

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



28th Sunday of the Year Year A 15 October 2017

CHRISTIAN COURTESY

Our Gospel reading presents to us a story of a King who invited many people to his son's wedding. He had lavishly prepared the wedding banquet to please his guests. To his greatest amazement and annoyance, they all turned down his invitation without the courtesy of informing him. They were for various reasons only thinking of the "self" and neglecting to think of the neighbour. Courtesy like gratitude is one of the lessons we get repeated to us as kids by our parents. We are often very overjoyed when in trains and buses here in Britain we see the young readily giving up a seat for the elderly.

Courtesy is not strictly distinct from the other virtues, but rather a quality to be found in them all. It has something to do with reverence, humility, and chastity. It is shaped by charity, the form of all the virtues, into the quality of mercy. It is the beauty of a brave and generous life.

Courtesy is, **first** of all, reverence for one's fellow man. In the Christian knight, it is a habit of seeing by faith and charity, in every man, great or small, the shining image of the Trinity, the brother for whom Christ died. The courteous person has an attitude of "worship" toward his brothers and sisters. By small deeds of kindness, he acknowledges their worth, their dignity, as human persons. **Secondly**, courtesy is closely tied to humility. In fact, Chesterton defined courtesy as "the wedding of humility with dignity". The courteous man has dignity, but he does not stand on it. He does not lose his throne, and yet he is ready to leave it. There is something in courtesy that deserves to be called self-emptying, the noble refusal of self-worship. The proud or self-centered man may be polite, but he can never be courteous, because he refuses to serve.

Thirdly, courtesy is the first cousin of chastity, what the Middle Ages called "cleanness." A man blinded by lust cannot see his wife as the fitting recipient of his courtesy. She has become a thing to be used rather than a person to be served and vice versa

Fourthly, we can define courtesy as a species of mercy, a kind of compassion. The courteous man has fellow-feeling. His heart senses the possibility of pain and embarrassment in the other person, and he spares no cost in avoiding it. Courtesy is seen here as gentleness. According to Cardinal Newman, "it is almost a definition of a gentleman to say he is one who never inflicts pain." precisely and especially towards women and children, that is to say, toward the defence of innocent life and everything small and vulnerable. (In the heart of courtesy, lion lies down with lamb.)

Finally, we must say that courtesy has beauty. It is an attribute of the whole person, as one's graceful bodily gesture and gracious attitude of mind. St. Thomas Aquinas said that the spiritually beautiful and the morally right were really identical, because when a man is righteous, the splendour of reason shines through his actions. Courtesy as we have seen, is inseparable from the morally right. Therefore, the courteous person is beautiful and sheds beauty on those to whom he shows courtesy. To show courtesy to a brutal man, is to show him the loveliness God gave him in his nature and the even greater loveliness he could have if only he allowed God's grace to change him.

Courtesy in God

The triune God is the source of all the perfections to be found among his creatures, and so in him is infinite courtesy. God the Father, displays generosity and courtesy in inviting us to the nuptials of his incarnate son. We belong to Christ through the courteous gift of the Father. For the Father is well pleased with all the deeds that Jesus has done concerning our salvation.

The Father is so rich in mercy that he forgives our repented sins and so large in courtesy that he asks us to forget them once they are forgiven. For just as by God's courtesy he forgets our sin from the time that we repent, just so does he wish us to forget our sins and all our depression and all our doubtful fears. Divine courtesy was first made manifest when God the Son took flesh from the Virgin Mary. His and the Father's gentility were revealed with a wonderful clarity in the manner of his conception and birth. The Divine Word did not force himself into human nature, but considerately asked mankind in the

person of the Blessed Virgin to give its consent. He came mildly into her womb without seed and left it gently without corruption. Incarnation is not invasion. From his mother's womb, the divine redeemer establishes courtesy as his style. God taking the initiative to meet man; so is Christ to his disciples.

The God-Man is a gentle-man. Courtesy is an essential attribute of the Godhead and therefore common to the three divine persons, though each possesses it as the person he is, in his own distinctive way. The Father and the Son are courteous, and so too is the Holy Spirit. He works delicately, indwelling in our hearts, enlightening our intellects and strengthening our wills. Without him we can do nothing for our salvation, and yet he does not save us without us. The "giving" work of the Holy Spirit is, a courteous working, of grace, full filling and surpassing all that is deserved by creatures. The grace of the Holy Spirit is in courtesy.

The Trinity is courteous toward us, and we, in the Spirit and through Christ, are called to be courteous toward the Father. We are sons-in-the-Son and may approach God with the confidence of children. The courtesy of reverence governs the way the Church worships God, especially in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Through the wonder of transubstantiation, heaven comes down to earth, and the sanctuary becomes the court of the Great King. Since God-made-man is really, truly, and substantially present under the sacramental species, the Church venerates the Blessed Sacrament with the worship due to God, and her members express this in beautiful gestures of courtesy; the profound bow and the genuflection, an action to the Eucharist. Priests, since they are in a special way icons of Christ, the Priest and act in his person, also receive special marks of esteem; they are incensed, and in some rites, their hands are kissed. The courtesy is not directed at the person of the priest himself, but at Christ our Lord, whom the priest represents as image and serves as instrument. The priest, as a public person, acting in and for the whole People of God in the liturgy, is required by the Church to maintain the highest standards of reverence in his approach to God. Like St. Joseph, he is privileged to hold and carry the incarnate Son of God, and so he must imitate the guardian of the redeemer in the gentle courtesy with which he touched "the true body born of the Virgin Mary."

Courtesy in the Angels.

The angels are the courtiers of God. It was they who first brought courtesy from heaven to earth at the time of the Annunciation: When we look at the artistic images of the Annunciation Gabriel bends his knee and bows his head in the presence of the Holy Virgin, and his arm appears to strike his breast as if to say, 'Madonna, my Lady, I am not worthy to come under thy roof.'

The Courtesy of our Lady Our Blessed Lady, God's Mother and ours, is our first thought. She is the object of the courtesy of Gabriel and Elizabeth, but among creatures she is also the virtue's most perfect embodiment. She is the embodiment of purity, sublime humility and the most tender motherly mercy. If courtesy is self-emptying, then no created person is more than she is.

Courtesy in the Soul after Death.

Courtesy does not die at death. The living man shows himself courteous toward the souls of the departed by praying for them, so that they may purge their guilt and "leave the load behind." Each of the blessed accepts his own degree of glory and rejoices, without jealousy, in the merits of his fellows.

The Discourtesy of people who do not believe in Jesus Christ

If God's grace is in courtesy, the devil's disgrace lurks in discourtesy. Accordingly discourtesy will be a terrible falling away from Christ and his Church, as in the case of apostasy. Intellectual arrogance would lead men into infidelity to Holy Mother Church, contempt for the little and weak, and depravity of morals what Scripture calls "the pride of life." "A new worldly wisdom preaches dissent from Christian truth, destruction of the innocent, and the rights of perversion". Even the Holy of Holies is not spared. For the last thirty years, at least in the Latin Church, all manner of discourtesy has been inflicted on the Blessed Sacrament. Even the celebrants of the Sacred Mysteries have neglected the reverence due to the Real Presence of the Lord, and the Divine Liturgy has often become an ugly and irreligious performance. Instead of effacing themselves before the One in whose person and power they act, many people project their own personalities. The disaster of discourtesy seems to have engulfed us.

Fr. George Ngwa

(Some information on Courtesy taken from EWTN -Eternal Word Television Network)

PLEASE NOTE. Anyone wishing to have their child make his/her Holy Communion. Please meet with Father George after the 10.00 Mass on Sunday 22nd October in the Church Hall.

This is a final reminder about the Creative Ministry Retreat occurring 20th-22nd October. We need to confirm numbers with Cold Ash Centre by the end of Monday, so please let me know, or instruct potential participants to inform me of their intention to attend by then. Akhil Joseph

We profoundly express our gratitude to an anonymous person who for some time now has taken upon himself to care for the Catholic section of the cemetery at Barton. Many thanks indeed and may God richly bless you.

Bishop Michael Bibi, the Auxiliary Bishop of Bamenda ordained last April, is visiting Portsmouth Diocese the first week of November. He will be celebrating Holy Mass with Bishop Philip on Sunday 5th November. He leaves the very next day but has accepted to visit the Christians of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton and celebrate an evening (5:30 p.m.) Mass with us.

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

Pre- Christmas Party

On Sat December 16th there will be a Pre- Christmas party. There will be a meeting in the hall after Mass on Friday 24th November to discuss this event. Please support this meeting if you can. Thanks, Robin.

Bingo and Fish and Chip Supper planned for Saturday 11th November £10 per ticket. In aid of Church funds. See Robin or Susie.

Dr Scott Hahn's Sunday Bible Reflections

I would like to recommend to you this resource from the St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology. Each week founder of the centre, the theologian and best-selling author, Dr Scott Hahn, offers a wonderful reflection on the readings for the coming Sunday. If interested, good St Paul's Centre.

Church Music. A local organist, Kathleen will be playing for us while Jane Gow is away. We are very grateful. Thank you.

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

Church opening Hours will change from the end of October to 7.30 – 17.00 over the Winter.

Maryfield Convent Residential Care Home Hampshire, RG27 9LA

The Dominican Sisters of Malta have been providing quality care and comfort to the elderly at Maryfield for over 50 years. Mass is celebrated daily in convent chapel. We are small, eighteen single rooms and presently have a vacancy. Fees competitive. To arrange a visit or if you would like further information, please call: **01256 762394**, speak to Trish Davies

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.

Keep Informed. Please consider subscribing to the **Portsmouth diocese enews**. It comes out usually on Tuesdays each week & informs you about all that is planned & happening in the diocese. Just google Portsmouth Diocese website, go to the home page & sign up at the bottom of this page with your email address. It is very easy & you can unsubscribe at any time.

For enquiries about **Baptisms** please contact the office for a form. 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.

Second Collection is for World Missions this weekend

VERY IMPORTANT

Today there is an insert asking if anyone would like to help with any church ministry. Please fill in and bring back next week. Thank you.

28th Sunday of the Year Year A 15 October 2017

Sunday	15	October	28 th Sunday of the year	6 pm Vigil Mass – <i>Bridie & Tom Quirke RIP</i> 10 am Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	16	October	St Hedwig St Margaret Mary Alocoque		
Tuesday	17	October	St Ignatius of Antioch	6 pm Exposition, 6.30 Rosary 6.50 Benediction 7 pm Holy Mass – <i>Bridie Quirke RIP, 1st anniversary</i>	7 pm Tap classes
Wednesday	18	October	St Luke, evangelist	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10 am Holy Mass – <i>Len & Louisa Castle RIP</i>	
Thursday	19	October	Ss John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & companions St Paul of the Cross	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10 am Holy Mass – <i>Jessie & Mark Yon, wedding anniversary</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	20	October	Ordinary time	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10 am Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall's intentions</i>	
Saturday	21	October	Our Lady on Saturday	9.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10 am Holy Mass – <i>Joshua, 2nd birthday</i> 6 pm Vigil Mass – <i>Elza RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	22	October	29 th Sunday of the Year	10 am Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	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

Collections 7/8 October	
loose	366.93
envelopes	226.62
CAFOD	513.04
Thank you for your continuing support of this parish.	

	Sat 14 Oct	Sun 15 Oct	Sat 21 Oct	Sun 22 Oct
Reader	K Dempster	S Ramsay	C Barfoot	P Caffyn
	J Marriot	J Thomas	B Coyne	C Barrett
EMHC	C d'Espagnac	A Caneda	B Dempster	A Joseph
	M Harwood	J Kurian	K Dempster	J Nichols
	R or M Yon	M Tanner	T Geary	P Clarke

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: **07475753040**

Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via parish Office

lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Secretary: Johanna Thomas Wed/ Fri 10.45-12.00.

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

Website: www.fwp.org.uk **Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster 01425 61164**

ADVANCE NOTICE. Masses on All Souls Day Thursday 2nd November will be at 10.00, 12.00 and 15.00. The 15.00 Mass will be at the cemetery.