

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)



4th Sunday of Easter Year B 22 April 2018

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

OUR INDIVIDUAL VOCATIONS WITH JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

Today is **GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY** because, in each year of the liturgical cycle on this 4th Sunday, the Gospel is always taken from the 10th chapter of John where Jesus speaks of himself as the "good shepherd". In today's passage Jesus emphasises the self-sacrificing element in his own life: "The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep."

This aspect of Jesus' life is intimately linked with the second theme of this Sunday. Not only is it Good Shepherd Sunday, it is also **Vocations Sunday**. On this day we are especially asked first of all to pray that the Church may be provided with the leaders needed to do its work of spreading the Gospel. We know that at the present time there is a critical shortage of such leaders, at least in the traditional sense – priests and religious. But, while we may earnestly pray that our Church be supplied with the leaders it needs, there can be a tendency among us to pray that OTHERS may answer that call. We do not see ourselves as included. We may pray earnestly for more young people to offer themselves as priests and religious but clearly exclude our own children. But the problem is a wider one. We have for too long given a much too narrow meaning to the word 'vocation'. We tend to limit it to a calling to be a priest or a member of a religious institute. But, in fact, every single one of us has a vocation. For most of us, probably, it is what we are now doing be it as spouses, parents, teachers, doctors, civil servants, running a business, salespersons... or whatever.

In very simple terms, **vocation** means a **call**. So, in general terms your vocation is what God calls you to do with your life. Everybody is called by God to know, love and serve him. The difference is how each one does this. Individual vocations vary between being single, married, consecrated, and religious or a priest. God gives each one of us a particular mission in life. As we grow and life progresses, he makes it known to us, usually in indirect ways, that our mission or call is more as an invitation than an imposition.

God tells us an amazing thing: that even before he created us he knew us and called us. However, this does not mean that we always automatically know for sure what we are called to do in life. God reveals his will gradually, we can always make a mistake and we can even say no to him. Fortunately, God always takes us where we are and so our concern should be only where does he want me to go from here, and not anguish over the past. God is always with us as long as we keep close to Him through prayer and do our best to live up to His will in the present moment.

First, look at Christ's love and see what that stirs in your heart. When you stop and think about his sacrifice, are there times you want to follow him, to be totally his and give yourself to him without reserve, and to put everything you have into bringing him to others?

Second, take a good look at all he has given you: the gift of life, the gift of faith, your health, the opportunities you have had, possibly your conversion. See if there are some things that might point in the direction of a vocation, like the difference between the ways you look on life to the way your friends do...

Third, get some advice from a good priest in Confession or external direction. Go over your life with him and be frank about the good and bad you see there, and ask him if he believes anything in your past might be a definitive obstacle to your having a vocation. If he doesn't, it is one more reason to look more closely at the vocation.

Fourth, visit a seminary a convent, an exemplary family or community that attracts you and see what God stirs in your heart while you are there. That would also be a good time to have an in-depth talk about your call.

Fifth, regarding your feelings, remember that they are fickle, they change on the shortest notice with or without warning. One day they can be so positive that you find it impossible to doubt a thing, and the next day they can be so negative that you can see nothing for sure. Your response to a vocation does not reside on your temperamental emotions; it has to be on the level of your will and not your feelings. This means basing it on reasons and motives that are more solid and lasting, more based on reality (supernatural reality-grace, God's love, god's fidelity, the needs of souls...) Christ's love was not based on feelings, even though positive feelings can help to begin the journey. But the journey has to bring us to the level of love, of total surrender out of love. That is what a priestly, consecrated and vocation for the services of humanity is all about.

Parallel to taking these steps, you will need to develop and follow a program of spiritual growth. It will be a great help to have a spiritual director for this. Our spiritual progress depends upon God's grace, and any program we set for ourselves is simply a plan based on our self-knowledge to remove any obstacles to God's grace and put in place those actions that can help it bear fruit. Some points to include are:

1. Daily personal prayer (A daily "quiet time" or meditation time, rosary or a part of the rosary, evening examination of conscience, etc. Be realistic, don't overload but do include these elements.)
2. Increased attendance at Mass and reception of the Eucharist (Communion) and of the sacrament of Confession
3. Attention to your duties (study, family, work, etc.),
4. Involvement in evangelization Some examples: Take an active role in a discussion group or even begin one, a prayer group or a Bible study, helping in a youth group, doing door-to-door evangelization or pastoral visitation, helping in pro-life work, etc.
5. A key virtue or two that you need to work on, depending on what you realize is your weak point. (For example: patience, humility, responsibility, charity, self-control etc.) Choose just one! We all need to work on all the virtues, but choosing one actually helps us to work on all of them, almost without realizing it.
6. A healthy social life; avoiding of course friendships or atmospheres that go against Christian values.

The true key to discerning through all this is of course listening to Christ and telling him that you trust him totally and simply want to do whatever he asks of you. Insist on this in your prayer. Tell him often that you love him. Strive to bring him to others more and more each day. Little by little things will begin to get clearer, and you will be preparing yourself in this way for whatever he has in mind for you. Fr George Ngwa

IMPORTANT. If you are a reader or would like to be a reader, this is for you. WE NEED MORE READERS and would like, no LOVE to hear your voice. Even for those who have been reading a while there is always something to learn and share with others. Please support this. Please check your calendars and let Johanna know if you can attend. If you need financial help with transport. Please let the office or Father George know.

Diocesan Day for Readers - 16th June 2018 St Bede's Catholic Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire. RG24 9DX

The Day will start with Mass at 9.30 am, and will end at 3.00 pm. It is offered for everyone who is involved in reading at Mass, as an opportunity to meet, share, be formed, and pray together.

The day will include: Practical formation for reading at Mass, what we need to know and be aware of when reading in public, during Mass, Liturgical formation, to understand the proclamation of the Word of God as a Liturgical action of the Church Theological formation, to better understand the texts that we are to proclaim

A buffet Lunch will be provided, thanks to the generous support of the Bible Society. You can register yourself if you have the Portsmouth enews as there is a link.

**From Bishop Philip –
Rosary on the Coast - will you be joining in
prayer on 29th April?**

Don't forget to try and take an active part in this exciting initiative praying for Faith, Life and Peace in the British Isles. There are over 200 locations where you can take part including over 20 venues within our diocese where you can take part, including inland parishes if you are unable to get to the coast.

You can see from the map on the left many of the places where you can join in. There are events in Old Portsmouth, Southsea, Eastney, Hayling Island, Lymington, Fareham, Highcliffe, Bournemouth, Southampton, Jersey, Guernsey, Ryde, Gosport, Emsworth, Aldershot, Fleet and Windsor. Click on the map for more details.

You can find lots of information on their **Facebook** page <https://www.facebook.com/rosaryonthecoast/> and **website** where you can also read the Briefing Document for the event.

**Join me for the Diocesan Eucharistic
Conference on Saturday 5th May**

Please join me on Saturday 5th May at 10.30am when the Diocese will be holding its very own Eucharistic Conference. The day will begin with praise and worship at the New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth led by Focus the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, a group of people from the 'States' who are passionate about changing the world and helping others to live a life of purpose and the Youth 2000 live band. We will then be able to listen to the most amazing inspirational speaker's Fr Stephen Wang, Senior

Chaplain to London Universities in the Diocese of Westminster and author of many CTS publications, Pippa Baker who has worked in advertising, is involved in leadership within the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) and lives in a community house striving to live a life of hospitality and prayer.

After lunch (please bring a picnic with you) there will be the opportunity to participate in a workshop of your choice and then gather for Adoration and Mass at St John's Cathedral, which will I will celebrate.

Please do come and join with others from throughout the Diocese for what promises to be the most awesome day. Admission to the Theatre is FREE, but entry is by ticket only, so do be sure to book yours now by emailing congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by phoning 07780221686 or via Eventbrite [here](#).

Bishop Philip has also given us a prayer to say for the people of Syria. For those of you who don't have the internet. I have printed it out for you.

Almighty Father,

we pray for the peoples of the world, caught up in conflict and strife.

We remember with particular love the people of Syria and Gaza.

We pray for those whose love of neighbour has been destroyed in the bitterness of enmity.

May their fear be submerged in compassion.

May their distrust be diluted by hope,

as a vision of peace and Easter joy illuminates all darkened minds and hate-filled hearts.

We ask this in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Sherry Weddell, author of *Called and Gifted*, and *Forming Intentional Disciples*, is coming to the diocese next month. There are two events for laity, held at the Basingstoke Country Hotel. On Friday 18th May 2pm - 7pm she will be speaking about parish renewal and a few of our parishes will be sharing what they are doing. On Sat 19th May 9.30am - 4.30pm Sherry will be focusing on the personal spiritual journey and how each of us can develop our love and relationship with the Lord. For more details and to book free places, please email [Clare atcsimpson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Clare.atcsimpson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

MISSIO BOXES We still do not have a representative /promoter to collect them and redistribute.

Yvonne can no longer do this and we are grateful for all she has done to help the important work of World Missions and Mill Hill Missionaries.

The promoters role, entails collecting 3 times a year from people who have the red boxes and delivering them to the local secretary. At the same time as collecting there are pamphlets and a calendar distributed. It does not have to be just one person, if you want to do it as a couple, family or with a friend let us know. Please contact Yvonne Saunders on 01425 618549 if you feel you could give this a go! Thank you very much.

Antony Kirke, the Treasurer of the New Forest Basics bank will be coming to talk briefly on Saturday 28th April

4th Sunday of Easter Year B 22 April 2018

Sunday	22	April	4 th Sunday of Easter	18.00 Vigil Mass – Elza RIP 10.00 Holy Mass – Missa Pro Populo	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	23	April	St George		
Tuesday	24	April	Of the 4 th week of Easter	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass- Beryl Peters birthday	7 pm Tap classes
Wednesday	25	April	St Mark	10.00 Holy Mass - Hollyoak family RIP	
Thursday	26	April	Of the 4 th week of Easter	10.00 Holy Mass – in thanksgiving for the living rosary (S Vernon)	
Friday	27	April	Of the 4 th week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Audrey Henegan RIP	
Saturday	28	April	Of the 4 th week of Easter St Peter Chanel or St Louis Grignon de Montfort	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – Fr Leonardo RIP 18.00 Vigil Mass – John Williams intentions (from Heather)	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	29	April	5 th Sunday of Easter	10.00 Holy Mass -Wayne Nichols RIP	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

Collections 31 st March /1 st April	
loose	£383.23
envelopes	£187.85
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 21 Apr	Sun 22 Apr	Sat 28 Apr	Sun 29 Apr
Reader	J Marriott	C Fradd	A Nash	S Ramsay
	T Gearey	C Fradd	P Thorpe	J Thomas
EMHC	M Newland	J Nicholls		A Caneda
	F Fallon	M Buckland	M Harwood	J Kurian
	J Thomas	S Salinger	C d’Espagnac	M Tanner

Second collection this weekend for Clergy Training Fund

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: **07475753040**

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

PALS - Monthly Lunch - Tuesday 24th April at venue for 12:00 a.m.

Please be at Church Car Park for 11:50 to arrange car transport. Own choice menu on arrival as usual.

CHOIR - Next practice April 26th after Mass. This will include a meeting for all choir members and any new members, to discuss and finalise new timing to one per month. This to be in the last week ready for the following month's hymn programme. Discussion also open to change of day or evening in the week. Your attendance will be much appreciated. *Thank you Jane*

During Sunday Mass today at the cathedral of St Vitus, **Jane Gow** is to be given the title of sister Knight of the Miraculous Cross, given by the Rector and confirmed by the Archbishop of Rijeka, Croatia. The Miraculous Cross hangs above the main altar in the Cathedral where this takes place.

Thanks for all the prayers offered for my recovery. In as much as I may want to remain young, unfortunately the clock keeps ticking and there is nothing I can do to hold back the hands of the clock. I love going to bed every day for a good night's rest and happy for a beautiful sleep but this brings with it SENIOR MOMENTS. I am sure not many of us have reached this age group yet. Father George.