

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

Church opening hours 7am to 7pm



**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year    Year A    8 October 2017**

## Christian Gratitude

One of the very first lessons we get schooled in as children, is to be grateful for all that we received or was done for us. The word **THANK YOU** was taught, demanded, much appreciated and made to remember so many times than we still can remember or imagine. This was not only in words. Our body Posture had to accompany the words.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us another parable for our meditation. In this parable the landowner is God, the vineyard is Israel – God's chosen people, and the tenants are the political and religious leaders of Israel. The story emphasizes the failure of the tenants, the chosen people of God and their leaders, to express **GRATITUDE** for what they had received from God. Jesus through this Parable wants to remind us that we are expected to show our gratitude to God by bearing fruits of the Kingdom, that is, the fruits of the Holy Spirit, in our lives.

Gratitude is a virtue most worthy of our cultivation. Indeed, in the life of a Christian, gratitude is to be planted, watered, nurtured, and harvested. Gratitude gets at the very essence of what it means to be created, sustained and be redeemed by God. On the contrary, Ingratitude was at the heart of the fall of our first Parents and at the heart of what's fallen about us to this day. St, Paul tells us in the Letter to the Roman that "Although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him" (Rm. 1:21). Gratitude is one of the most powerful human emotions that exists. The physical, mental and spiritual benefits of gratitude have been scientifically studied, and the results are both astounding and fascinating. As a matter of fact, the Bible teaches that the expression of gratitude like thanksgiving should indeed be a daily priority. For example, St. Paul begins many of his letters to the early Church by expressing thanks. Colossians 3:17 says, "*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him*" and Ephesians 5:20 encourages us to "*give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

We all have so much to be grateful for in this life each day. However the reality is that sometimes constant life struggles, demands and worries give more room to defeat than to a grateful thanks. At other times we forget, in the midst of busyness and pressures, just to pause and give thanks, for all that God has done, and continues to do in our lives.

Virtually every religion has emphasized gratitude or gratefulness as a virtue so vital to individuals and groups of persons. Besides, it is part of the ethical foundation of world religions that people are morally obligated to give thanks to their God and to each other. Sacred Scriptures, and the Sacraments inculcate tendencies of gratefulness by bringing people into a relationship with a Supreme Being and with members of their faith community. This indicates that gratitude is something profoundly basic about the human condition. When we are grateful for something we consider its origins. Where did it come from, who was responsible for it, why and for what purpose does it exist, what should I do about it.

### ***HOW BENEFICIAL IS A HEART FULL OF GRATITUDE***

- It gets our eyes off ourselves, and helps us to focus more on God.
- It reminds us we're not in control, but God is. It keeps us in a place of humility and dependency on Him, as we recognize how much we need Him.
- It helps us to recognize we have so much to be thankful for, even all of the very little things, that often we may forget to thank God or others for, which often are the biggest and most important things in our lives. It takes our attention from our problems and helps us instead to reflect on, and to remember, the goodness of God and his blessing.
- It reminds us that God is the Giver of all good gifts. A grateful heart reminds us that ultimately God is our Provider and that all blessings and gifts are graciously given to us by His hand.
- A heart of gratitude leaves no room for complaining. For it is impossible to be truly thankful and filled with negativity and ingratitude at the same time.
- It makes the evil forces run for they cannot stand to be around hearts that give thanks and honour to God. Our praise and thanksgiving will make them flee.
- It opens up the door for continued blessings. It invites God's presence and our spirits are refreshed and renewed in Him. God loves to give good gifts to His children. He delights in our expression of gratitude and pours out His Spirit and favour over those who give honour and gratitude to Him.
- Our prayers of thanksgiving add nothing to God's greatness but make us grow in his **LOVE AND GRACE**.

It is greatly believed and held true that people who are grateful often have lower blood pressure, less anxiety, better relationships, a greater willingness to help others and are more likely to see their lives as meaningful, among other benefits indicated in several studies. Instead many people are finding it difficult to be thankful in a society filled with economic uncertainty, and where greater individualism can place a higher value on competition than community.

St. Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians says "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Fr. George Ngwa

**"In happy moments, PRAISE GOD. In difficult moments, SEEK GOD. In quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD. In painful moments, TRUST GOD. Every moment, THANK GOD." –Rick Warren**

### Women's World Day of Prayer

Sadly Maureen Peters died over the Summer. She was the driving force behind organising the New Milton's yearly ecumenical service for the Women's World Day of Prayer which takes place each Spring. She will be greatly missed for her enthusiasm and commitment to this role. I took over from Rosemary as our representative at these services for the last few years. Their next meeting is planned for October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm at Barton Methodist Church in which they will discuss how to they will continue. If anyone is interested in having the opportunity to take on the role of our parish rep for this event, please can you contact me. Thank you. Johanna.

### Share the Journey campaign

On September 27 Pope Francis launched the Share the Journey campaign at the Vatican. It is a global campaign taking us through to September next year when UN leaders meet to agree the UN global impacts

### Refugee Round Table

Are you helping, or would you like to help, refugees arriving in the UK? Please come to our Refugee Round Table. Find out what is happening locally, make connections, maybe find inspiration & get involved. Sat 14 October 9.30 – 11 am, St Joseph Church Halls, 139 West Street, Havant, PO9 1LP  
Free parking available. Enquiries via email to the Parish Office.  
Organised by the Diocesan Refugee Response Working Group & St Joseph's, Havant

### Webcam Viewers monthly total

Viewers	3420
Unique viewers	1203
Total time (hrs)	1015

### New Online Course – Science & Faith in dialogue

100% online methodology  
12 interesting lessons per year (2<sup>nd</sup> year course also available)  
Modern internet learning methodology specially designed for this course with videos, lesson texts, self test, debates, art, music.....  
New course begins 10 October 2017

When I entered the Catholic Church twenty years ago, it was as if Jesus had brought me to a magnificent mansion and said, "Welcome home at last, little brother! Let me show you around."

The dining room with his banquet table- I mean of course, the Eucharist- was by far the most thrilling of the rooms he showed me. But another treasured discovery was the family room, whose walls were lined with ten thousand portraits of the members of my new family; the communion of saints.

When I once told a friend how I talk to the saints, he asked: "Do you do all the talking, or do they ever have something to say?" It was an insightful question and it reminded me of a passage in the *Letter to the Hebrews*. In the midst of a litany of faithful Old Testament saints, we read there about one of them that "he died, but through his faith he is still speaking" (Heb 11:4)

Through their example of faith and holiness, the saints are indeed still speaking to us today-in ways that will powerfully transform our lives. (words taken from Paul Thigpen's Introduction to his *A Year with the Saints*.)

### Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council takes place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm and the next Property and Finance meeting is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm

At both entrances to the Church you will find some **Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor** obituary cards. Please take one.

For enquiries about **Baptisms** please contact the office for a form, For copies of Baptism certificates there is an admin charge of £5. For **funerals** please discuss dates first with the funeral directors who will liaise with parish priest and then arrange to meet with him. Enquiries about **weddings** please email the office with your details.

This week the second collection is for CAFOD

Collection For World Missions on 22 October

**You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled.**

**Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

**If you can't be thankful for what you receive, be thankful for what you escape. Anonymous**

<b>Sunday</b>	8	October	27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year	<b>6 pm Vigil Mass - Michael &amp; Vanessa Kelleher Golden Wedding</b> <b>10 am Holy Mass – Louis d’Espagnac 70 birthday</b>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
<b>Monday</b>	9	October	Bl John Henry Newman		
<b>Tuesday</b>	10	October	St Paulinus of York	6 pm Exposition, 6.30 Rosary 6.50 Benediction <b>7 pm Holy Mass – Paul &amp; Gehane Gordelier – blessings &amp; wellbeing</b>	7 pm Tap classes
<b>Wednesday</b>	11	October	St John XXIII	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction <b>10 am Holy Mass – Leonardo Calneo RIP</b>	
<b>Thursday</b>	12	October	Ordinary time	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction <b>10 am Holy Mass – Katie Loftus &amp; Jacob Holland - 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary</b>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
<b>Friday</b>	13	October	St Edward the Confessor	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction <b>10 am Holy Mass – John Williams (husband of Heather)</b>	
<b>Saturday</b>	14	October	St Callistus Our Lady on Saturday	9.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina <b>10 am Holy Mass – Robert &amp; Joyce Gowing &amp; Catherine Hitchins RIP</b> <b>6 pm Vigil Mass – Bridie &amp; Tom Quirke RIP</b>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday</b>	15	October	28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	<b>10 am Holy Mass – Missa Pro Populo</b>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

**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

<b>Collections 17/18 Sept</b>	
loose	347.06
envelopes	194.00
Thank you for your continuing support of this parish.	

	Sat 7 October	Sun 8 October	Sat 14 Oct	Sun 15 Oct
<b>Reader</b>	M Hobbs	S Ramsay	K Dempster	S Ramsay
	C d’Espagnac	M Tanner	J Marriot	J Thomas
<b>EMHC</b>	M Newland	J Nicholls	C d’Espagnac	A Caneda
	B Coyne	P Clarke	M Harwood	J Kurian
	J Coyne	S Salinger	R or M Yon	M Tanner

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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**Parish office: 01425 614968** Hall Booking via parish Office

[lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Secretary: Johanna Thomas Wed/ Fri 10.45-12.00.

Our Parish Live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton>

Website: [www.nfwf.org.uk](http://www.nfwf.org.uk) **Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster 01425 61164**