

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 Easter of Divine Mercy Year B 15 April 2018

OUR REFLECTION ON EASTER

ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

As we continue to celebrate this festive season of Easter, we also from time to time marvel at both the historical and transcendent meaning of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in our lives. Our reflection this Sunday from the Fathers of the Church gives us some points to note as we often in the creed pray that on the third day Christ rose from the dead.

Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

Christ is risen from the dead!
Dying, he conquered death;
To the dead, he has given life.

BOTH HISTORICAL AND TRANSCENDENT EVENT

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." The first element we encounter in the framework of the Easter events is the empty tomb. In itself it is not a direct proof of Resurrection; the absence of Christ's body from the tomb could be explained otherwise. Nonetheless the empty tomb was still an essential sign for all. Its discovery by the disciples was the first step toward recognizing the very fact of the Resurrection. This was the case, first with the holy women, and then with Peter. The disciple "whom Jesus loved" affirmed that when he entered the empty tomb and discovered "the linen cloths lying there", "he saw and believed". This suggests that he realized from the empty tomb's condition that the absence of Jesus' body could not have been of human doing and that Jesus had not simply returned to earthly life as had been the case with Lazarus.

The appearances of the Risen One: Mary Magdalene and the holy women who came to finish anointing the body of Jesus, which had been buried in haste because the Sabbath began on the evening of Good Friday, were the first to encounter the Risen One. Thus the women were the first messengers of Christ's Resurrection for the apostles themselves. They were the next to whom Jesus appears: first Peter, then the Twelve. Peter had been called to strengthen the faith of his brothers, and so sees the Risen One before them; it is on the basis of his testimony that the community exclaims: "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

Given all these testimonies, Christ's Resurrection cannot be interpreted as something outside the physical order, and it is impossible not to acknowledge it as an historical fact. It is clear from the facts that the disciples' faith was drastically put to the test by their master's Passion and death on the cross, which he had foretold. Even when faced with the reality of the risen Jesus the disciples are still doubtful, so impossible did the thing seem: they thought they were seeing a ghost. "In their joy they were still

disbelieving and still wondering" Thomas will also experience the test of doubt and St. Matthew relates that during the risen Lord's last appearance in Galilee "some doubted." Therefore the hypothesis that the Resurrection was produced by the apostles' faith (or credulity) will not hold up. On the contrary their faith in the Resurrection was born, under the action of divine grace, from their direct experience of the reality of the risen Jesus.

The condition of Christ's risen humanity, by means of touch and the sharing of a meal, the risen Jesus establishes direct contact with his disciples. He invites them in this way to recognize that he is not a ghost and above all to verify that the risen body in which he appears to them is the same body that had been tortured and crucified, for it still bears the traces of his Passion. Yet at the same time this authentic, real body possesses the new properties of a glorious body: not limited by space and time but able to be present how and when he wills; for Christ's humanity can no longer be confined to earth, and belongs henceforth only to the Father's divine realm. For this reason too the risen Jesus enjoys the sovereign freedom of appearing as he wishes: in the guise of a gardener or in other forms familiar to his disciples, precisely to awaken their faith.

Christ's Resurrection was not a return to earthly life, as was the case with the raisings from the dead that he had performed before Easter: Jairus' daughter, the young man of Naim, Lazarus. These actions were miraculous events, but the persons miraculously raised returned by Jesus' power to ordinary earthly life. At some particular moment they would die again. Christ's Resurrection is essentially different. In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space. At Jesus' Resurrection his body is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: he shares the divine life in his glorious state, so that St. Paul can say that Christ is "the man of heaven".

The Resurrection as transcendent event

Although the Resurrection was an historical event that could be verified by the sign of the empty tomb and by the reality of the apostles' encounters with the risen Christ, still it remains at the very heart of the mystery of faith as something that transcends and surpasses history. This is why the risen Christ does not reveal himself to the world, but to his disciples, "to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people."

THE RESURRECTION - A WORK OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Christ's Resurrection is an object of faith in that it is a transcendent intervention of God himself in creation and history. In it the three divine persons act together as one, and manifest their own proper characteristics. The Father's power "raised up" Christ his Son and by doing so perfectly introduced his Son's humanity, including his body, into the Trinity. Jesus is conclusively revealed as "Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his Resurrection from the dead". St. Paul insists on the manifestation of God's power through the working of the Spirit who gave life to Jesus' dead humanity and called it to the glorious state of Lordship.

THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. The Resurrection above all constitutes the confirmation of all Christ's works and teachings. All truths, even those most inaccessible to human reason, find their justification if Christ by his Resurrection has given the definitive proof of his divine authority, which he had promised.

The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. This new life is above all justification that reinstates us in God's grace, "so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Justification consists in both victory over the death caused by sin and a new participation in grace. It brings about filial adoption so that men become Christ's brethren, as Jesus himself called his disciples after his Resurrection: "Go and tell my brethren." We are brethren not by

nature, but by the gift of grace, because that adoptive filiation gains us a real share in the life of the only Son, which was fully revealed in his Resurrection.

Finally, Christ's Resurrection - and the risen Christ himself is the principle and source of our future resurrection: "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. . . For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." The risen Christ lives in the hearts of his faithful while they await that fulfillment. In Christ, Christians "have tasted. . . the powers of the age to come" and their lives are swept up by Christ into the heart of divine life, so that they may "live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised."

IN BRIEF:

- Faith in the Resurrection has as its object an event which as historically attested to by the disciples, who really encountered the Risen One. At the same time, this event is mysteriously transcendent insofar as it is the entry of Christ's humanity into the glory of God.
- The empty tomb and the linen cloths lying there signify in themselves that by God's power Christ's body had escaped the bonds of death and corruption. They prepared the disciples to encounter the Risen Lord.
- Christ, "the first-born from the dead" (*Col 1:18*), is the principle of our own resurrection, even now by the justification of our souls (cf. *Rom 6:4*), and one day by the new life he will impart to our bodies (cf.: *Rom 8:11*).

Fr. George Ngwa

This week there will be a letter from the Bishop read out at both Masses. A copy is available if you wish to take home.

Think ahead and Book Now. St John Paul II Pilgrimage. Bury St Edmunds to Walsingham 2-5th 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.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. The Diocese is currently looking to employ someone in the role of **Refugee Project Development Manager (Part-Time, 14 hours per week) Salary - £14.31 per hour**
Applications closing date: **Tuesday 1st May** Interviews to be held: **Friday 11th May** Anticipated start date: **As soon as possible from May 2018 – details to be agreed with the successful candidate. For informal enquiries about the post please contact: Fr Mark Hogan – evevangelisation@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 01962852804**
For further details see the notice board.

JOIN IN Rosary on the coast. 3pm 29th April 2018 An initiative to pray for a renewal for peace and to mark the anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act. For more details contact the following website: <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/02/07/catholics-plan-mass-rosary-prayer-around-the-british-coast/>

HELP REQUIRED If anyone would like to become a volunteer Church warden which involves both opening and closing the Church and hall on Mondays and doing some tidying up after the weekend, please let Johanna know. It can be arranged on a 6 week rota. Thank you.


Please don't forget to fill in your name on the cleaning list on the notice board. Thank you.

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

*******There are quite a few changes to the usual Mass times this week so please *******

*******check times of Masses and take your newsletter home with you. Thank you*******

3rd Sunday of Easter Year B 15 April 2018

Sunday	15	April	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>David Watts RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Tolliday RIP</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	16	April			
Tuesday	17	April	Of the 3 rd week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Rev Fr Joe RIP</i> 4.30 pm Reception of the body of Audrey Henegan deceased	NB this is a MORNING MASS and not the usual evening Mass 7 pm Tap classes
Wednesday	18	April	Of the 3 rd week of Easter	10.00 Requiem Mass <i>for Audrey Henegan</i>	
Thursday	19	April	Of the 3 rd week of Easter	19.00 Holy Mass – <i>wellbeing of Sr Agnes Takaki.</i>	NB this is an EVENING MASS and not the usual morning Mass
Friday	20	April	Of the 3 rd week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Charles and Minnie Garbett RIP</i>	
Saturday	21	April	St Anselm	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Pam Morrow RIP (recently deceased) and family</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Elza RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	22	April	4 th Sunday of Easter	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Missa Pro Populo</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

Collections 31 st March /1 st April	
loose	£399.99
envelopes	£170
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 14 Apr	Sun 15 Apr	Sat 21 Apr	Sun 22 Apr
Reader	C d'Espagnac	C Barrett	J Marriott	C Fradd
	K Dempster	C Barrett	T Gearey	C Fradd
EMHC	K Dempster	J Kurian	M Newland	J Nicholls
	T Gearey	M Tanner	F Fallon	M Buckland
	B Dempster	A Joseph	J Thomas	S Salinger

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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