see and embrace the love that dies and rises, Jesus uses parables. He frequently compares the Kingdom of God to a seed that releases its potential for life precisely when it falls to the earth and dies (cf. *Mk* 4:1-34). This use of images and metaphors to convey the quiet power of the Kingdom does not detract from its importance and urgency; rather, it is a merciful way of making space for the listener to freely accept and appropriate that power. It is also a most effective way to express the immense dignity of the Paschal mystery, leaving it to images, rather than concepts, to communicate the paradoxical beauty of new life in Christ. In that life, hardship and the cross do not obstruct, but bring about God’s salvation; weakness proves stronger than any human power; and failure can be the prelude to the fulfilment of all things in love. This is how hope in the Kingdom of God matures and deepens: it is “as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow” (*Mk* 4:26-27).

The Kingdom of God is already present in our midst, like a seed that is easily overlooked, yet silently takes root. Those to whom the Holy Spirit grants keen vision can see it blossoming. They do not let themselves be robbed of the joy of the Kingdom by the weeds that spring up all about.

The horizons of the Spirit

Our hope based on the good news which is Jesus himself makes us lift up our eyes to contemplate the Lord in the liturgical celebration of the Ascension. Even though the Lord may now appear more distant, the horizons of hope expand all the more. In Christ, who brings our human nature to heaven, every man and woman can now freely “enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh” (*Heb* 10:19-20). By “the power of the Holy Spirit” we can be witnesses and “communicators” of a new and redeemed humanity “even to the ends of the earth” (*Acts* 1:7-8).

Confidence in the seed of God’s Kingdom and in the mystery of Easter should also shape the way we communicate. This confidence enables us to carry out our work – in all the different ways that communication takes place nowadays – with the conviction that it is possible to recognize and highlight the good news present in every story and in the face of each person.

Those who, in faith, entrust themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit come to realize how God is present and at work in every moment of our lives and history, patiently bringing to pass a history of salvation. Hope is the thread with which this sacred history is woven, and its weaver is none other than the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Hope is the humblest of virtues, for it remains hidden in the recesses of life; yet it is like the yeast that leavens all the dough. We nurture it by reading ever anew the Gospel, “reprinted” in so many editions in the lives of the saints who became icons of God’s love in this world. Today too, the Spirit continues to sow in us a desire for the Kingdom, thanks to all those who, drawing inspiration from the Good News amid the dramatic events of our time, shine like beacons in the darkness of this world, shedding light along the way and opening ever new paths of confidence and hope. *From the Vatican, 24 January 2017*

Francis

There is a SECOND COLLECTION today for World Communications Day. At the entrances to the Church -Please pick up the prayer card which has been produced.

News from The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales

Thy Kingdom Come – Praying the Pentecost Novena

Join Catholics throughout England and Wales who are praying the Pentecost Novena for the faith of their loved ones to be stirred by the Holy Spirit. To buy a Pentecost Novena booklet or download the podcasts please visit www.catholicchurch.org.uk/pentecost-novena

Concerning The General Election 2017

An information sheet for your information is available at the entrances of the Church. You are asked to please take a copy per household and give it your consideration.

Job ADVERT for POSITION OF PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY

Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's Christchurch. 67 Purewell, Christchurch. BH23 1EH

Following Maureen's retirement after 21 dedicated years as our Parish Secretary the Parish wishes to appoint a paid Administrator/Secretary based at the Presbytery office in Purewell with effect from 31st July. The main purpose of the role will be to provide administrative and secretarial support to Fr. Tom and, where appropriate, Parish leadership. The successful candidate must be able to engage at all levels in a pleasant and positive manner. A working knowledge of Microsoft Office incl. Excel will be needed. An understanding of internet based Social Networks would be useful. The post is offered at 8hrs a week with the days & times to be agreed. The Application form, Job Description and Equal Ops Monitoring form are available from Fr. Tom. Closing date for Applications: Friday 12 noon 16th June with Interviews to be held on: Wednesday 21st June. Contact Father Tom on 07905 949198 tomgrufferty1@gmail.com

Some Reminders

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 for 2 weeks. Thank you

Parish Fete. Saturday 24th June between 11am and 4pm Tickets £1 for the raffle.

Readers and potential readers. We look forward to seeing you in the Church Hall on Thursday at 7pm.

Cleaning the Church

Please put your name down if you can come and clean the church on a Saturday morning. Perhaps you could do it as a family. If all able bodied volunteered you would only need to volunteer once a year. Once a year! Wouldn't that be wonderful if all those who can help do so by giving half an hour their time. A Saturday morning free gift with benefits and much better for you than the gym! Contact Johanna for more information.

Sadly, Winifred Smith-Peterson passed away peacefully at Barton Lodge Friday 19th May. We pray she may rest in peace and for her grieving family at this time. Her funeral is planned for Monday 11.00am on 12th June. If there is anyone who can give some of their time to help the family in the hall after the funeral, please let the office or Barabra Williams know. Thank you. A lot of people may not know her as she was 103 when she died, but while she was able-bodied Winifred was an active contributing member of this Parish.

Holidaymakers and visitors WELCOME, to our lovely town where our church is open daily and the grotto is available for peaceful reflection. If you wish to know more about the church please contact the office. Please Note. On Our Lady's altar there is a book for your special intentions. Enjoy your visit.

Prayer to St Michael, said at the end of Masses. St Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Sun 28 th May	The Ascension of The Lord	6pm Vigil Mass- <i>Gehane and Paul Gordelier in thanksgiving for 19th Wedding anniversary</i> 10.00 Holy Mass- Joseph Mathew RIP	Second Collection for World Communications Day Coffee and tea in Hall after Mass
Mon 29 th May		No Mass 3.30pm Baptism Mary Jaslin James	
Tues 30 th May	Weekday of Easter	6.00 Exposition 6.30 Rosary, 6.50. Benediction 7pm Holy Mass-	7pm Tap classes
Wed 31 st May	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, feast	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass- Kurian RIP	Rosary intentions for the sick of the Parish.
Thur 1 st June	St Justin, Martyr, memorial	9.00 Exposition, 9.30 Rosary, 9.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass –Emanuel Saliba RIP	Rosary intentions for Peace in the world 7pm Readers Meeting
Fri 2 nd June	SS Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs, optional memorial	9.00 Exposition 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass- Father Marcin Drabik ordination intentions 17th Anniversary	PALs meeting in Hall after Mass Holy Communion Classes at 5pm in hall 6.30 Latin Mass
Sat 3 rd June	St Charles Lwanga and companions, martyrs, memorial	9.30 Divine Mercy Chaplet and veneration of the relic of Sister Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass- Louis and Catherine d’Espagnac 45th Wedding Anniversary intentions 6pm Vigil Mass of Ascension of the Lord –	.
Sun 4 th May	PENTECOST Sunday	10.00 Holy Mass- Thomas Nixon RIP	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 20/21 May 2017. Loose £311.60 Gift aid envelopes £220.00 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. Copies of Baptism certificate £5

Readers 27/28 May
Sat: M Hobbs C d’Espagnac
Sun: S Ramsay H Fawcett
EMofHC
Sat: B Dempster J Bryer C d’ Espagnac
Sun: J Nichols G Mambo Akhil Joseph

Readers 2/4 June
Sat: C Barfoot, B Coyne
Sun: C Barrett, M Tanner
EMofHC
Sat: K Dempster, T Gearey, B Dempster
Sun: A Caneda, M Tanner, S Salinger

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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

