

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 **07.30- 17.00 (during winter)**



33rd Sunday of the Year Year A 19 November 2017

LET US USE OUR TALENTS, GIFTS AND ABILITIES

THEY ARE ALL FROM GOD

We all have special gifts, talents, and abilities given to us by our Heavenly Father. When we were born, we brought these gifts, talents, and abilities with us. We can say that everything we have is a gift from God. All good things are gifts from God (cf. 1 Tim 6:17). Food and clothing (cf. Mat. 6:25), rain and fruitful harvests (Lev. 26:4), faith (Eph. 2:8), grace (James 4:6), wisdom (Pro. 2:6) (James 1:5), and life itself (Isaiah 42:5) are all gifts from God.

Natural talents are abilities that are part of who we are – they may be artistic talents, intelligence, physical strength, organizing ability etc. They are something that is ‘innate’ – part of us. Sometimes they are unrecognized and unused until some life circumstance brings them forward, and we discover that we have this hidden capacity or talent that we had no knowledge about. These ‘talents’ are part of the way God made us. Learned abilities are the result of our informal and formal education – things we have learned to do as a result of observing other people do them or by deliberately learning how to do them. Sometimes learned abilities overlap with our natural talents. For example, a person with a musical talent who has also studied music in a formal way.

These gifts we have received are not ours alone and they are not to be hoarded. God gave them to us for the purpose of serving Him and serving other people. So each one of us has something to give, say our money and our time to charity, be a volunteer work, or be a peacemaker, teacher or just do our everyday jobs with integrity and respect for others. This is what St. Paul says about our talents or gift from Gods. ***We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*** (cf. Romans 12:5-8)

We have a responsibility to develop the talents we have been given. Sometimes we think we do not have many talents or that other people have been blessed with more abilities than we possess. Sometimes we do not use our talents because we are afraid that we might fail or be criticized by others. We should not hide our talents. We should use them. Then others can see our good works and glorify God and do the same with their talents too. There are certain things we must do to develop our talents. ***First***, we must discover our talents. We should evaluate ourselves to find our strengths and abilities. Our family members and friends can help us do this. ***Second***, we must be willing to spend the time and effort to develop the talent we are seeking. ***Third***, we must have faith that our Heavenly Father will help us, and we must have faith in ourselves. ***Fourth***, we must learn the skills necessary for us to develop our talents. We might do this by taking a class, asking a friend to teach us, or reading a book. ***Fifth***, we must practice using our talent. Every talent takes effort and work to develop. The mastery of a talent must be earned. ***Sixth***, we must share our talent with others. It is by our using our talents that

they grow “That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do; not that the nature of the thing is changed, but that our power to do is increased”

Every son and every daughter of God has received some talent, and each will be held to strict account for the use or misuse to which it is put” God is pleased when we use our talents wisely. He will bless us if we use our talents to benefit other people and to build up His kingdom here on earth. Some of the blessings we gain are joy and love from serving our brothers and sisters here on earth. We also learn self-control. All these things are necessary if we are going to be worthy to live with our Heavenly Father again.

One may be tempted to think that the more we give to others, the poorer we become, but just the opposite is true! Service to others brings meaning and fulfilment to our lives in a way that wealth, power, possessions and self-centered pursuits can never match. As Jesus said, Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (cf. Luke 6:38)

It does not matter whether we have been given great talents, abilities and wealth, or very little. What matters to God is whether we make good use of what we have been given, whether large or small. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. (cf. Luke 12:48)

The essence of the Christian life is in obeying and worshiping God and helping others. God has given each of us important gifts for those purposes. Like the three men in today’s Gospel of the Talents, our gifts may be great or small. But no matter how great or small our talents, abilities and wealth, we are required to put them to good use. **Fr. George Ngwa**

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

*33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 November 2017*

Let us love, not with words but with deeds

1. “Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth” (1 Jn 3:18). These words of the Apostle John voice an imperative that no Christian may disregard. The seriousness with which the “beloved disciple” hands down Jesus’ command to our own day is made even clearer by the contrast between the *empty words* so frequently on our lips and the *concrete deeds* against which we are called to measure ourselves. Love has no alibi. Whenever we set out to love as Jesus loved, we have to take the Lord as our example; especially when it comes to loving the poor. The Son of God’s way of loving is well-known, and John spells it out clearly. It stands on two pillars: God loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:10.19), and he loved us by giving completely of himself, even to laying down his life (cf. 1 Jn 3:16).

Such love cannot go unanswered. Even though offered unconditionally, asking nothing in return, it so sets hearts on fire that all who experience it are led to love back, despite their limitations and sins. Yet this can only happen if we welcome God’s grace, his merciful charity, as fully as possible into our hearts, so that our will and even our emotions are drawn to love both God and neighbour. In this way, the mercy that wells up – as it were – from the heart of the Trinity can shape our lives and bring forth compassion and works of mercy for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in need.

2. “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him” (Ps 34:6). The Church has always understood the importance of this cry. We possess an outstanding testimony to this in the very first pages of the Acts of the Apostles, where Peter asks that seven men, “full of the Spirit and of wisdom” (6:3), be chosen for the ministry of caring for the poor. This is certainly one of the first signs of the entrance of the Christian

community upon the world's stage: the service of the poor. The earliest community realized that being a disciple of Jesus meant demonstrating fraternity and solidarity, in obedience to the Master's proclamation that the poor are *blessed* and *heirs* to the Kingdom of heaven (cf. *Mt* 5:3).

"They sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need" (*Acts* 2:45). In these words, we see clearly expressed the lively concern of the first Christians. The evangelist Luke, who more than any other speaks of mercy, does not exaggerate when he describes the practice of sharing in the early community. On the contrary, his words are addressed to believers in every generation, and thus also to us, in order to sustain our own witness and to encourage our care for those most in need. The same message is conveyed with similar conviction by the Apostle James. In his Letter, he spares no words: "Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you, and drag you into court? ... What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled', without giving them the things needed for the body; what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead' (2:5-6.14-17).

To Be continued ..

Announcement; After repeated calls and just one response I am sure the parish will not be having First Communion preparation classes this year. Or one that will not target the feast of Corpus Christi. It's a pity we have to call it this way.

"THANK YOU: to all who supported our Bingo / Fish and Chip supper last Saturday 10th Nov. We made a good profit of £228 for parish funds with all your help. We might have a quiz evening next.

Book your DIARY DATE for our Pre-Christmas party Sat 16th Dec. With our usual spectacular Christmas raffle (donations required as usual too please!!) Susie & Robin"

Sadly, Betty Healey passed away last Sunday. She had been having Holy Communion with us at home after Sunday Mass each week. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. Her funeral is planned for 30th November.

Please can we keep the sacristy outer door closed during Mass to keep the heat in. It would be very helpful if **only those who are unable to walk round to the front of the Church** use this side entrance to minimise the traffic and keep the heat in. Thank you.

Don't forget the notice boards are at the back of the church with information you may find helpful.

A reminder that If you are finding too difficult to attend Sunday Masses because of health/ physical reasons please inform Father George or the office.

Items of interest in the Diocesan e news this week include.

What you should know about purgatory. Video presentation by Father Mike Schmitz
New initiative to support Catholic schools
New Confirmation guidelines
Catholic Youth Sunday 26th November
Catholic Christian and interreligious Collaboration
Share the Journey – Pope Francis initiative
Don't miss out on Diocesan news. The information will come straight to your email each week.

NEW to this PARISH?

Please let us have name, address, telephone and email address if you have one for the Parish register. They will not be given out to anyone, but we need to record our numbers.

For **Baptism** forms please contact the office.

Funerals, contact Father George once a date has been agreed with him through the Funeral directors.

Weddings- email your request to the parish office.

Don't forget

**Holy Mass
Friday 24th November
at 3pm**

for the intentions of all your deceased family and friends.

Sunday	19	November	33 rd Sunday of the year	18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Brigid Horan RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>David Watts RIP</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	20	November	Ordinary time		
Tuesday	21	November	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Julia Marcin RIP</i>	
Wednesday	22	November	St Cecilia	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Bea & Christine's intentions</i>	Rosary intentions for the sick and housebound of the parish
Thursday	23	November	St Clement	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Enid Binyon RIP</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	24	November	St Andrew Dung-Lac & companions	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall's intentions</i> 15.00 Holy Mass - <i>for the deceased friends and family of parishioners</i>	
Saturday	25	November	St Catherine of Alexandria Our Lady on Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Enid Binyon RIP</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Elza RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	26	November	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	10.00 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 4/5 November	
loose	343.33
envelopes	252.00
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 18Nov	Sun 19 Nov	Sat 25 Nov	Sun 26 Nov
Reader	C d'Espagnac	C Barrett	J Marriott	M Newland
	K Dempster	PCaffyn	M Newland	C Fradd
EMHC	K Dempster	J Kurian	J Thomas	J Nichols
	B Gearey	M Tanner	R or M Yon	M Buckland
	B Dempster	A Joseph	F Fallon	S Salinger

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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

