

# 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)



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time    Year B    14 January 2018**

## **CALLED BY GOD: MY VOCATION AS A CHRISTIAN**

“Is God calling me to a particular job, profession or type of work?” This is a significant question, because the work we do is important to God. **If work is important, it makes sense to ask what work God wants us to do.** This Sunday our theme is Divine Vocation. Everyone is called by God to be something, to do something for others with his life and with his unique gifts. Hence, today’s readings remind us of our personal and corporate call to become witnesses and to lead lives of holiness and purity; because discipleship demands an ongoing response of commitment.

We read in the Bible that God does indeed call people. Some people, to particular work, and he gives all people various kinds of guidance for their work. **So we can say “yes,” God does actually call people to particular jobs, occupations, and types of life and work.** God calls people to become united with himself in every aspect of life. **The calling to follow Christ lies at the root of every other calling.** .

*Vocation is not self-chosen.* It is more than an ordinary call and anyone who has felt God's call knows that the process is anything but simple. That is to say, we do not *choose* our vocations. We are *called* to them. There is a big difference here and it is important, however, not to confuse a calling to follow Christ with a calling to Priestly or Religious life. People in every walk of life are called to follow Christ with equal depth and commitment; this is clear in our primary vocation within the family that God used to bring us into the world. We did not choose our parents. We did not pick our brothers and sisters. Nor did our parents, really, choose us. They may have chosen to have us—or, for those who have been adopted, they picked us out—but they did not choose exactly how we turned out. Nor did we choose what country we were born in. Yes, it is possible to emigrate, to change one’s citizenship, but still one’s society, one’s identity-shaping culture, is more of a “given.” Nor is our vocation in the church merely a matter of our choice. That is to say, God making use of your family and your culture—created you as you are. The doctrine of vocation has to do with the mystery of individuality, how God creates each human being to be different from all of the rest and gives each a unique calling in every stage of life.

Thus you have particular talents, which you are to understand are His gifts. You have a particular personality, with interests, likes, and dislikes that not everyone shares. Such is the plenitude of God’s creation that no two people or the grains of sand or leaves of a tree or anything God has made are exactly alike. Vocations are likewise unique, with no two people taking up exactly the same space in the family, the nation, the church, or the workplace. Finding your vocation, then, has to do, in part, with finding your God-given talents (what you can do) and your God-given personality (what fits the person you are). Scripture speaks about how people are “called” into faith. “Those whom he called he also justified” (Romans 8:30).

**Distinction between a Call and a Vocation:** Your vocation is not the same as your career or profession. However, there is an overlap between a vocation and a profession. A career or a profession is something that you have in order to support yourself and to contribute in some way to the good of the society. You don't need

to believe in God to choose a career or a profession. A person can pick, choose and switch profession freely depending on his/her preferences, strengths or circumstances. *A profession or a career always has a horizontal dimension.*

*When we talk about vocation, we introduce a vertical dimension in our life, which is God.* It is no longer 'what do I prefer?' but rather 'What does God want me to be?' A vocation is not something that you can switch like a profession or a career. For example, a person may work in retail sales because he/she has what it takes to sell a product, to establish customer relations, to follow directions and to work with a team to accomplish daily tasks. That same person's vocation may be to be a single person, a wife or a husband, to be a religious brother or sister, to be a deacon or priest.

**Holiness:** The call to holiness and a call to a specific vocation - single person, married life, consecrated life or ordained ministry - is important.

The universal call to holiness is rooted in our baptism. It is a call to know, love and serve the Lord. It is a movement that draws us toward a deeper union with God. We feel a growing desire to love God and to love our neighbour. We come to understand that there is a reason for our existence and there is meaning in our lives.

The universal call to holiness is an ongoing conversion experience. It keeps opening our eyes to new awareness of God's loving presence. It keeps inviting us to turn toward God by aligning our will with God's will. A willingness to do God's will is built on two convictions. We have to believe that God loves us more than we love ourselves and that God wants our happiness more than we want it. In other words, we have to believe that God knows more than we do about what will make us truly happy. If God had given us everything we ever asked for we would be seriously unhappy. The basis of our desire to find and to do the will of God should be the belief that God's will for us is our only chance to be truly and lastingly happy.

**So, what does it mean to be called as a disciple?**

**Believe what you read.** A disciple is a light that shines in the world and reflects the Lord in her actions and lifestyle. His/her faith is reflected in her words and deeds. "You are the light of the world," Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-16. "A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

**Teach what you believe.** A disciple speaks the Word of the Lord in regular conversation, not in a preachy way, but naturally because it's what she believes. And she's so eager to share the Word because her desire is to introduce the Lord to everyone.

**Practice what you read and Love as Christ did, or at least make an effort.** Jesus is love and He was clear when He called all His followers to love as He loved. Disciples understand that it's not easy to love as the Lord did, but know also that to love others is to love Him.

**Recognizes that he/she needs God's strength to be a true disciple.** Because a disciple knows her weaknesses and understands that he/she cannot live in this world without the strength of the Lord. And that suffering is only bearable when the Lord is with him/her.

**Loves Jesus above everyone and everything.** The first Commandment calls for this and Christians adhere to this with devotion. While disciples love their family, friends and even foes, they put the Lord above all else and it's evident in their priorities. Money, career, ambition may be a part of their lives, but these things and other material interests never come before Christ and following His Word.

**Selflessness and sacrifice.** Disciples always put others first and in many ways put other's needs before their own. This is evident in disciples' selfless deeds and many acts of kindness.

**Humility and modesty.** To be humble is to be a disciple of the Lord, because the Lord Himself was truly humble. Just remember that He came into this world a man, and how he came, in a stable, laying in a manger. He humbled Himself to everyone and yet He was God. Christ's disciples are also modest, not just in appearance but also in the way that they act.

**Dedicated to following Christ and the Commandments.** A disciple is committed to the Lord and eager to follow His Word and act in ways that are pleasing to Him. This doesn't mean that a disciple is perfect or that he/she always does the right thing.

**Is not easily influenced by the world.** In fact, a disciple is indifferent to the standards of the world and is not affected by trends or fashion.

**Has self-control in her emotions and actions.** This is evident in the way he/she behaves, regardless of how others act toward her. If criticized, ridiculed or persecuted for the faith, his/her responds with kindness, just as Jesus did. After all, Christ called us all to do as He did.

**Father George Ngwa**

**Cover for Father George going away on a course.**

This still needs to be arranged. There is Holy Mass on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January and then cover required until 3<sup>rd</sup> February when normal Mass times resume. The weekend of 27/28<sup>th</sup> January is the priority. If you can help in this matter please let the office know. Thank you.

### **Portsmouth enews – This week**

**Reflections by Jennifer Geach**

**"Hearing the Call": reflections on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**The Sacrament of Baptism – video**

**Please pray for peace this coming Sunday - Peace Sunday**

Extract from Pope Francis's Message for Peace Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

Entitled- **Migrants and refugees, men and women in search of peace**

“Let us draw inspiration from the words of Saint John Paul II: “If the ‘dream’ of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees’ and migrants’ contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true ‘common home’. Throughout history, many have believed in this “dream”, and their achievements are a testament to the fact that it is no mere utopia.”

The full version of his message is on the back notice board of the Church. Please inform the office if you wish a copy.

**If you have an email address you can receive the above enews weekly from the diocese. Just go to the Portsmouth diocese website and follow the instructions. It is very simple and will keep you up to date on what is happening in the wider Church.**

**PALS - MONTHLY LUNCH - Tuesday 16th January**

Those booked, please meet in the church car park to arrange transport to venue 11:45 a.m. for arrival by 12:15.

*Thank you – Jane*

**CHOIR PRACTICE - Thursday - 10:30 a.m. after Mass.** To include 'choir only' motets ready for Lent.

**Please note. There is a Second Collection today for the White Flower Appeal. Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.**

**There are still some Christmas cards to be collected. Last chance.**

Please check yours is not still in the pile. Those who have not collected theirs will have to be phoned or called on to check if they are still in the Parish so please help if you can. Thank you.

**LOST Property**

This is accumulating again. Check the box at the back of the Church. There is also still a blue jacket hanging in the hall.

**Forthcoming DATE for your Diary.** There will be a Parish Quiz on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb in the hall after the evening Vigil Mass.

**Thursday Jan 18<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity**

<b>Sunday</b>	14	January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in ordinary time	<b>18.00</b> Vigil Mass - <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Missa pro populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
<b>Monday</b>	15	January	Ordinary time		
<b>Tuesday</b>	16	January	Ordinary time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction <b>19.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Rosemary's wellbeing</i>	7 pm Tap classes
<b>Wednesday</b>	17	January	St Anthony of Egypt	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Hannah Gearey RIP</i>	
<b>Thursday</b>	18	January	Ordinary time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Brigid Horan RIP</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
<b>Friday</b>	19	January	St Wulstan	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Delia Woolnough RIP</i>	
<b>Saturday</b>	20	January	<b>St Fabian, St Sebastian</b> Our Lady on Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Marie Ange d'Espagnac RIP</i> <b>18.00 Vigil Mass</b> – <i>Elza RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday</b>	21	January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in ordinary time	<b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> - <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 6/7 January	
loose	433.15
envelopes	187.65
Crib offerings – £44.96	
Thank you for your continued support	
Deacon Stephen's leaving present- The amount collected was made up to £1,000 and given him recently.	

	Sat 13 Jan	Sun 14 Jan	Sat 20 Jan	Sun 21 Jan
<b>Reader</b>	T Gearey	C Barrett	P Thorpe	
	A Nash	P Caffyn	B Dempster	C Fradd
<b>EMHC</b>	B Dempster	J Nichols	F Fallon	A Caneda
	K Dempster	M Buckland	J Thomas	J Kurian
	T Gearey	S Salinger	R or M Yon	M Tanner

Please can someone volunteer, on the main list, to take Hugh Fawcett's place and read Sun 21<sup>st</sup> January. Thank you.

**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: [wwwnfwf.org.uk](http://wwwnfwf.org.uk)

**Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster Tel: 01425 611643 email: [katherine.dempster@btinternet.com](mailto:katherine.dempster@btinternet.com)**

