

# 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)



## Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Year B 1 April 2018

### ***EASTER IS "NEWNESS" TO US CHRISTIANS***

What is the importance or the significance of Easter to the Christian? For some people, Easter strictly belongs to the realm of the Easter bunny and family get-togethers. A time for another holiday. For others, Easter is primarily a time of celebrating Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. For many, Easter, like Christmas is celebrated as a combination of the secular and the sacred.

Easter is all about new birth. More specifically, Christ's resurrection is all about newness. Everything became new on Easter Sunday because of the empty tomb, because of our living Saviour. Easter's empty tomb has never been and will never be old news. Everything became new on Easter Sunday because of the empty tomb, because of our living Saviour.

The message of the resurrection is the ever-new, good news about Jesus Christ who conquered sin and death, who rose from the grave. And everything He touches becomes instantly and eternally new, as St. Paul says in Philippians 3:10 says, "My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection." This statement is true in a real, personal, direct, applicable way for each of us.

Understanding Easter from a Christian perspective is vitally important. The celebration of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection from the dead is crucial for believers in Jesus' Christ. Without this doctrine, there is no Christianity and no Christian Easter.

Beyond this doctrine of the resurrection, is the knowledge of the truth that Jesus died to pay the penalty of death that we deserve for our sin, was buried, and rose with a glorified body, gaining victory over death and the grave. When we put our faith in Him by believing through faith alone in Christ alone, we have the promise of one day having a body like our Lord's and reigning with Him in heaven. St. Paul says in his letter to the Philippians that: ***"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."***

People responded to Jesus' resurrection from the dead much the same way they respond now. Even His closest followers didn't believe easily, and neither do we. The answers God gave nearly two thousand years ago are the same answers He has for us today. Each time the risen Christ appeared to people, He addressed a different response to His resurrection. He also gave them and us a glimpse of the new power unleashed when He defeated death.

- In the case of Mary Magdalene, Jesus delivered new hope for deep discouragement (John 20:11–18).

- For the disciples gathered on the evening of His resurrection, He brought peace to replace their fears (John 20:19–23).
- To the absent Thomas, Jesus instilled faith to settle doubts (John 20:24–29).
- The Saviour brought resurrection power to bear on the destitute feelings of seven disciples (John 21:1–14).
- He also provided powerful restoration for Peter’s divided heart (John 21:15–19) and a new sense of purpose to a distracted John (John 21:20–24).
- It’s easy to call Thomas a doubter, but we need to realize how much we are like him. Doubt in itself is not necessarily a negative response; it’s an unsettled state of opinion regarding the certainty of something. Doubt is when I don’t resolve the uncertainty. Doubt is different from unbelief: doubt is in-between, on the fence, yes-and-no.
- In Thomas’ case, he missed Jesus’ appearance to the disciples, so it’s not surprising that he doubted. But there are different kinds of doubt. Here are four statements that reveal different expressions of doubt:

Thomas was a doubter like many of us, but he was willing to have his doubts answered. Take a moment to read John 20:24–29. Jesus settled Thomas’ doubts and challenged him to pursue a faith that moves beyond doubts. We can trace in Thomas’ experience the development of faith:

- Faith is kindled when the heart identifies the obstacles (John 20:25). Thomas was honestly stating his reluctance to accept his friends’ witness about Jesus’ resurrection. Despite Thomas’ lack of faith, he stuck close to the other disciples. He gave Jesus the benefit of his doubts.
- Faith is sparked when the Lord reveals Himself at our point of need (John 20:27). If your doubts are honest, God will either provide an answer or show you that your doubts are no reason to prevent you from trusting Him.
- Faith is ignited when the heart submits to the revelation (John 20:28). Thomas didn’t need to poke or touch once he was confronted with the risen Christ. He immediately worshiped.
- Faith is ablaze when it comes before seeing (John 20:29). The assertion that we “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7) becomes real as we realize Jesus is very much alive, even when we cannot see Him.

### **Easter Is Important to Christians...**

1. **Jesus Restores Our Brokenness:** Because of all Christ accomplished on the cross and confirmed by rising from the dead, we are not under sin’s condemnation. This means that even regrets need not be a part of our life in Christ anymore. The Saviour had these things forgiven. Jesus Christ pronounces them done, handled, gone, buried, behind us, over, finished!

2. **Jesus Provides Faith to Settle Our Doubts:** A lot of people struggle with doubts—and you can bring yours to Jesus. If you’re sincerely wrestling with *Can I trust God?* or *Can I trust His Word? Is all of this real?* you don’t have to be afraid. From the life of Job to the stubborn doubts of Thomas, God has demonstrated an incredible capacity to deal with Christians who doubt. In Jesus’ presence, doubts vanish.

3. **Jesus Gives Peace to Replace Our Fears:** Perhaps you have been dealing with a specific need. You are waiting and praying for a significant change. Believe with all of my heart that Jesus Christ is alive. Believe that he wants to touch every need in your lives.

4. Jesus Conquers Our Struggles: Maybe there's a particular sin that you cannot overcome, and every time you wonder, *Will I ever get victory here? Will I ever be able to leave this addictive pattern behind?* Just Remember: those are the exact areas Jesus wants to step into and conquer with power of His resurrection.

5. Jesus Encourages when We're Overwhelmed: Maybe you've been heavyhearted or overwhelmed from carrying some other weight. Jesus Christ wants not only to address but also to make you new again. With His resurrection newness, Jesus can touch any area in our lives where we have struggled. He did when He left the grave, and He's still doing it today. **Fr. George Ngwa**

***There will be some priests here on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 6:00 p.m. to hear confessions so as to make it possible for people to gain the necessary indulgencies when we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday***

*Many thanks to our brothers and sisters who represented us at The Chrism Mass last Tuesday at the Cathedral in Portsmouth.*

**EASTER OFFERINGS: Wherever you may be to celebrate this Easter, please remember that the offering is for the Priests as mandated by the Bishops of England and Wales. As one priest said, "I use the Easter gift to plan for my Summer holidays" Many thanks for your generosity.**

"New Forest Basics Bank is your local food bank which has its base in Lymington and was set up by local churches over ten years ago. We are appealing to parishioners of New Milton because a large proportion of our emergency food parcels are given to people in dire need in this town. Also we have got so busy (and expect to get more so due to Universal Credit) that we are expecting to get new, more efficient, premises which will be expensive.

Anthony Kirke, the treasurer, will be appealing to you to give small amounts by Standing Order which enables the food bank to budget properly. He hopes you will be generous in your response."

**He will be appealing at the 10:00am Mass on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April and at 18:00pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

### **PALS - EASTER GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

Our first meeting this month, April, will be Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - as usual in the hall at 10:30 a.m. Please bring diaries to organise our programme for future events.

***On your own, or free to join us in our programmes -why not come along and see if any plans will give you a break, or make your life more interesting. We are all Parish Members. Contact Jane Gow 501 126 or any member.***

**Think ahead and Book Now.** St John Paul II Pilgrimage. Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham 2-5<sup>th</sup> August. Poster with more information is up at back of Church. It is organised yearly by the Dominican Sisters at Sway. Please support if able.

### **Pilgrimage Group to Lourdes from the Parish. 26<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 for the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apparitions to St Bernadette.**

The small group of parishioners consisted of Lolita, Othello, Edna, Victoria, Johanna and Lucian. Prayers were said at the Grotto for all the parish and a candle was blessed and brought back for Our Lady's altar. It was a packed itinerary. As anyone who has been to Lourdes will know, there is a lot to take in visually and receive spiritually from such a trip. The final stop Lucian arranged for the group, before going to the airport, was a visit to the Polish Mission House, which housed a collection of many interesting memorabilia which showed a great affection for Saint John Paul. The mission with its extensive accommodation is situated on a hill high above Lourdes. As well as a delicious lunch, the visit provided the group with a beautiful breathtaking view of Lourdes, warm hospitality and time for prayer and quiet reflection.

# Easter Sunday Year B 1 April 2018

<b>Sunday</b>	1	April	Easter Sunday	<b>18.00</b> Vigil Mass – <i>John Louis d’Espagnac RIP</i> <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Missa pro populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
<b>Monday</b>	2	April	within the Octave of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – Private Intention	
<b>Tuesday</b>	3	April	within the Octave of Easter	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction <b>19.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Sr Maria Alonso’s intentions</i>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	4	April	within the Octave of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Derrick Hobbs RIP</i>	Rosary intentions for the sick and housebound of the Parish
<b>Thursday</b>	5	April	within the Octave of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Jean Carlile RIP</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world <b>CONFESSIONS 6:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	6	April	within the Octave of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Hilary Sendall’s intentions</i>	
<b>Saturday</b>	7	April	within the Octave of Easter	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina <b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Emilia Milakowsky - health</i> <b>18.00 Vigil Mass</b> – <i>Missa pro populo</i>	
<b>Sunday</b>	8	April	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	<b>10.00 Holy Mass</b> – <i>Kunjamma Chacko 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

Collections 24/25 March	
loose	£395.49
envelopes	£299.05
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 31Mar	Sun 1 Apr	Sat 7 Apr	Sun 8 Apr
<b>Reader</b>	P Thorpe	S Ramsay	M Newland	P Caffyn
	B Dempster	J Thomas	M Hobbs	P Caffyn
<b>EMHC</b>	M Harwood	M Tanner	C d’Espagnac	M Buckland
	M Newland	A Joseph		S Salinger
	F Fallon	J Nichols	M Harwood	A Caneda

**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

[ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)

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

