

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 of Lent Year B 18 March 2018

HELPING OUR CHILDREN TO UNDERSTAND AND CELEBRATE EASTER

Easter is a glorious day when we celebrate together the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Children get excited at Easter, but sometimes they don't always understand what Easter is about. Their excitement ends with having an Easter meal, An Easter Egg or Bonny or extended holiday etc. As Christian parents, it is our responsibility to nourish our children's faith and encourage them to become God-fearing, sensitive and grow up as responsible adults. Having a solid set of Catholic values and beliefs can go a long way in helping our children make the right choices in today's increasingly complex world. Parents are blessed with the opportunity for raising children of high morals and character; entrusted with training them to be good Catholic citizens. There is no formula that will do the trick; rather, most of all, reflecting on the impact of actions as parents will help guide them better. We should ask ourselves; are we leading by example? Are we using opportunities in our daily lives to offer gratitude for our blessings, and importantly, are we moving beyond the pursuit of material gains to enrich our spiritual connection with God ourselves? Simply put; be the person you want your child to be. Teach your children best by example. ***So, this Easter is another opportunity.***

1. Explain the Mission of Jesus as the Messiah and Why Jesus Came to Earth: - First of all, children won't truly appreciate Easter until they understand the reason Christ came to earth in the first place. The whole point of Jesus living on this earth was so that He could save us by dying on the cross. Spend time with your children talking about why Jesus came to earth, and how His sacrifice made it possible for us to be saved from our sin. Depending on the ages of your children, you may want to discuss further what sin is and why we need to be saved. By helping them understand the need for His sacrifice, they will begin to understand why the resurrection is so important.

2. Death has no meaning because of Easter: - Death is a scary thing for many people, including children. When we talk about Jesus' death and resurrection, we need to take time to talk to our children about how we don't need to be scared of death, thanks to Jesus! He showed His victory over death and tells us that we can have eternal life with Him if we follow Him. Explaining to children that we don't need to be afraid of death, thanks to Jesus, will help them realize more that Easter is a celebration and thanksgiving for what Christ has done for us as we worship Him for who He is.

3. Highlight the importance and the Significance of Holy Communion: - Another way that you can prepare children for Easter is to explain to them the significance of communion. Share with them what communion is and why Christians do receive communion. When children see us partake in Holy Communion regularly, they are seeing us doing what Jesus asked us to do in memory of Him and this expresses our gratitude for what He has done. If your children don't understand communion, take time to explain it to them and share how Christians reflect regularly on what Christ has done. This will help them

understand that Christians don't just remember Christ's sacrifice on Easter, but also throughout the whole year!

4. Read and/or Act the Passion Narrative and the Story of the Resurrection: - This will help your children understand that Easter is much more than just one day of celebration and thanksgiving. When it comes to preparing your children for Easter, take the time to read the story of the passion of Jesus Christ and the resurrection to them. Read each of the witness' accounts of the resurrected Jesus and the angels at the tomb. Many of our children have heard the Easter story, but have never actually heard the Biblical account. Take time to read the story to your children before Easter and answer any questions that come up. *Attend a Holy Thursday and Good Friday service with the rest of the Community in a Parish Church.* This is probably one of my favourite Easter traditions. There's something intrinsically relieving to us as Christians about Holy Thursday and Good Friday; and it is important that we spend time with our children understanding:

- ✓ Jesus' last supper with his disciples,
- ✓ His great commandment of Love and selfless service as he washed the feet of his disciples and finally
- ✓ The institution of the Eucharist and the Ministerial Priesthood.

It is also that important to spend some time meditating at the tragedy on the cross before we jump to the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Therefore, *Spend Good Friday meditating on Jesus' sacrifice and confessing sins.* Though children under 16 years of age as laid down by Canon Law are not required to fast encouraged them to fast from all food and water from morning until 3pm if they can, to mourn and show their sorrow for the tragedy of the cross.

5. Present to them Salvation History from the Bible: - To truly prepare your children for Easter, sit down together as a family and share the Gospel with them. Start with the story of creation, explain man's need for a Saviour, and then share about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Nothing could prepare your children more for an Easter celebration than the power of the Gospel.

6. Teach and Pray with your Children: - Prayer is a fundamental part of our Catholic faith. As a young child, I am sure you do remember being asked to memorize the Lord's Prayer. Perhaps you had to recite it with your family or classmates. The simple act of prayer strengthens faith that God will always hear our deepest concerns. To encourage your children to pray, set aside a few minutes every day to pray together. First of all, this establishes a comforting routine for your child and gives him a few precious moments for reflection. Secondly, it forms the basis for a life-long habit which will provide strength in times of need. A good time to pick can be just before bedtime or right before getting up for school. Teach your children that praying is much more meaningful than memorizing or repeating lines. It involves having an intimate conversation with God. Encourage your child to make his own prayer and find his own true connection with the Lord.

7. Tell them about the saints and a Saint you like them to imitate: - Find inspiration in the lives of the Saints. The Catholic Saints are living examples of faith in action. If you want to witness what it means to live out Christian values of humility, charity and faith, you can find inspiration in the lives and spiritual transformation of the Saints. Their struggles and victories are deeply human and thus relate to our own journey as Christians. There are many books and movies that illustrate the hardships they went through and, more importantly, how they were able to prevail. Furthermore, Patron Saints might share virtues or causes like love for animals, courage and bravery that resonate deeply with your child. When your children read and know more about the Saints, they are getting introduced to people they can actually relate to and

therefore learn from. Your children will realize that the Saints are not supernatural beings but real people who worked hard to transcend their human struggles and become extraordinary. This will inspire them to grow stronger in their own walk of faith. Not only are Saint stories a treasure trove of practical ways on how to practice Catholic virtues in the real world, but reading about Saints also teaches children about their contributions to the Church and how they helped shaped its history.

Fr. George Ngwa

2018 HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TIMELINES

PALM SUNDAY AND THE LORD'S PASSION:

SATURDAY 24th MARCH – 6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday - Blessing of Palms in Church.

SUNDAY 25th MARCH – Blessing of Palms in the Hall 9:30a.m. and procession to the Church. 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass

HOLY WEEK – MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 26th – 28th MARCH Stations of the cross: 9:30 a.m. - Mass in the morning: 10:00 a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY 29th MARCH - 8:00 p.m. Mass of the Last Supper Washing of the feet, Blessed Sacrament Procession to the Altar of repose, Vigil with the Lord till Midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY 30th MARCH – CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 3:00 P.M. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Please note that there is a collection for the Holy Land.)

HOLY SATURDAY – 31st MARCH Morning Prayers and office of Readings 9:00 a.m.:

10:00 a.m. The blessing of the Easter food, or the "Swieconka" Easter Basket tradition dear to the heart of every Pole.

EASTER SUNDAY MASS 1st APRIL - 10:00 A.M. HOLY MASS

IMPORTANT Please can all Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion look at their calendars and volunteer for these services. A list is up on the Parish notice board by the Confessional. Thank you.

On the same list is a space for 12 Volunteers for the Washing of the feet on Holy Thursday. Male or female. Please fill in so we are prepared. Thank you.

THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH: - On behalf of the Parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton and Fr. George Ngwa we would like to sincerely thank all the Parishioners and you my friends for your prayers, wishes and concerns for my ministry as priest and my happy stay here in the Parish. Tomorrow 19th March 2018, the Solemnity of St. Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I will quietly celebrate the 24th anniversary to the Sacred Priesthood. My intention to make it quiet is to have the platform to stand and make it big for the silver Jubilee a year to come. Thank you for your wishes and gifts and especially the gift of your very selves to me last Christmas. Thank you ever so much for the opportunity of celebrating my Priesthood with you every day and for making me feel gifted on our lives.

The Parish will begin Community Study Group on Wednesday 21st March at 5pm

VOLUNTEERS Required. If you would like to join our Readers or Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion please contact the office or Father George so that training can be organised. Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTICE -Office hours for Holy Week

The only day the Secretary is in the office in Holy Week is Thursday 29th March from 10.00. Please note that all Mass intentions are booked until 10th April.

Don't forget if you want a service booklet for the International World Day of Prayer that sadly was cancelled they are available at both entrances now. If you wish to donate to their causes this year please put your offering in the collection this weekend in an envelope marked clearly for Women's World day of Prayer. Thank you.

There will be a retiring collection this weekend for Easter Flowers. Thank you.

Don't forget to book your place on the coach for the Chrism Mass Tuesday 27th March by contacting Catherine d'Espagnac on 01425 615349. Thank you.

5th Sunday of Lent Year B 18 March 2018

Sunday	18	March	5th Sunday of Lent	18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Sheila Vernon – birthday & healthful year</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Brigid Horan RIP (5th anniversary)</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	19	March	St Joseph	9.30 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>private intention</i>	24 th anniversary of Father George's as Priest.
Tuesday	20	March	of the 5 th week of Lent	18.30 Stations of the Cross 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Joseph & Josepha RIP</i>	7 pm Tap classes in hall
Wednesday	21	March	of the 5 th week of Lent	9.30 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>wellbeing of Rosemary</i>	Confessions after Mass
Thursday	22	March	of the 5 th week of Lent	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>in thanksgiving for Parish prayers (from Gehane)</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	23	March	of the 5 th week of Lent	09.30 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Karl Michael Parker RIP</i>	Confessions after Mass Lenten lunch 12.00-13.30 Cost £3.50
Saturday	24	March	of the 5 th week of Lent	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Agnes birthday intentions (22nd March)</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Elza RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	25	March	5 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 11/12 March	
loose	£ £400.79
envelopes	£295.50
Clergy Assistance Fund total-£260.79	
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 17 Mar	Sun 18 Mar	Sat 24 Mar	Sun 25 Mar
Reader	K Dempster	C Barrett	T Gearey	C Fradd
	J Marriott	C Barrett	A Nash	C Fradd
EMHC	J Thomas	A Joseph	B Dempster	S Salinger
	C d'Espagnac	J Nichols	K Dempster	A Caneda
	M Newland	M Buckland	T Gearey	J Kurian

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.nfwf.org.uk

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

