

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)



34th Sunday of the Year Year A 26 November 2017 **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

DID YOU VISIT JESUS CHRIST WHEN HE WAS SICK?

Our Gospel reading today gives us the opportunity to re-visit the topic of Mercy and the fundamental option for the Poor which was the course content of our meditation with his Holiness Pope Francis for a whole Liturgical year – *The Year of Mercy*. Our daily reflection during this time brought us face to face with the **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy**.

The Catholic Church has traditionally encouraged her children to understand the practice of merciful love by dividing the works of mercy into two kinds: corporal (that is, bodily) and spiritual. One person who taught this way of life clearly, and who manifested it so beautifully in her apostolate, was St. Teresa of Calcutta. She used to say that there are two kinds of "Real Presence" of our Lord in this world: the Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, where He fills us with His light, His life, and His love, and our Lord's real presence in the poor, both in those materially poor and those spiritually poor, where He is waiting for us to give Him back His light, His life, and His love.

Living on the Bread of Life, we receive our Saviour's merciful love; sharing our bread with those who hunger physically and spiritually, we return that love back to Him, giving His compassionate Heart solace and joy. What we see in the life of St. Teresa is a shining example of a life dedicated especially to practicing the corporal works of mercy. Hence it is customary to enumerate both corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The traditional enumeration of the corporal works of mercy is as follows:

- 1 To feed the hungry;
- 2 To give drink to the thirsty;
- 3 To clothe the naked;
- 4 To Shelter the homeless;
- 5 To visit the sick;
- 6 To Visit those in prison;
- 7 To bury the dead.

The spiritual works of mercy are:

- 1 To instruct the ignorant;
- 2 To counsel the doubtful;
- 3 To admonish sinners;
- 4 To bear wrongs patiently;
- 5 To forgive offences willingly;
- 6 To comfort the afflicted;
- 7 To pray for the living and the dead.

Perhaps your first reaction upon reading this traditional list might be, "This list is a bit out of date. After all, when do we ever have the opportunity in the modern world to 'give drink to the thirsty' or to 'clothe the naked'? And who in their right mind would fail to bury their loved ones these days!" Remember Jesus saying that whenever we do carry out these works of mercy to anyone, it is but to him we are doing.

First and Second: Feed the Hungry and Give Drink to the Thirsty. We can help the hungry in simple ways: for example, by making donations to local food banks or, if we have the time, by helping at a local soup kitchen for the homeless. We can take the time to educate ourselves about the problem of hunger in the world, and we can use our voices and our votes to petition and pressure our politicians to make the fight against world hunger

a high priority for our government and by generously contributing to alleviate world hunger and also caring for our environment so that diseases like typhoid and other diseases can be eradicated.

Third and Fourth: Clothe the Naked and Shelter the Homeless.

support policies of the governments that lead to the creation of jobs for the poor and the homeless, because those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church. Finally, bear in mind that those of you who are working hard each day to earn the money to provide food and drink, clothing and shelter for your own families, and those of you who cook and clean at home, are already practicing these corporal works of mercy, at least outwardly. Why not practice them inwardly now as well, from the heart, not grudgingly or merely out of routine, but with compassion and love for your spouse and children, doing all to the glory of God and giving thanks to God the Father for providing for all your needs (cf. I Cor 10:31, Col 3:17). St. Paul wrote that the simplest daily chore becomes "a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God," a true "spiritual worship" (Rom 12:1).

Fifth and Sixth: Visit those in Prison, Comfort the Sick.

Visiting those in prison certainly does not mean being "soft on crime." Punishment deters and quarantines and gives the criminal the opportunity to do penance, but friendship and prayer have the capacity to reform and to heal. A true work of mercy is done by Christians who befriend those in correctional institutions in the name of Jesus Christ, thereby affirming their human dignity as persons made in God's image.

The sixth corporal work of mercy is to comfort the sick. Qualified doctors and nurses donate their services to provide free medical care for those who cannot afford any. To "comfort the sick" means, first of all, to comfort them with something they urgently need: namely, proper medical assistance. Of course, there are some people who are "sick" not from physical illness but from social isolation. One thinks especially of the elderly and the house bound in our communities who, whether at home or in long-term care facilities, live in geographical isolation from their loved ones. "Visiting the sick" in our world can mean reaching out to the friendless in our local nursing homes: those who are "sick at heart" from being lonely and forgotten and who are regularly deprived of the basic human need called "friendship."

Visiting the housebound elderly and the chronically and terminally ill is no easy task. Trying to do it on a regular basis can take us right out of our "comfort zones" because it confronts us with real human lives for which, in earthly terms, there seems to be so little hope. Such people often live in a pain in their hearts. Our mere presence, as someone willing to be a friend and a listening ear, can mean much more to them than we can imagine, and along the way they will be giving a precious gift to us as well: the gift of growth in the virtue of compassion.

Seventh: Bury the Dead.

No doubt most of us make sure that our relatives and friends have a proper funeral service. But we also need to be aware of the needs of those who are grieving: struggling to "bury their dead" emotionally. Grieving can be a long and arduous process; shedding tears at a funeral rarely completes it. We need to help one another to truly bury our lost loved ones by letting go of them, entrusting them to the hands of our merciful Creator and Saviour. That takes friendship — a patient friendship that keeps on visiting the bereaved, keeps on helping them dry their tears, even when the grieving process takes many months or even years. This is a precious work of mercy: to help one another emotionally "bury the dead," entrusting them finally to the merciful Heart of the Redeemer. One way of doing this is our Catholic Tradition of offering Masses for the eternal repose of souls for our own departed loved one or for that of a friend or relative. When we come to the Holy Eucharist, we are actually closer to the faithful departed than at any other time in our lives. To be at "Holy Communion" with Him, therefore, is to be gathered up in a mysterious way into the whole "Communion of Saints" in this life and the life to come. Thus, we can make every Holy Eucharist a time of prayer for departed loved ones and encourage others to do the same.

The corporal works of Mercy sounds inspiring in principle, but we are already weighed down with our own issues and responsibilities and cannot possibly take on any more burdens or possibly do all these suggest. True, of course we cannot, To begin with perhaps just two or three, as we may have the opportunity, whether by deed, word, or prayer, it is always possible for us to practice these basic corporal woks of mercy. This corporal work of mercy is relatively easy to do. This takes no extensive background reading and no training to accomplish. The socially isolated, deprived or affected people are usually not far away. They often live just around the corner from us, or they are members of our own parish. Most of all, do not forget that some of them may even be members of your own family, relatives too much overlooked and too often forgotten.

Fr. George Ngwa

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTATIONS

When God pushes you to the edge of difficulty, trust him because two things can happen. Either he will catch you when you fall or he will teach you how to fly.

There isn't enough room in your mind for both worry and faith. You must decide which one will live there.

God can restore what is broken and change it into something amazing. All you need is faith.

Pope Francis's message on the First World day of the Poor will be continued next week...

PALS - Tuesday, 28th November - Please be at our lunch venue for 12:00 - 12:30

Friday, December 1st our monthly meeting 10:30 in the hall. Welcome to our new members.

Please bring your diaries 2017 + 2018. My Planner has arrived from Chicago and prepared ready to start the coming year. Those who want to pay for their booked day out in February, please bring cheque paid to travel company and print your name on reverse. Any queries contact Jane 501 126

Our 'Contacts' telephone numbers leaflet + address leaflet for individual members will be fully revised to accommodate changes and new members ready for January. *Jane Gow*

Don't forget the Funeral Mass for Betty Healy is on Thursday 30th November at 10.00. Remember attending is a work of mercy and remember her and her family in your prayers.

Pope Francis's intentions for December :The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Advance Notice for your diary : There will be a Formation meeting for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion on Wed 6th December at 6pm in the Church.

Remember that the Pre Christmas Party is on Saturday evening 16th December. Further details next week.

Sunday 10th December is Bible Sunday. Portsmouth enews has a video clip on "Ways to read the bible" and many suggestions for making the most of the Word of God, especially now we are almost in Advent and encourages everyone to read the bible daily. Some suggestions are:

Sacred Space. Running for 18 years this daily prayer and reflection on the daily gospel has a Jesuit approach finding a prayerful reflective place from which to read the scripture. Run by the Irish Jesuits and Loyola Press. (Takes 5-10 mins)

Pray as you Go. A daily prayer session from the Jesuits, de- signed for use on portable MP3 players and phones, to help you pray whilst travelling to and from work, study, etc. A new prayer session is produced every day.**The Wednesday**

Gospel Webinar . Specially for our diocese Sr Hyacinthe from Sway in the New Forest reflects in depth on the upcoming Sunday Gospel and offers formation in faith through Holy Scripture. Join the webinar on a Wednesday evening to join the conversation or listen to the podcast at your convenience. Takes 50 minutes to an hour. Join the webinar or listen to it on itunes

Sunday	26	November	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	18.00 Vigil Mass – Elza RIP 10.00 Holy Mass – Missa Pro Populo	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	27	November	Ordinary time		
Tuesday	28	November	Ordinary time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – deceased members of <i>Nixon & d’Espagnac families</i>	
Wednesday	29	November	Ordinary time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Donald & Agnes Campbell RIP</i>	Rosary intentions for the sick and housebound of the parish
Thursday	30	November	St Andrew	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Funeral of Betty Healy</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world No Choir practice - singing at funeral instead as able.
Friday	1	December	Ordinary time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Harry’s intention</i>	
Saturday	2	December	Our Lady on Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Jacqueline Gillier’s intention</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Holloway family’s intentions</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	3	December	1 st Sunday of Advent	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

Christmas masses: Christmas Vigil is Sunday 24th December at 8pm with carols starting at 7.15pm. Christmas morning at 10.00.

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 18/19 November	
loose	406.23
envelopes	274.00
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 25 Nov	Sun 26 Nov	Sat 2 Dec	Sun 3 Dec
Reader	J Marriott	M Newland	B Coyne	J Thomas
	M Newland	C Fradd	T Gearey	M Tanner
EMHC	J Thomas	J Nichols	J Coyne	A Caneda
	R or M Yon	M Buckland	M Newland	J Kurian
	F Fallon	S Salinger	B Coyne	M Tanner

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.nfwfwp.org.uk

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

