

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)



3rd Sunday of Lent Year B 4 March 2018

OUR ATTITUDE TO GOD'S LAW – THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

On this third Sunday of Lent God makes a covenant with his people through their leader Moses at Mount Sinai. He had liberated His people from slavery in Egypt and promised to make them His own people. The people, in return, agreed to obey the Ten Commandments and other laws given by Yahweh through Moses. The Ten Commandments form a list of directives or instructions for living out our Covenant relationship. In other words, it is the Constitution of the people of God because the Ten Commandments were part of a Covenant which God entered into with a specific group of people: the Israelites. It is based on two basic principles, namely, the principle of reverence and the principle of respect. The first four commandments demand from us reverence for God, reverence for His holy name, reverence for His holy day (Sabbath) and reverence for our father and mother. The remaining commandments ask us to respect life, to respect the bodies of other persons, to respect the good name of people, to respect our own words in a court of law and to respect our neighbour's wife and his property. Jesus summarized all the commandments into two: love of God and love of neighbour and later clarified the latter further: "Love others as I have loved you."

Many Christians today think that the Ten Commandments of God are impossible imperatives. They affirm that God's commands are good, but hold that these commandments seem to bring nothing more than a moral burden that crushes us under the weight of God's holiness and scrupulous observation. Our difficulty with the Ten Commandments can be resolved by understanding the aim of God's law in the context of redemptive history. Furthermore, when we fail to see the context in which the law was given, we tend to overlook the relationship of the law of God to the grace of God.

In our modern age of science, we have learned that there are laws which always function automatically: the laws of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and all of the laws necessary to keep the solar system functioning for life to continue. If there is no conformity to these laws, disaster, death, and destruction will occur. In exactly the same way, all of the laws of God are a point of reference to which all people should look as a standard of behaviour toward God and their fellow humans. The Ten Commandments are empirical laws that result in benefits for obedience and penalties for disobedience. They expose our sinful motives and behaviour for what they are, namely, transgression of specific commands. And we know from experience that these Commandments do not have the power to transform us or liberate us from the power of sin. So, the law is like a teacher who shows us God's holiness, our sinfulness, and our need for salvation. And the needed divine intervention ultimately comes through Jesus Christ. This is the good news of the gospel.

Therefore, God's law is still authoritative and necessary for Christians today. We do remember that when asked by one of the religious leaders that which is *the greatest commandment in all of the law*, Jesus replied by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your*

neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” (cf. Matt. 22:37-40) In many ways, Jesus’ response summarized the heart of the Ten Commandments.

The first three of the Ten Commandments have to do with our relationship to God, while Commandments four through ten addresses our relationship to one another. Today, the world is filled with hatred, murder, violence, wars, lying, cheating, and sexual perversion and promiscuity, yet most professing Christians claim that they are not required to keep the Ten Commandments. Few seem to realize that the problems of the world are a direct result of not keeping these laws. However since the Ten Commandments instruct people to express love toward God and mankind, it is important to ask ourselves the following questions about these laws in order to see if they are truly a hardship from which humanity needed to be released:

Is it unbearable to worship, honour, and praise the one who created the universe and set in motion the laws that allow us to exist?

Is it a hardship to acknowledge the true God as the only giver of all life? `

Is it a hardship to have no idols and not to take God's name in vain?

Is it cruel of God to expect us to observe the seventh day as a memorial of his awesome and wondrous creation?

Is it a hardship to honour our fathers and mothers?

Is it a hardship not to murder another human being?

Is it a hardship not to commit adultery?

Is it difficult not to steal?

Is it difficult not to bear false witness?

Is it difficult not to be envious of his neighbour and lust after his wife and his material things?

THE ANSWER IS ABSOLUTELY NO! Obviously, these laws are very good! There is nothing bad, evil, or wrong about these laws. They do not cause pain or suffering. Instead, they are designed to bring love and understanding. For every effect there is a cause. All of the evil, pain, and suffering in this world is as a result of people breaking the Ten Commandments and other laws of God. God created the law for our benefit. It was designed to bring us happiness, joy, and prosperity during our lifetime. The Israelites were not willing to accept these laws as an expression of his love; instead, they rebelled in their hearts, minds, and attitudes:

THE LAW IS PERFECT - Psalm 19 shows the full extent of the blessings of God's law: *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward"* (Ps.19:7-11). God calls disobedience to these laws. *"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness"* (1.Jn.3:4) *"Everyone that practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."*

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD AS SUCH – (SUMMARY)

1. I AM THE LORD THY GOD: THOU SHALT NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.

COMMANDS: faith, hope, love, and worship of God; reverence for holy things; prayer. **FORBIDS:** idolatry; superstition; spiritism; tempting God; sacrilege; attendance at false worship.

2. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.

COMMANDS: reverence in speaking about God and holy things; the keeping of oaths and vows. **FORBIDS:** blasphemy; the irreverent use of God's name; speaking disrespectfully of holy things; false oaths and the breaking of vows.

3. KEEP THE SABBATH HOLY.

COMMANDS: going to church on Sundays and holy days of obligation. **FORBIDS:** missing church through one's own fault; unnecessary servile work on Sunday and holy days of obligation.

4. HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.

COMMANDS: love; respect; obedience on the part of children; care on the part of parents for the spiritual and temporal welfare of their children; obedience to civil and religious superiors. **FORBIDS:** hatred of parents and superiors; disrespect; disobedience.

5. THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

COMMANDS: safeguarding of one's own life and bodily welfare and that of others. **FORBIDS:** unjust killing; suicide; abortion; sterilization; dueling; endangering life and limb of self or others.

6. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

COMMANDS: chastity in word and deed. **FORBIDS:** obscene speech; impure actions alone or with others.

7. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

COMMANDS: respect for the property of rights and others; the paying of just debts; paying just wages to employees; integrity in public office. **FORBIDS:** theft; damage to the property of others; not paying just debts; not returning found or borrowed articles; giving unjust measure or weight in selling; not paying just wages; bribery; graft; cheating; fraud; accepting stolen property; not giving an honest day's work for wages received; breach of contract.

8. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR. COMMANDS:

truthfulness; respect for the good name of others; the observance of secrecy when required. **FORBIDS:** lying; injury to the good name of others; slander; tale bearing; rash judgment; contemptuous speech and the violation of secrecy.

9. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR'S WIFE.

COMMANDS: purity in thought. **FORBIDS:** wilful impure thought and desires.

10. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR'S GOODS.

COMMANDS: respect for the rights of others. **FORBIDS:** the desire to take, to keep, or damage the property of others.

Fr George Ngwa

The Living Rosary Group Meeting is on the 5th of March at 5.45 pm. Please remember to help Mary by telephoning her if you are unable to attend or if you couldn't on the day.

Sadly the Women's World Day of Prayer Service at this Church had to be cancelled due to the bad weather. Another date will be advertised later in the year.

JUNGIAN PSYCHOLOGY & PRAYER On Saturday, March 10th at Joseph's Place, Catholic church, Lymington 10.30am till 1.00pm

Mary Dunn will lead a session on Jungian Psychology & Prayer.

Jung developed a 'Map of the Soul' and his work has great bearing on prayer. During this Session - we will unpack

Jung's thinking on the Ego, on Primary Process Thinking, and the way that Prayer affects the structure of the Psyche. Richard Rohr refers to

silent, contemplative prayer as a "transformation of the consciousness of the one doing the praying".

PRAYER IN THE FEMININE VOICE 5th to 7th May 2018

St Anne's Brockenhurst from 10am to 4pm.

Both men and women can experience their relationship with God in a "feminine" way.

A small number of parishioners at St Anne's have prepared Prayer Stations that express their prayer.

All welcome.

The next Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 7th March at 6pm in church Hall

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Sunday	4	March	3 rd Sunday of Lent	18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Sheila Vernon's intentions</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	5	March		No Mass	5.45 Rosary group
Tuesday	6	March	of the 3 rd week of Lent	18.30 Stations of the Cross 19.00 Holy Mass –	7 pm Tap classes in hall
Wednesday	7	March	of the 3 rd week of Lent	9.30 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass –	Confessions after Mass Parish Council Meeting 6pm in Hall
Thursday	8	March	of the 3 rd week of Lent	11.00 Holy Mass – <i>Funeral of June Savage</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	9	March	of the 3 rd week of Lent	09.30 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Marie Bazerghi RIP</i>	Confessions after Mass Lenten lunch 12.00-13.30 Cost £3.50
Saturday	10	March	of the 3 rd week of Lent	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Living Rosary group for their dedication</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	11	March	4 th Sunday of Lent	10.00 Holy Mass – <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 3/4 March	
loose	£ 391.19
envelopes	£203.80
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 3 Mar	Sun 4 Mar	Sat 10 Mar	Sun 11 Mar
Reader	B Dempster	S Ramsay	M Hobbs	P Caffyn
	M Newland	J Thomas	C d'Espagnac	P Caffyn
EMHC	T Gearey	J Nichols	F Fallon	A Caneda
	B Dempster	M Buckland	J Thomas	J Kurian
	K Dempster	S Salinger	M Newland	M Tanner

New rotas are available don't forget yours. Weekday masses rota is in sacristy

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.nfwp.org.uk

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

*******Mass change this week. On Thursday it is at 11.00 am.*******