

# 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)



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 28 January 2018**

## **RACIAL PREJUDICE – A VICE NOT A VIRTUE FOR A CHRISTIAN**

Let us take a moment and meditate on this beautiful hymn of John Oxenham (1852 1941) as today we celebrate Racial Justice Sunday.

*1 In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.*

*3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.*

*4 In Christ now meet both east and west;  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.*

Last year – 2017 - some 26 Priests from about 12 different countries in the world met in London for a week attending a National course aimed at making them live and work happily in the UK. Among the many topics discussed were issues like *1) – downright racial attitudes, remarks and rejection even as one performs his ministry as Priest. 2) Living with the English Sarcasm 3) The scornful ways some English people accept corrections 4) The speed at which negative issues are spread ( gossips)* These came too hard for all of us, especially as the facilitators of the Course content were British citizens - Religious Men and Women, Priests and Lay people. This national course authorized and mandated by the Episcopal Conference of England and Wales is a simple way of accepting that Racial prejudice is noticeable among Christians and in the Church. Scientifically, humanity is comprised of exactly one race and this is the HUMAN RACE. Although the world has different ethnicities, geographies, citizenships, and cultures, all human beings are nearly identical genetically. The genetic differences that reflect variation in physical appearance across all mankind involve 0.01% of our genes.

**WE ARE ALL MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD:** All humans are made in the image of God ( cf. Genesis 1:26-27), brought to life by His breath (Genesis 2:7), and imbued with an immaterial and immortal soul. Despite the genetic and spiritual unity of the human race, racism still exists, as people choose to treat others poorly because they look different or are from a different culture.

God doesn't discriminate against a person's skin colour. That is because God always looks at the heart and not the outward appearance (cf. 1 Sam 16:7). All of us originated from Adam and Eve, and so we all bleed red, and we are all equal in God's sight, although He does regard those who have trusted in His Son, Jesus Christ. The Apostle John reminds us that "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness" (1 John 2:9), and again, "whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes"(1 John 2:11).

**GOD'S WORDS TO ISRAEL:** God was clear in His rules to the Israelites regarding those from different nations. In Deuteronomy 10:17-18, Moses asserts God's love of the foreigner and then exhorts the Israelites to love them as well (verse 19). God did make a distinction between foreigners who desired to follow Him and/or blessed His people and those who did not. In 1 Kings 8:41-43, Solomon acknowledges that foreigners will pray to God, and God will hear them. Nations that respected God's will were to be blessed (cf. Genesis 12:2-3).

However, nations that practiced widespread child sacrifice and temple prostitution were to be destroyed (Deuteronomy 20:17-18). This was not a racial issue. It was God protecting His people from sinful influences. Jesus exemplified God's grace. In John 4, He had a long conversation with a Samaritan woman, although the Samaritans were an ethnic group the Jews despised. As a result, many from her village followed Him. He was quick to heal Gentiles and praise their faith (cf. Matthew 8:5-13; 15:22-28). And He taught His church to do the same (cf. Acts 10-11). The Apostle Paul's ministry was to the Gentiles. The inclusiveness of Jesus' message is summarized in Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

**NOT FROM THE BIBLE:** Unfortunately, humanity has twisted the Bible to try to justify human fears and prejudices. Some consider the "curse of Ham" to be an excuse to hate those of African descent. Others insist that the Jews were responsible for Jesus' death and deserve our derision. Both views are patently false. The Bible tells us that God's judgment is not based on appearances but what is on the inside (cf. 1 Samuel 16; 7), and those who do judge according to appearances do so with evil intent (cf. James 2:4). Instead, we are to treat one another with love (cf. James 2:8), regardless of ethnicity (cf. Acts 10:34-35) and social standing (cf. James 2:1-5). Christian love negates all prejudice, and the Bible condemns racism.

**HOW A CHRISTIAN MUST RESPOND:** A Christian's response to any form of racial prejudices is to reject it. Prejudice is part of our fallen human natures (cf. Romans 3:23; and Psalm 51:5). As Christians we all harbour bias to some degree, whether it be racial, gender, educational, or socio-economic. Exalting ourselves by demeaning others is a common behaviour we find in the world. But, when we are baptized into Christ, He changes our nature. What feels "normal" to us then must be brought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit's who gives us the grace to live as brothers and sisters. St. Paul tells us in Colossians 3:9-11 to, "***Put off the old self with its practices and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free, but Christ is all, and in all.***"

There is no place for racial prejudice or any like thinking in the life of a Christian in Christ. Racial differences are not to be condemned or ignored, but celebrated, especially within the family of God. There will be a rainbow of skin colours and ethnicities surrounding the throne of God one day, not because God tolerates it, but because He loves it and wills it. (cf. Rev. 7:9; 14:6). He made each of us the way He wants us (cf. Psalm 139:13) and enjoys the many ways we reflect His glory through our physical appearances, our inherited traits, and our ethnic variations. St. Paul tells us in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." One of Jesus' deepest longings was that we "be one" as He and the Father are one (cf. John 17:21). Racial prejudices destroy that oneness; therefore, a Christian should hate it as God does.

How will people tell us apart from the rest of the world? Jesus says, "you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (cf. John 13:34-35), and that leaves no room for any type of prejudices.

**PRAY FOR THEM:** The Apostle Paul, who was once Saul and an enemy of the Church, of Christ, should make us see clearly that God can save anyone! Since we are told to "pray for those who spitefully discriminate, abuse and use people, and persecute you" (Matt 5:44), we know it is Jesus' will that we pray for those who are presently our enemies or enemies of the cross. Few other world religions would teach or believe that we should pray for an enemy, but that's the radical love of God. Dying for those who were once His enemies (Rom 5:10). Pray that God would soften their hearts and that they would seek repentance and then Christ.

Pray for those who are prejudiced, and then give them what they don't deserve...your love and your prayers. That's the only way they'll know we are Jesus' disciples (John 13:34-35)

**Fr George Ngwa**

**There is a second collection today for Racial Justice.**

Bishop Philip is presently Visiting the Archdiocese of Bamenda - Cameroon and has asked for our prayers.

**PALS - Our next meeting is Friday, February 2nd.** Please bring cheques if necessary for our monthly outing Tuesday, March 13th. *Thank you - Jane*

## Parish Quiz Night 3<sup>rd</sup> February 7pm

There will be a quiz in the hall after Mass on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7pm. Cost £6 per person. You can play as an individual or make up a team. There will be a raffle and some food provided, ie. Cheese rolls etc. Bring your own drink. Peter Thomas will conduct the quiz. Come and join in the fun. See you all there. Thanks Robin and Susie.

**Looking ahead-** Reverend Roger Stone will on 18<sup>th</sup> February visit our Parish to collect the cheque for the money raised for the Apostleship of the Sea by a special collection from our tea and coffee parishioners. The presentation will be in the Hall after Mass. The Apostleship of the Sea also like to provide woolly hats to give to the seamen so some of these have been knitted to give him too. Well done to everyone concerned and Robin for organising this.

## Chrism Mass Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

A coach will be leaving from this Church in the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> March from the Hall car park and those wishing to join in the Celebration by Bishop Philip and the priests of the diocese at Portsmouth Cathedral please contact Catherine d'Espagnac, who is kindly organising it again this year, on 01425 615349.

There is usually a large contingent from this Parish so get your seat early. We return straight after the service so you may wish to take a drink and sandwich in the coach.

### St Thomas Aquinas' Feast day today 28<sup>th</sup> January. "The Angelic Doctor"

The Doctors of the Church have been designated doctors because of their contribution to theology. St. Augustine is the "Doctor of Grace" St. Francis de Sales is the "Doctor of Charity" as he was most gentle and filled with love. St. John of the Cross is the "Mystical Doctor". Etc. St. Thomas Aquinas is called the "Common Doctor" because of his ability in every area and of all theology together.

### He wrote many prayers including the Tantum Ergo. This is a one of his prayers for at the end of Mass.

LORD, Father all-powerful,  
and ever-living God,  
I thank Thee,  
for even though I am a sinner,  
Thy unprofitable servant,  
not because of my worth,  
but in the kindness of Thy mercy,  
Thou hast fed me with the precious Body  
and Blood of Thy Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that this holy communion  
may not bring me condemnation  
and punishment but forgiveness and salvation.

May it be a helmet of faith  
and a shield of good will.

May it purify me from evil ways  
and put an end to my evil passions.

May it bring me charity and patience,  
humility and obedience,  
and growth in power to do good.

May it be my strong defense against all my  
enemies,  
visible and invisible,  
and the perfect calming of all my evil impulses,  
bodily and spiritual.

May it unite me more closely to Thee,  
the one true God  
and lead me safely through death  
to everlasting happiness with Thee.

And I pray that Thou wilt lead me,  
a sinner to the banquet  
where Thou with Thy Son and Holy Spirit,  
are true and perfect light,  
total fulfillment,  
everlasting joy,  
gladness without end,  
and perfect happiness to Thy saints.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Job Vacancy

#### Administrator/ Secretary Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton

A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Administrator/ Secretary to work in the Parish Office. Hours of work 8 per week: Wed and Fri. Start date TBC. Job description and application forms are on the Portsmouth Diocese website and further details can be obtained from Katherine Dempster or Father George. Closing date is 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

<b>Sunday</b> (Fr Aneesh Joseph)	28	January	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time	<b>18.00 Vigil Mass</b> – Helen Taylor RIP <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – Joseph Matthew RIP	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
<b>Monday</b>	29	January		No Mass	
<b>Tuesday</b>	30	January		No Mass	
Wednesday (Fr Quarmby)	31	January	St John Bosco	<b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – Pearl Wall RIP	
<b>Thursday</b> (Fr Quarmby)	1	February	Ordinary time	<b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – Brigid Horan RIP	
<b>Friday</b> (Fr Quarmby)	2	February	Presentation of the Lord	<b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – Ursula & Bernard Delair's Wedding anniversary	
<b>Saturday</b>	3	February	St Blaise	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – (currently no intention) <b>18.00 Vigil Mass</b> - MPP	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday</b>	4	February	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time	<b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – George Johnstone RIP	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 20/21 January	
loose	341.70
envelopes	242.21
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 27 Jan	Sun 28 Jan	Sat 3 Feb	Sun 4 Feb
<b>Reader</b>	M Newland	J Thomas	C d'Espagnac	S Ramsay
	M Hobbs	J Thomas	K Dempster	M Tanner
<b>EMHC</b>	B Coyne	A Joseph	M Harwood	S Salinger
	J Coyne	J Nichols	R or M Yon	A Caneda
	M Newland	P Clarke	C d'Espagnac	J Kurian

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) emergency mobile: **07475753040**

**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: [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)

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

Summary of Parish Income and Expenditure for Dec 2017  
This excludes 2nd Collections/ Charity collections, Christmas Gift, Mass Intention donations and any other funds collected for third parties.

Andy Thomas (Treasurer)

Income	(£)	Expenditure	(£)
Offertory	5,490	Clergy costs	956

Votive Candles	386	Liturgy/Church	1,494
Hall/Other	77	Office /Presbytery	1,483
Parish Supper	606	Diocesan Levy /Insurance	1,776
		Farewell Gift	564
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,559</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,273</b>

