

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. **From November 07.30- 17.00**

29th Sunday of the Year Year A 22 October 2017

CHRISTIAN AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s”: It is the duty of Christians, as citizens of the country, to pay for the services and the privileges that government provides, like paved roads, police and fire departments, banks, schools and other necessities. If we refuse to pay taxes, how will these needs be met? Another way of giving to Caesar what is Caesar’s is to participate actively in the running of the government, electing the most suitable candidates and influencing them through frequent contacts. We must submit to the civil authorities and respect the laws of our country in order to live in peace and so promoting the welfare of its citizens without violating God’s laws.

Civic is that which has to do with the citizen. The science of civics has to do with the citizen and with the rights and the duties of that citizen. However, my reference is not to the rights and the duties of the citizen as they concern the entire Nation, but as they concern the local scene—the community. Hence, we try to survey local community life within the nation and see what an individual as a Christian should do and not do within his community. As a Christian and citizen; but a Christian first of the heavenly kingdom and subject to the Most High God, the Christian in the midst of the world in which the Lord had given him both a name and a place, and through which he must pass as a spiritual pilgrim, makes him also a citizen of a particular earthly country.

In today’s world there is a tremendous desire for justice. People want a just society, but what they don’t want is to live a just life. They don’t realize that a society is just only if the individuals that make it up are just. It is impossible to make a society of gold with men of clay. Jesus said, “Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires” (Matthew 5:6). Of course, Jesus was referring to those who have a strong desire to do what is right and just themselves, not to those who have a strong desire that others do what is just. In this respect only we, the Christians, can have desire.

As Christians we are a great beneficial influence on the community. We are like salt for mankind (Matthew 5:13). Actually, if the society in which we live isn’t more evil it is because of us, the Christians. By living saintly lives we make our light shine in front of people, so they see the good things we do and praise the Lord (Matthew 5:16). How better society would be if every Christian would live a life! In order to have a just society, Christians as officials in the government and society must desire that others do what is right and by living saintly lives. In Romans 13:1-6 the apostle Paul teaches us that the governmental authorities have been set up by God. The Christian, therefore, is a person who obeys the authorities and respects the laws. He doesn’t oppose the authorities, because in doing this he is opposing what God has set up. He is not a revolutionary, however just the cause may seem to be.

Civic responsibility, then, in light of what we have said, would have to do with the responsibility or the obligation of the citizen, in connection with whatever rights and duties he possesses as a citizen. Here we are concerned with the civic responsibility of the Christian which is:

To submit to civil government. This responsibility can be summarized in three words: (a) **Obey**—keep the Law. (b) **Pay**—your taxes. (c) **Pray**—for those in authority (I Timothy 2:1-3). We may ask this question: Are there

times when a Christian should disobey government? Yes, if the government commands a Christian to do what is clearly contrary to God's Word. When one disobeys, he must nevertheless submit to the punishment which government prescribes for this disobedience. Since government has the delegated authority of God, government's authority is subordinate to God's orders if they differ. Our Lord's statement in Matthew 22:21 "Give to Caesar the things which are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's," demonstrates the fact that the Christian finds himself in two spheres of authority. Whenever these two spheres of authority come into conflict we must say with Peter and the apostles, "we ought to obey God rather than men."

Instances can be found in the Old Testament in which the Lord instructs an individual to rebel against the existing government and overthrow it. One such instance is in 1 Kings 11 and 12 where God instructs Jeroboam through the prophet Ahijah to rebel against the united kingdom of Solomon and ten tribes from the kingdom. All of the instances such as this in the Old Testament are due to the direct revelation of God. To use these instances as arguments for rebellion today we would require a direct revelation from God to do so. It is God Himself Who raises up kings and puts them down (Psalm 75:7). We must also remember that God uses evil governments, as well as good ones, for His purposes (cf. Habakkuk 1:6-11, Exodus 7:1-7, Amos 6:14). Romans 13:1 seems to say that any government which exists is, by virtue of its existence, ordained of God. To resist any existing government, by attempting to overthrow it is to resist God.

In the Old Testament Saul was to have his kingdom taken away due to his disobedience (1 Samuel 15) and David was anointed as the new king (chapter 16). Although Saul was no longer fit to be king, David waited until God removed Saul, even though he had several excellent opportunities to remove Saul himself (cf. 1 Samuel 24:1-15; 26:6-12). It is God's desire that we live a "tranquil and quiet life" 1 Timothy 2:2, Revolution does not lead to tranquillity, instead we see a lot of bloodshed and killing in the name of revolution or change.

Bible Quotations on Civic Duties:

Matthew 17:27 "However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me."

Romans 13:1 "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed.

1 Peter 2:13 "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority."

Exodus 22:28 "You shall not curse God, nor curse a ruler of your people."

1 Samuel 24:6 "So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed."

Acts 23:5 And Paul said, "I was not aware, brethren, that he was high priest; for it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT SPEAK EVIL OF A RULER OF YOUR PEOPLE.'"

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honour the king.

Jude 1:8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.

Fr George Ngwa

Please remember the Minchin and Sacco families in your prayers, sadly both have had recent bereavements. Also there is a funeral this Friday for Giovanni de Maida, please attend if you are able.

ADVANCE NOTICE The funeral of Andy Sacco will take place during the 10.00 Mass on 1st November 2017

The form you were given last weekend about volunteering to help in our collaborative ministry, will be collected this weekend at the end of Masses. Thank you. Extra forms are available if you did not receive one or need another.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Today, we celebrate World Mission Sunday! We are called to offer our prayers and generous financial support, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, for the worldwide mission of Christ. We are asked to reach out to the peripheries, people in remote villages, towns, and cities by using the witness and work of missionaries and local priests. Please keep all missionaries in your daily prayers.

Apologies for advertising it for last week. I was ahead of myself. It is a mandatory collection for all Catholic Churches but on checking this week I could not find any special collection orange envelope for this. Missio have their own envelopes which have been put out for people to use if they wish. Thank you very much if you have already donated.

There is an insert today of Pope Francis' message for World Missions Sunday.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2019-2020.

The consultation will run for six weeks from 23rd October 2017. The Draft Policy can be accessed on our website at <http://www.stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk> or is available by email from the school office- admin@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk
Comments on the arrangements should be submitted to the school by the closing date of 4th December.

October is the month of the Rosary. The Rosary is recited before Mass each weekday and The Living Rosary group also says the Rosary daily for the sick and housebound of the parish.

If it is a while since you have said it you may not be up to date on the Mysteries of Light and the Fatima prayer that were added. There are some free sheets on saying the rosary at the back of the church, together with sheets on how to say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

"Pray constantly" (1 Thess 5:17). It is always possible to pray. It is even a vital necessity. Prayer and Christian life are inseparable. CCC2757.

The 40 Days for Life campaign is still running until the 5th November. For details of the local programme see the board at the back of the Church. Please support this battle for life with your prayers if you are unable to be otherwise involved.

Since abortion was legalised 50 years ago there had been more than 8 million abortions and that every one of them was a tragedy. Over 20 abortions take place every hour in the UK **one life is ended every 3 minutes.**
(taken from Portsmouth diocese website)

On the notice board, there is news of the planned **TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND from this parish. 1-10th June 2018.**

Please contact Katherine Dempster on 01425 611643 or email katherine.dempster@btinternet.com
Or inform the parish office with your details.

Just a reminder that all Mass intentions should be arranged through the Parish Office

(and to let you know that there are now no vacancies until the end of November)

If you do not mind what date the Mass is said

Fill in an envelope (special ones available at both entrances) and put it in the Saturday/Sunday collection to ensure it reaches the office.

If you want a particular day

You must please phone or come to the office so we can go through the diary together. Many thanks. Johanna.

NOTICE

After Mass today, in the Hall, Father George will meet with parents who would like their children to attend First Holy Communion and Reconciliation classes this next year.

Father George will not be available Tuesday morning as he had a diocesan meeting to attend.

Church opening hours are being changed from November to 07.30-17.00

29th Sunday of the Year Year A 22 October 2017

Sunday	22	October	29 th Sunday of the year	6 pm Vigil Mass - Elza 10.00 Holy Mass –Andy Sacco RIP	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	23	October	St John of Capestrano		
Tuesday	24	October	St Anthony Claret	6 pm Exposition, 6.30 Rosary 6.50 Benediction 7 pm Holy Mass - Roy Tanner, health & healing	7 pm Tap classes
Wednesday	25	October	Ordinary time	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10 am Holy Mass – Jack & Mary Loftus RIP	
Thursday	26	October	Ss Chad & Cedd, Bishops	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10 am Holy Mass – Mavis & Frank Harris intentions	Rosary intention for peace in the world Indian Catechism
Friday	27	October	Ordinary time	9 am Exposition, 9.30 Rosary 9.50 Benediction 10 am Holy Mass - Jack & Mary Loftus RIP 11.30 Requiem Mass for Giovanni Di Maldi	
Saturday	28	October	Ss Simon & Jude	9.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10 am Holy Mass – Maisie & Bill Lane RIP 6 pm Vigil Mass – John Williams, husband of Heather	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	29	October	30 th Sunday of the Year	10 am Holy Mass – Missa Pro Populo	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	£372.44
envelopes	£169.00
Thank you for your continuing support of this parish.	

	Sat 21 Oct	Sun 22 Oct	Sat 28 Oct	Sun 29 Oct
Reader	H Fawcett	P Caffyn	T Gearey	C Fradd
	B Coyne	C Barrett	A Nash	H Fawcett
EMHC	B Dempster	A Joseph	F Fallon	S Salinger
	K Dempster	J Nichols	J Thomas	A Caneda
	T Geary	P Clarke	R or M Yon	J Kurian

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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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.nfwfwp.org.uk

Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster Tel: 01425 611643 email: katherine.dempster@btinternet.com