

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)



2nd Sunday of Easter of Divine Mercy Year B 8 April 2018

THE FEAST OF MERCIES – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



'I Spoke as a Brother'

A *TIME* magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a black turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's attempted assassin; the other man was Pope John Paul II, the intended victim. The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet tore into the pope's body.

John Paul wanted this scene to be shown around a world filled with nuclear arsenals and unforgiving hatreds. The Church has always used paintings, sculpture and architecture to communicate spiritual meanings. This was a living icon of mercy. The Church was celebrating the 1,950th anniversary of Christ's death and Christian redemption. The Pope had been preaching forgiveness and reconciliation constantly. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect and kissed his ring also as a sign of total recognition and submission to the authority of the Pope. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the pope left the cell he said, "What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust." This is an example of God's divine mercy, the same divine mercy whose message Saint Faustina witnessed.

A TRUE VICAR OF CHRIST. Pope John Paul—now Saint John Paul II—had actively promoted the message of Saint Faustina. In his 1980 encyclical on God's mercy, *Rich in Mercy*, his second encyclical, he developed a scriptural and doctrinal basis for our faith in the mercy of God. Pope Saint John Paul II offers an extended

meditation on the mystery of God's mercy, which he calls "the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God" (*Dives in Misericordia*, 13). He returned to this theme throughout his pontificate:

By linking the revealed truth about God's mercy to one of the most solemn Sundays after Easter itself, he illumined the fact that the liturgy already proclaimed the divine mercy. The truth has been embedded for two millennia in the worship of the Church. As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!

On the Second Sunday of Easter, the responsorial psalm and Gospel for Cycles A, B and C centre on the theme of mercy. In Psalm 118 we sing three times, "His mercy endures forever." The Gospel, from John 20:19-31, begins with the risen Christ appearing to the apostles on Easter night. Jesus calms his disciples by saying and giving them "Peace." He shows them the scars of his Passion, his wounded hands and side. His glorified body retains the evidence of his saving work through his suffering, death and resurrection.

He fills them with joy and again says to them—and produces in them—"Peace." Then he breathes on them and explains what the divine breathing means with the words, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." He gives the apostles the power of God's mercy for the sinner, the gift of forgiving sins from God's treasury of mercy. The other texts speak of healing and give the assurance there is nothing to fear.

THE PLENARY INDULGENCE. This Feast, which had already been granted to the nation of Poland and been celebrated within Vatican City, was granted to the Universal Church by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Sr. Faustina on 30 April 2000. In a decree dated 23 May 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that ***"throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come."*** These papal acts represent the highest endorsement that the Church can give to a private revelation, an act of papal infallibility proclaiming the certain sanctity of the mystic, and the granting of a universal feast, as requested by Our Lord to St. Faustina.

Concerning the Feast of Mercy Jesus said:

- **Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (*Diary 300*)**

I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. (*Diary 341*)

- **This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies. (*Diary 420*)**

On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. **The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.**

On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flows are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The

Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (*Diary699*) Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to our neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to absolve yourself from it. (*Diary 742*)

I want to grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy. (*Diary 1109*)

As you can see the Lord's desire for the Feast includes the solemn, public veneration of the Image of Divine Mercy by the Church, as well as personal acts of veneration and mercy. The great promise for the individual soul is that a devotional act of sacramental penance and Communion will obtain for that soul the plenitude of the divine mercy on the Feast.

Lord, you reveal the Father's love by Your death and Resurrection, we believe in You and confidently repeat to You today: Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Fr George Ngwa

General Data Protection Regulations

With effect from May 2018, the existing Data Protection Act (1998) will be replaced, therefore we need to recruit a Parish Data Co-Ordinator. The Diocese has a central team who provide on-going training, advice and guidance. The Co-ordinator will be responsible for ensuring data relating to each activity in the Parish is logged and kept secure.

Further details are available from the Parish office and full training will be given.

The Living Rosary Group

The next meeting is Monday 9th April in the Hall at 17.45. Please remember to let Mary know if you are unable to attend or forget so she does not have to phone you. Thank you. Please note there is a Mass this week for the intentions of the group.

Church Live streaming for March 2018

Number of viewers 5962. Unique viewers 1895.

Total time viewed 2410 hours

1 min or less 4110

1min to 5mins 669

5mins to an hour 705

1 hour or more 478

If you missed giving to the Holy Places at Easter on Good Friday, please place your offering by NEXT WEEK in the general collection in an envelope clearly marked. Thank you very much.

Sadly Audrey Henegan died recently. She was a faithful parishioner, who for health reasons, was more recently in nursing care at Milford on Sea. Please pray for her and her family. May she rest in peace.

Audrey's body will be received into the Church on Tuesday 17th April at 4.30pm and her funeral will be on Wednesday 18th April at 10.00.

Please Note. There will now be a Tuesday morning Mass instead of the usual evening Mass that day.

Don't forget that next Sunday, 15th April, the Treasurer of the Basics Bank will be giving an appeal at the 6pm Mass.

Share the Journey - a conference on refugees "Responding to Pope Francis's and Caritas Internationalis call to "Share the Journey", CAFOD and Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth are co-sponsoring a conference on refugees on the 12th May in St Edward the Confessor Church in Chandlers Ford. The conference will also be entitled "Share the Journey" so come along and see what we can practically do as a diocese to assist refugees including coming together as parishes to sponsor and house refugee families. More information and registration at <https://goo.gl/22tgLY> or contact kgallagher@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk "

A poster is on the notice board with further information.

2nd Sunday of Easter Year B 8 April 2018

Sunday	8	April	Divine Mercy Sunday	18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Kunjamma Chacko RIP</i> 2.15pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	9	April	Feast of the Annunciation (transferred)	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00- Holy Mass- Mary Kallar RIP	5.45 Living Rosary group meeting
Tuesday	10	April	Of the 2 nd week of Easter	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Don and Agnes Campbell RIP</i>	7 pm Tap classes
Wednesday	11	April	Of the 2 nd week of Easter St Stanislaus	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Brigid Horan RIP</i>	Rosary intention for the sick and housebound Confessions after Mass
Thursday	12	April	Of the 2 nd week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Irene Oleksik RIP</i>	Rosary intention for peace in the world
Friday	13	April	Of the 2 nd week of Easter St Martin 1	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>In thanksgiving for the Living Rosary group's devotion (S. Vernon)</i>	
Saturday	14	April	Of the 2 nd week of Easter	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Alan Parton RIP</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>David Watts RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	15	April	3 rd Sunday of Easter	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Tolliday 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	
Holy Places envelopes	£154.40
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 7 Apr	Sun 8 Apr	Sat 14 Apr	Sun 15 Apr
Reader	M Newland	P Caffyn	C d'Espagnac	C Barrett
	M Hobbs	P Caffyn	K Dempster	C Barrett
EMHC	C d'Espagnac	M Buckland	K Dempster	J Kurian
	J Thomas	S Salinger	T Gearey	M Tanner
	M Harwood	A Caneda	B Dempster	A Joseph

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Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

lolnewmilton@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