

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)



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 4 February 2018

PREACHING THE GOSPEL IS AN OBLIGATION FOR ALL CHRISTIANS

“If I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I do not preach it...”

The mission of the Church is first to be obedient to Christ and His teachings. To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the Good News of God’s grace to all and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbour. This will bring establish the fulfilment of God’s reign and kingdom in the world.

MUST I PREACH THE GOSPEL?

Many of our Christians sometimes wonder if the responsibility of spreading the message of the good News is an obligation that rest on their shoulders. Isn’t it the responsibility of the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests and the Religious men and women or those who outwardly manifest the *Holy than thou syndrome*? So the question is Must every Christian evangelize or preach the Gospel of Christ? The scriptural answer is a resounding “Yes.”

First, the mission of spreading the gospel was given to the apostles. Jesus commanded the apostles among many other things, to preach the gospel to the whole creation. So this *command* of Jesus given to the apostles also applies to every Christian today. “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you” (Matt. 28:18-20). Secondly Jesus said “I am with you always, to the end of the age,” and this *promise* certainly applies to all of us today!

SCRIPTURAL TEXTS AND MANDATES GIVEN TO CHRISTIANS TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL?

The Promise of the Holy Spirit: In Acts 1:8 we read, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” This verse gives a command from the risen Lord to all his followers. It’s not only apostles that have the ministry of reconciling the world and be ambassadors, indeed all Christians are.

The stoning of Stephen: The example of the first Christians in the early church is a clear indication that we are called preaching as an obligation. Following the stoning of Stephen we read in Acts 8:1, “And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. They went about sharing the gospel with others. The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession or a

major part of their occupation, but men and women who earned their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith to those whom they met in their ordinary daily encounters.

The stewardship the Gospel: This imposes on us the obligation of spreading the gospel of Christ to the entire World. Jesus reminds us, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required” (Luke 12:48). We have been given no greater gift than the gospel, and we have no greater stewardship than to share that message of good news with others. Paul expresses it well in 2 Corinthians 5:14: “for the love of Christ controls us.”

The Samaritan woman: Why must we proclaim the gospel? Our crucified and risen Lord’s command was to all His believers. He wants each of His followers to tell people the good news of His salvation. The story of the sinful Samaritan woman in John 4 is a good example. As soon as she believed in the Lord Jesus and received Him as living water, she left her water pot, went away into the city, and told the people, “Come, see a man who told me all that I have done. Is this not the Christ?” She didn’t wait to go to a gospel preaching school. She simply told people about the wonderful Jesus she had met. Just like her, we all can tell someone about the precious Christ we accepted as our Saviour.

Continuity after the death of the Apostles: The work of the Church did not cease when the original disciples died, instead the Church’s mission has passed on to each generation of God’s people. Jesus promised to be with His followers as they accomplished that work until He returns at the end of the age.

The testimony of St. Paul: St. Paul also said in Romans 1:14-15, “I am debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to foolish; so, for my part, I am ready to announce the gospel to you also who are in Rome.” He further expressed this when he said; “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). The gospel is God’s message of how salvation will be brought to mankind—starting with His Church.

Holy Mother Church: The Church plays many roles in bringing salvation to the world. It stands as the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). It is the household or family of God (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Peter 4:17, NIV). It is the mother who nurtures God’s sons and daughters (Galatians 4:26). It functions as the “pillar and ground of the truth” in a spiritually confused world (1 Timothy 3:15).

CONCLUSION: “How then shall they call upon Him into whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe into Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without one who proclaims Him?” None of us was born a disciple of Christ. Every one of us is today enjoying God’s salvation only because someone proclaimed Him to us. We in turn owe it to our friends, relatives, and others God puts in our lives to tell them about the Saviour.

To be spiritually healthy and nourished on God’s word is good. However, we also need to share the Lord Jesus with others. When we don’t tell others about Him, we deprive others of the gospel and that hinders our spread of the gospel of Christ. We all know someone who needs salvation. Maybe it’s someone we work with, our neighbour, or a friend. People are hurting inside; they feel lost or empty. They long to know the purpose of their existence. We owe them the gospel. They need to hear about the loving Saviour so they can believe in Him. This is the reason we must obey the Lord’s solemn command to us to proclaim the gospel to them. **Remember YOU may be the only Bible or Gospel somebody out there may ever have to read to become a Christians.**

Fr. George Ngwa

OUR PARIS VISION: The fastest way to kill a Church is to leave the activities or what constitutes the life of the Church into the hands of a few people. This is a major factor affecting the Church in England and Wales and as a result many Churches have been closed down. To remedy this situation, I think we must turn our eyes to the spirit that existed in the very early Church in the Acts of the Apostles, and see how a whole community of believers lived as a family and nobody was ever in want of anything because everybody belonged and treasured his/her participation in the life of their Church. This is what **CHRISTIFIELES LAICI** (This is the Laity) An Apostolic Exhortation on the Lay Faithful by St. John Paul II says:

It is now necessary to look more closely at the communion and participation of the lay faithful in parish life. "Their activity within church communities is so necessary that without it the apostolate of the pastors is generally unable to achieve its full effectiveness." Therefore, God calls the individual in Jesus Christ, each one personally by name. In this sense, the Lord's words "You go into my vineyard too," directed to the Church as a whole, come specially addressed to each member individually. This is the "communion of saints" which we profess in the Creed. The good of all becomes the good of each one, and the good of each one becomes the good of all. "In the holy Church," writes St. Gregory the Great, "all are nourished by each one and each one is nourished by all." (I am going to begin parish lectures on this document next week. All are invited)

Thursday 8 February is the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita - the patron saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. On this day Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those affected by the crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking, and the people that volunteer and work to eradicate this crime.

New ! The Glass Entrance Doors have now been changed from the ones originally done for the year of Mercy. The new theme is "Come together in Communion". Our gratitude to all who contributed ideas time and resources put into achieving this right to its completed stage. There is no cost to the parish as a donor has kindly come forward. Mary God bless you all.

Chrim Mass Tuesday 27th March

A coach will be leaving from this Church in the morning of 27th 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.

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. This will be a paid position. 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 9th February 2018

The Women's World Day of Prayer is on March 2nd. It is a great opportunity for an ecumenical get together. It is being held in our Church so please can you attend if able. We cannot have an empty church! And if you can volunteer to do refreshments on the day and/ or bring a cake or something for the tea afterwards, I will be grateful. It is a Women's day but all men are welcome. Please let Johanna know. The theme this year is that All God's Creation is Very Good!

Sunday	4	February	4 th Sunday in ordinary time	18.00 Vigil Mass – MPP 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>George Johnstone RIP</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	5	February	St Agatha	No Mass	5.45 Rosary Group
Tuesday	6	February	St Paul Miki & Companions	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>John Palmer RIP</i>	7 pm Tap classes in
Wednesday	7	February	Ordinary time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Derek & Sylvia Lowe RIP</i>	
Thursday	8	February	St Jerome Emiliani or St Josephine Bakhita	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Holy Souls</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	9	February	Ordinary time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Keith & Marion Carpenter RIP</i>	
Saturday	10	February	St Scholastica	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Charles & Minnie Garbett RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	11	February	6 th Sunday in ordinary time	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Harry Brice RIP</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

Our Church Live streaming Monthly totals for January 2018
No. of viewers- 4811 Unique viewers 1592 total time 1445 hours

Collections 27/28 January	
loose	£389.39
envelopes	£197.20
Racial Justice £ 123.21	
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 3 Feb	Sun 4 Feb	Sat 10 Feb	Sun 11 Feb
Reader	C d'Espagnac	S Ramsay	J Marriott	P Caffyn
	K Dempster	M Tanner	H Fawcett	C Barrett
EMHC	M Harwood	S Salinger	K Dempster	M Tanner
	R or M Yon	A Caneda	T Gearey	A Joseph
	C d'Espagnac	J Kurian	B Dempster	J Nichols

The new rotas will be out for next weekend.

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

ololnewmilton@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

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