

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**



5th Sunday of Easter Year B 29 April 2018

CHRISTIANS BEARING FRUITS IN PLENTY

“Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty”

Bearing fruit is a phrase used to describe the outward actions that result from the inward condition of a person's heart. As Christians, we want to bear fruit in keeping with our relationship with God. We seek to do things outwardly that demonstrate that we have been made new in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). So what is the meaning of bearing fruit? How can a Christian bear fruit? and what is the key to bearing good fruit?

In the natural world, fruit is the result of a healthy plant producing what it was designed to produce (Genesis 1:11–12). In the Bible, the word fruit is often used to describe a person's outward actions that result from the condition of the heart.

Good fruit is that which is produced by the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:22 gives us a starting place: the fruit of His Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The more we allow the Holy Spirit free rein in our lives, the more this fruit is evident (Galatians 5:16, 25). Jesus told His followers, “I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (John 15:16).

Jesus told us clearly what we must do to bear good fruit. He said, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:4–5). A branch must stay firmly attached to the trunk to stay alive. As disciples of Christ, we must stay firmly connected to Him to remain spiritually productive. A branch draws strength, nourishment, protection, and energy from the vine. If it is broken off, it quickly dies and becomes unfruitful. When we neglect our spiritual life, ignore the Word of God, refuse to celebrate the sacraments, lazy in prayer, and withhold areas of our lives from the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit and refuse his grace of conversion, then we are like a branch broken off the vine. Our lives become fruitless. We need daily surrender, daily communication, and repentance and living a life of grace to be intimately connected to Jesus Christ the True Vine as the only way to “bear fruit always”

One counterfeit to bearing good fruit is **pretence**. We can become experts at the routines and “**acting Christian,**” while experiencing no real power and bearing no eternal fruit. Our hearts remain self-centred, angry, and joyless even while we go through the notions of serving God. We can easily slip into the role of the Pharisees in judging ourselves by how we think we appear to others and neglecting that secret place of the heart where all good fruit germinates. When we love, desire, pursue, and fear the same things that the rest of the world does, we are not abiding in Christ, even though our lives may be filled with church-related activity. And, often, we don't realize that we are living fruitless lives (1 John 2:15–17).

Our works will be tested by fire. Using a different metaphor than fruit, 1 Corinthians 3:12–14 says, “If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.”

God is the judge of even our thoughts and motivations. All will be brought to the light when we stand before Him (Hebrews 4:12–13). A poor widow in a one-room flat can bear as much fruit as a charismatic leader, leading giant crusades, if she entrusts to God every aspect of her life and using all God has given her for His glory. As fruit is unique to each tree, our fruit is unique to us. God knows what He has entrusted to each of us and what He expects us to do with it (Luke 12:48). Our responsibility before God is to be “faithful with little” so that He can trust us with much (Matthew 25:21).

Ways by which Christians do bear Fruits: What are the fruits which a Christian can bear fruit? The New Testament gives several answers to the question.

One, a developing Christian character is fruit. If the goal of the Christian life is seen as Christ-like, then surely every trait developed in us that reflects Christ’s character must be fruit that is very pleasing to Him. Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit in nine terms in Galatians 5:22-23, and Peter urges the development of seven accompaniments to faith in order that we might be fruitful (2 Peter 1:5-8). Two of these terms are common to both lists: love and self-control. The others are joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, virtue, knowledge, endurance, piety, and brotherly love. To show these character traits is to bear fruit in one’s life.

Two, right character will result in right conduct, and as we live a life of good works we produce fruit (Colossians 1:10). This goes hand in hand with increasing in the knowledge of God, for as we learn what pleases Him, our fruitful works become more and more conformed to that knowledge. When Paul expressed how torn he was between the two possibilities of either dying and being with Christ or living on in this life, he said that living on would mean fruitful labour or work (Philippians 1:22). This phrase could mean that (1) his work itself was fruit, or (2) fruit would result from his work. In either case, his life and work were fruit. So may ours be.

Three, those who come to Christ through our witness are fruits. Paul longed to go to Rome to have some fruit from his ministry there (Romans 1:13), and he characterized the conversion of the household of Stephanas as the first fruits of Achaia (1 Corinthians 16:15).

Four, we may also bear fruit with our lips by giving praise to God and thankfully confessing His name (Hebrews 13:15). In other words, our lips bear fruit when we offer thankful acknowledgment to the name of God. And this is something we should do continually.

Five, we bear fruit when we do charity. Paul designated the collection of money for the poorer saints in Jerusalem as fruit (Romans 15:28). Too, when he thanked the Philippians for their financial support of his ministry, he said that their act of giving brought fruit to their account (Philippians 4:17).

To sum up, fruit includes: (1) a Christ-like character, (2) a life characterized by good works, (3) a faithful witness, (4) a pair of lips that praise God, and (5) a generous act of charity. Fr George Ngwa

Don’t forget the Rosary on the Coast initiative. Will you be joining us in prayer on Sunday 29th April at 3pm?

If so, please come and meet up on the cliff top by the car park near the café just before 3pm. Thank you.

Important : A Parish Data Co-Ordinator is required

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.

If you are interested, further details are available from the Parish office and full training will be given.

This is a free event for you. Portsmouth Diocese Eucharistic Conference Sat 5th May 2018

Have you taken time out of your busy schedule to pause? When was the last time you stopped and took time to think, to discern? When was the last time you came face to face with Jesus Christ? When was the last real encounter you had with your faith?

This event is an opportunity to engage with likeminded families in prayer, fellowship and joy. Come and spend time with Jesus, friends, inspiring speakers and interactive workshops. Develop your faith. Develop your relationship with Jesus.

The conference will be supported by Fr Stephen Wang a philosopher, theologian and popular author, Pippa Baker an evangelist, Focus a worldwide renowned organisation for evangelisation, Y2K who will lead our worship with inspirational music and our own Bishop Philip. Book your ticket now by either booking through eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-diocesan-eucharistic-conference-tickets-44506853196?aff=es2>, emailing congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phoning 07780221686.

MISSIO BOXES We still do not have a representative /promoter to collect them and redistribute. It is important work to help World Missions and the 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!

If you have already contacted Yvonne or are thinking about, please let the office know.

Fr Anthony Chantry, Missio National Director has written to inform me (Bishop Philip) that the Diocese of Portsmouth has raised an impressive total of £152,081.00 for the Missio mission appeals. Well done to all our parishioners throughout the Diocese for showing, in Pope Francis's words, "the immense love revealed in the crucified and risen Christ".

25 and 26th May 2018 – Talks at Quarr Abbey:

Fr Becket Soule OP will give a series of talks at Quarr Abbey on May 25 and 26 this year. He currently serves as the Administrator at St John The Evangelist Catholic Parish, Waynesville, North Carolina.

The topics to be covered are:

1. Reading the Word of God: Scriptural Interpretation in Augustine's *Confessions*
 2. From Cloister to Classroom: Peter Lombard's *Commentary on the Psalms*
 3. The Twins: Gratian and Peter Lombard in Text and in Legend
 4. "Why Can't We Just Get Along?": the battles between theologians and canonists in the Middle Ages
1. The Last Word: Scribes and Illuminations in English Manuscripts (an illustrated lecture)

A bursary is available to help with travel costs for seminarians and students. Accommodation available for participants at Quarr Abbey Guesthouse. Although there is no registration fee, donations to help cover costs are welcome. For registration and further information, please contact Fr Brian at procurator@quarr.org

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

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting is on Wednesday 2nd May at 6pm

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

Please be aware that if you give your email or telephone number to be included in the newsletter it becomes public as the newsletter is published on line.

5th Sunday of Easter Year B 29 April 2018

Sunday	29	April	5 th Sunday of Easter	18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>John Williams intentions (from Heather)</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Wayne Nichols RIP</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass
Monday	30	April	St Pius V		
Tuesday	1	May	Of the 5 th week of Easter St Joseph the Worker	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass- <i>Daniel & Agnes O'Sullivan RIP</i>	7 pm Tap classes
Wednesday	2	May	St Athanasius	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>in thanksgiving for the living rosary (A Fittell)</i>	Parish pastoral Council Meeting 6pm in the Hall
Thursday	3	May	Ss Philip & James, apostles, feast	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Fr George Ngwa – health & healing</i>	NB Mass today is in the evening as Clergy Day.
Friday	4	May	English Martyrs, feast	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jim Redington – health & wellbeing</i> 6.30pm Latin Mass	PALS meeting after Mass
Saturday	5	May	Of the 5 th week of Easter	09.30 Divine Mercy chaplet veneration of the relic of Sr Faustina 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Maisie Bowdidge RIP</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass – <i>Jeanette Patching RIP</i>	Confessions after morning Mass & before Vigil Mass
Sunday	6	May	6 th Sunday of Easter	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Ray & Jean Carlile RIP</i>	Coffee & tea in hall after Mass

The next Living Rosary Group meeting is on Monday 14th May as the first Monday is a Bank Holiday.
The Solemnity (Holy Day of Obligation) of the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated next Thursday 10th May

IMPORTANT: MASS OFFERINGS/intentions If you would like a Mass said for your intention then please take one of the envelopes on the shelf by the Confessional and fill in your details, add an offering and pop it into the general collection at one of the weekend masses. The next available day will be booked in the diary. If you wish a specific date, please give plenty of time and phone the office during opening times or call in to check the date is available. Thank you.

Collections 22/23April	
loose	£452.94
envelopes	£212.00
Clergy Training Fund	£261.36
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat 28 Apr	Sun 29 Apr	Sat 5 May	Sun 6 May
Reader	A Nash	S Ramsay	B Dempster	P Caffyn
	P Thorpe	J Thomas	M Newland	P Caffyn
EMHC		A Caneda	T Gearey	A Joseph
	M Harwood	J Kurian	B Dempster	J Nichols
	C d'Espagnac	M Tanner	K Dempster	M Buckland

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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

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.nfw.org.uk

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

****** Please note that on Thursday 3rd May, Holy Mass is an EVENING MASS ******