

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)



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 11 February 2018

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2018

*Mater Ecclesiae: “Behold, your son... Behold, your mother.
And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (Jn. 19:26-27)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Church’s service to the sick and those who care for them must continue with renewed vigour, in fidelity to the Lord’s command (cf. *Lk 9:2-6; Mt 10:1-8; Mk 6:7-13*) and following the eloquent example of her Founder and Master.

The theme for this year’s Day of the Sick is provided by the words that Jesus spoke from the Cross to Mary, his Mother, and to John: “Woman, behold your son ... Behold your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home” (*Jn 19:26-27*).

1. The Lord’s words brilliantly illuminate the mystery of the Cross, which does not represent a hopeless tragedy, but rather the place where Jesus manifests his glory and shows his love to the end. That love in turn was to become the basis and rule for the Christian community and the life of each disciple.

Before all else, Jesus’ words are the source of *Mary’s maternal vocation for all humanity*. Mary was to be, in particular, the Mother of her Son’s disciples, caring for them and their journey through life. As we know, a mother’s care for her son or daughter includes both the material and spiritual dimensions of their upbringing.

The unspeakable pain of the Cross pierces Mary’s soul (cf. *Lk 2:35*), but does not paralyze her. Quite the opposite. As the Lord’s Mother, a new path of self-giving opens up before her. On the Cross, Jesus showed his concern for the Church and all humanity, and Mary is called to share in that same concern. In describing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Acts of the Apostles show that Mary began to carry out this role in the earliest community of the Church. A role that never ceases.

2. John, the beloved disciple, is a figure of the Church, the messianic people. He must *acknowledge Mary as his Mother*. In doing so, he is called to take her into his home, to see in her the model of all discipleship, and to contemplate the maternal vocation that Jesus entrusted to her, with all that it entails: a loving Mother who gives birth to children capable of loving as Jesus commands. That is why Mary’s maternal vocation to care for her children is entrusted to John and to the Church as a whole. The entire community of disciples is included in Mary’s maternal vocation.

3. John, as a disciple who shared everything with Jesus, knows that the Master wants to *lead all people to an encounter with the Father*. He can testify to the fact that Jesus met many people suffering from spiritual sickness due to pride (cf. *Jn 8:31-39*) and from physical ailments (cf. *Jn 5:6*). He bestowed mercy and forgiveness upon all, and healed the sick as a sign of the abundant life of the Kingdom, where every tear will be wiped away. Like Mary, the disciples are called to care for one another, but not only that. They know that Jesus’ heart is open to

all and excludes no one. The Gospel of the Kingdom must be proclaimed to all, and the charity of Christians must be directed to all, simply because they are persons, children of God.

4. *The Church's maternal vocation to the needy and to the sick* has found concrete expression throughout the two thousand years of her history in an impressive series of initiatives on behalf of the sick. This history of dedication must not be forgotten. It continues to the present day throughout the world. In countries where adequate public health care systems exist, the work of Catholic religious congregations and dioceses and their hospitals is aimed not only at providing quality medical care, but also at putting the human person at the centre of the healing process, while carrying out scientific research with full respect for life and for Christian moral values. In countries where health care systems are inadequate or non-existent, the Church seeks to do what she can to improve health, eliminate infant mortality and combat widespread disease. Everywhere she tries to provide care, even when she is not in a position to offer a cure. The image of the Church as a "field hospital" that welcomes all those wounded by life is a very concrete reality, for in some parts of the world, missionary and diocesan hospitals are the only institutions providing necessary care to the population.

5. The *memory of this long history of service to the sick* is cause for rejoicing on the part of the Christian community, and especially those presently engaged in this ministry. Yet we must look to the past above all to let it enrich us. We should learn the lesson it teaches us about the self-sacrificing generosity of many founders of institutes in the service of the infirm, the creativity, prompted by charity, of many initiatives undertaken over the centuries, and the commitment to scientific research as a means of offering innovative and reliable treatments to the sick. This legacy of the past helps us to build a better future, for example, by shielding Catholic hospitals from the business mentality that is seeking worldwide to turn health care into a profit-making enterprise, which ends up discarding the poor. Wise organization and charity demand that the sick person be respected in his or her dignity, and constantly kept at the centre of the therapeutic process. This should likewise be the approach of Christians who work in public structures; through their service, they too are called to bear convincing witness to the Gospel.

6. Jesus bestowed upon the Church his *healing power*: "These signs will accompany those who believe... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (*Mk 16:17-18*). In the Acts of the Apostles, we read accounts of the healings worked by Peter (cf. *Acts 3:4-8*) and Paul (cf. *Acts 14:8-11*). The Church's mission is a response to Jesus' gift, for she knows that she must bring to the sick the Lord's own gaze, full of tenderness and compassion. Health care ministry will always be a necessary and fundamental task, to be carried out with renewed enthusiasm by all, from parish communities to the most largest healthcare institutions. We cannot forget the tender love and perseverance of many families in caring for their chronically sick or severely disabled children, parents and relatives. The care given within families is an extraordinary witness of love for the human person; it needs to be fittingly acknowledged and supported by suitable policies. Doctors and nurses, priests, consecrated men and women, volunteers, families and all those who care for the sick, take part in this ecclesial mission. It is a shared responsibility that enriches the value of the daily service given by each.

7. To Mary, Mother of tender love, we wish to entrust all those who are ill in body and soul, that she may sustain them in hope. We ask her also to help us to be welcoming to our sick brothers and sisters. The Church knows that she requires a special grace to live up to her evangelical task of serving the sick. May our prayers to the Mother of God see us united in an incessant plea that every member of the Church may live with love the vocation to serve life and health. May the Virgin Mary intercede for this Twenty-sixth World Day of the Sick; may she help the sick to experience their suffering in communion with the Lord Jesus; and may she support all those who care for them. To all, the sick, to healthcare workers and to volunteers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 26 November 2017

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Pope Francis

Did you know that the Catholic churches in the New Forest have a joint website? Why not visit it sometime and find out what is going on around the area. www.nfwp.org.uk

There will be a Mass this Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. for all who wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

There will be **TABLE SALE** in the hall following Morning Mass and after the Healing service at 3pm. TEA and COFFEE will be served. All proceeds will go to the Parish funds. Thank you Robin Jane and Joseph

On Shrove Tuesday, some of the seminarians from Allen Hall are coming to visit us. They are studying with Laurence and James. They will be making and serving pancakes in the hall between 5 and 6pm before Eucharistic Adoration. All are welcome! Please come! James Lewis

HolyMass and the distribution of Ashes will be celebrated on Ash – Wednesday both in the morning and Evening: 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively

New Milton Town Council are looking for that special some-one from the local New Milton community to be honoured with the Citizen of the Year Award 2018. We are sure that you know some-one with that heart of gold, a kind soul who gives and does for others; if you do please nominate them and then we can acknowledge their efforts on behalf of the community. The closing date for nominations is Thursday 29 March 2018 and the Citizen of the Year will be announced at the Annual Towns Meeting on Monday 23 April 2018. Nominees should reside in the Parish of New Milton and meet one of the following criteria:

- Have shown service to the community
- Have shown courage in overcoming/coping with disability and service to the community
- Demonstrated an act of bravery
- Shown a helping/caring attitude to someone disadvantaged

The Catholic Mission Union have proposed that the following religious communities be permitted to make the obligatory mission appeal in our Diocese during 2018: De la Salle, the Montfort fathers, the Redemptorists and the Dominicans. Each of these communities have strong links with our Diocese and so I have accepted the proposal. Further information to follow.

Blessing of Oils and the Consecration of Chrism: The Bishops' Conference has now received *recognitio* for the new translation of the Blessing of Oils and the Consecration of Chrism. The Decree of Publication makes the new Rite active from Ash Wednesday this year, and therefore it should be used at this year's Chrism Mass.

Chrism 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 at Portsmouth Cathedral please contact Catherine d' Espagnac on 01425 615349.

Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and all the World. The Holy Father announced last Sunday that Friday 23rd February – the Friday of the First Week of Lent – has been given this special designation. The Apostolic Nuncio has asked that the Bishops should take whatever initiative they think opportune to favour the participation of the local churches in this papal initiative. This is also the CaFOD Family Lent Fast day and so could dovetail into this annual work too, especially as CaFOD has projects in both DRC and South Sudan.

**Job Vacancy
Administrator/ Secretary**

Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton A vacancy has arisen for a part-time paid 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.

Rotas are now available for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. There are less people available now so readers will need to double up on Sundays and do bidding prayers as well so the commitment is not as frequent. If you can fill in any spaces on the Master list that would be helpful.

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| Sunday | 11 | February | 6 th Sunday in ordinary time Feast of Our lady of Lourdes | 18.00 Sat Vigil Mass – <i>Charles & Minnie Garbett RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Harry Bryce RIP</i> 15.00 Holy Mass for the sick | World day of the Sick Coffee & tea in hall after Mass |
| Monday | 12 | February | | No Mass | |
| Tuesday | 13 | February | Ordinary time | 18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Tolliday RIP</i> | 7 pm Tap classes in hall |
| Wednesday | 14 | February | Ash Wednesday | 10.00 Holy Mass 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Mary Porter RIP</i> | Both Masses have distribution of ashes |
| Thursday | 15 | February | after Ash Wednesday | 09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jean & Ray Carlile RIP</i> | Rosary intention for peace in the world |
| Friday | 16 | February | after Ash Wednesday | 09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall's intentions</i> | |
| Saturday | 17 | February | after Ash Wednesday | 09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>James Reddington healing intentions</i> | Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass |
| Sunday | 18 | February | 1 st Sunday of Lent | 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>MPP</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

CAFOD Lenten Fast Day is on Friday 23rd February 2018. There will be a talk at Masses next weekend and a second collection on 24/25th February. Weekend.

| Collections 3/4 February | |
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| loose | £340.72 |
| envelopes | £241.00 |
| Thank you for your continued support | |

| | Sat 10 Feb | Sun 11 Feb | Sat 17 Feb | Sun 18 Feb |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Reader | J Marriott | P Caffyn | B Coyne | C Fradd |
| | J Thomas | C Barrett | T Gearey | |
| EMHC | K Dempster | M Tanner | J Thomas | P Clarke |
| | T Gearey | A Joseph | R or M Yon | S Salinger |
| | B Dempster | J Nichols | F Fallon | A Caneda |

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: **07475753040**

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.nfw.org.uk

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

