

## 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 **7.00am- 7.00pm**



## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2018

### WITH CHRIST, THERE IS NO DEATH FOR US CHRISTIANS

The theme running across the scriptural offerings this week is that of God as the Giver of life. This is present most strikingly in the Gospel where Jesus brings back to life a dead child. If there is death, as indeed there is, it has not come from God but from another source: the envy of a fallen angel, the devil, who by inducing human beings to sin has rendered them unfit for eternal life and so subject to mortality. The Bible alone can give man an adequate understanding, meaning, and hope in the face of the facts and realities of life with its complexities, trials, and losses as with death. First, we might start with a question? Why death? Why was our beloved husband, wife, child or friend, taken from us? We simply do not know the answer to that? That is one of the mysteries of life that Scripture does not answer.

But when is death convenient? When is death ever timely for the individual or for the family and friends? When is death not a shock? When is death normal? Certainly, sometimes it is a relief because of sickness or the pains of this life, but who can ever really be thankful for death. So let's ask a question.

*Death is painful because it is an Enemy to mankind*

According to Scripture, death is not really normal or natural even though it is a persistent fact of human history. Why? Because man was created by God to be a unity of body, soul, and spirit and in that state to live forever with God in fellowship with Him. This is the natural, normal state that God planned for man. This is why we have the hope and promise of the resurrection (cf. 2 Cor. 5:1-9). Further, according to Scripture, death is an enemy, the last enemy to be conquered by God, and as such, it is the result of a cause, the result of sin and the fall of the human race. "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death" (1 Cor. 15:25-26).

How is death our enemy? It is our enemy because:

1. It separates man from his body,
2. because is the result of sin and Satan's attack on man who was created in the image of God for fellowship with God,
3. It separates us from our loved ones,
4. It ends ministries and often makes life seem futile or without purpose, and
5. If men are without Christ, it sends them into a Christless eternity, forever separated from God.

***Victory Over Death – overcoming the pain of death.*** The Apostle, in the light of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, believed and taught that: "But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:54-57)

What is that victory over death? Let us reflect for a moment on some of the great declarations of the Bible:

- (1) Because of Christ's victory over death for us, God assures us that this separation is not permanent for Christians.
- (2) The Word of God tells us that the sting of death has been swallowed up in the victory of Christ. For Romans 8:1 says "there is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus."

(3) Christ's death cancelled sin's penalty of everlasting death and its judgment was born by the Lord in the sinners place on the cross.

(4) Because of the victory of Christ, death for us Christians is a departure for home and means being in the presence of the Lord as well as in the presence of other believing loved ones.

(5) While the ultimate wiping away of every tear awaits the final battle and the resurrection, our victory in Christ means that at death, we are ushered into the Lord's presence which brings joy unspeakable. In this heavenly home there won't be the sorrow, the tears, and the pain that we have here will vanish for ever.

(6) Our victory in Christ also assures us that we will one day experience a glorious resurrection and a glorified body like that of Christ. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live."

(7) The Word of God assures us that the victory accomplished for us by the Lord Jesus means a glorious, eternal inheritance "an inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled, that does not fade away, which is reserved in heaven for those who are kept by the power of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 1:3-5).

(8) Finally, we can find further comfort in knowing "that precious in the sight of the LORD, is the death of His saints." There are no accidents with God, His timing is perfect, and He works all things together for good, for the one taken and those left (Rom. 8:28-29). When a person is called home, It's because in God's love and wisdom, He wants that person with Him in glory.

Fr. George Ngwa

### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS – COME FOLLOW ME...

#### THE CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH AND ST. JOSEPH'S WORKSHOP

Our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land brought us to the workshop of St. Joseph the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster Father of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Above this carpentry workshop, is a gigantic building, **the Church of St Joseph in Nazareth** built over the carpentry workshop.

As we walked into St. Joseph's workshop just a stone throw from the The Church of the Annunciation, I was struck by the simplicity of a workshop that provided the only means of livelihood for the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This would not pass for a workshop today and hardly be record as a source of income. This visit into this workshop threw more light to the **Encyclical Letter on the dignity of Human Work of St. Pope John Paul II**

*Through work man must earn his daily bread and contribute to the continual advance of science and technology and, above all, to elevating unceasingly the cultural and moral level of the society within which he lives in community with those who belong to the same family. And work means any activity by man, whether manual or intellectual, whatever its nature or circumstances; it means any human activity that can and must be recognized as work, in the midst of all the many activities of which man is capable and to which he is predisposed by his very nature, by virtue of humanity itself. Man is made to be in the visible universe an image and likeness of God himself, and he is placed in it in order to subdue the earth. From the beginning therefore he is called to work. Work is one of the characteristics that distinguish man from the rest of creatures, whose activity for sustaining their lives cannot be called work. Only man is capable of work, and only man works, at the same time by work occupying his existence on earth. Thus work bears a particular mark of man and of humanity, the mark of a person operating within a community of persons. And this mark decides its interior characteristics; in a sense it constitutes its very nature.*

Scripture tells us St Joseph was a carpenter. He was a workman who supplied the needs of his fellow citizens with a manual skill acquired through years of toil and sweat. He was just a worker, like so many millions of people throughout the world. He worked at the same demanding and humble job which God chose for himself when he took our flesh and came to live just like the rest of us for thirty years.

The Gospels give us a picture of Joseph as a remarkably sound man who was in no way frightened or shy of life. On the contrary, he faced up to problems, dealt with difficult situations and showed responsibility and initiative

in whatever he was asked to do. Joseph worked every day, with the same constant effort. And at the end of the day, a poor little house in which to rest and regain energy for the next day.

But the name Joseph, in Hebrew, means "God will add." God adds unsuspected dimensions to the holy lives of those who do his will. He adds the one important dimension which gives meaning to everything, the divine dimension. To the humble and holy life of Joseph he added — if I may put it this way — the lives of the Virgin Mary and of Jesus, our Lord. God does not allow himself to be outdone in generosity. Joseph could make his own the words of Mary, his wife: "He has looked graciously upon the lowliness of his handmaid... because he who is mighty, he whose name is holy, has wrought for me his wonders."

St Joseph was an ordinary sort of man on whom God relied to do great things. He did exactly what the Lord wanted him to do, in each and every event that went to make up his life. That is why Scripture praises Joseph as "a just man." And in Hebrew a just man means a good and faithful servant of God, someone who fulfils the divine will, or who is honourable and charitable toward his neighbour. So a just man is someone who loves God and proves his love by keeping God's commandments and directing his whole life toward the service of his brothers, his fellow men. To be just is not simply a matter of obeying rules. Goodness should grow from the inside; it should be deep and vital — *for "the just man lives by faith."* *St Joseph's life was simple, but it was not easy.* Yes I brought home that message....To be continued

Fr. George Ngwa

### **Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Rotas from September 2018 to February 2019**

I am in the throws of drawing up the Rotas for the next 6 months and I would be grateful if all concerned could let me know of any holiday dates when they will not be available for Mass duties during this period. If there are any other members of the Congregation who would consider coming onto the Reading List, we would be very happy to add your name. Thank you all so much for the very valuable contribution you make to the smooth running of our services. **Lizzie Davies/Secretary**

**LIVING ROSARY GROUP** – To be held this coming Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, as usual first Monday of the month.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00 p.m., as usual first Wednesday of the month.

**PALS** - Our July meeting is next Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 in our hall - as usual the first Friday of the month.

**Congratulations to Archbishop Cornelius of Bamenda** On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, Archbishop Cornelius Esua, Archbishop of Bamenda celebrates both his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination. He will be celebrating with a special celebration Mass in the Bamenda Metropolitan Cathedral. We send him warm greetings from our diocese, twinned with the Archdiocese of Bamenda for over 40 years and the assurance of our prayers.

Here's a prayer to offer for him:

"God, eternal shepherd, you tend your Church in many ways and rule us with love. You have chosen your knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen"

**WANTED Garden Volunteers** – As you must have noticed, Byard has been transforming the garden by the carpark over the last few years but sadly is unable to continue doing so. We are all very thankful for the beautiful colourful planting he has produced and which he says should continue yearly. This will require a lot of hard work to sustain so **please**, if you would like to take charge of organising its continuance, let Johanna Thomas know. All that can be done at present is to keep it watered! Thank You.

**New Cleaning Rota is on the Noticeboard.** Please can you fill in your names. Thank You.

**Friends of the Holy Land.** We have received an acknowledgement of thanks from the Friends of the Holy Land for the Crib Offerings of £44.96 which this Parish donated, contributing to the support for our fellow Christians in the Holy Land. Last year the crib offerings enabled The Friends to make a very significant

increase to the number of Christian families benefitting from their support programme. May we continue to support this worthy cause. FHL newsletters can be obtained from office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

**WELCOME** to all our visitors. Our Newsletter can be found on our website at [www.nfw.org.uk](http://www.nfw.org.uk).

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2018

Sunday	01	July	13 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Vigil Mass – Joyce Gowing RIP 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Mel Clarkson</i> (13.00 Baptism) ( <i>healing &amp; good health</i> )	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	02	July			Living Rosary Group
Tuesday	03	July	St. Thomas	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Sarah Nixon (RIP)</i>	No Morning Confession
Wednesday	04	July	St. Elizabeth of Portugal	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Cecil Soares (RIP)</i> (11.00 Funeral)	
Thursday	05	July	St. Anthony Zaccaria	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Anthony &amp; Muriel McCourts (RIP)</i>	
Friday	06	July	St. Maria Goretti	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Dean (well-being)</i> 18.30 Latin Mass	Latin Mass
Saturday	07	July	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –  18.00 Vigil Mass of 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time- <i>Heather Williams (58<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	08	July	14 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Colin Bryce (Birthday)</i>	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass

Collections 24/25 July		Sat. 30 June	Sun. 1 July	Sat. 7 July	Sun. 8 July
loose	£345.35	<b>Reader</b> A.Nash	P.Caffyn	B.Dempster	C.Barrett
envelopes	£218.05	P.Thorpe	P.Caffyn	M.Newland	C.Barrett
Thank you for your continued support		<b>EMHC</b>	S.Salinger	T.Gearey	M.Tanner
		M.Harwood	A.Caneda	B.Dempster	Akhil Joseph
		C.d'Espagnac	J.Kurian	K.Dempster	J. Nichols

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July for Peter's Pence**

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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**Parish office: 01425 614968** Hall Booking via Parish Office

[ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Secretary: Lizzie Davies** Wed & Fri 10.00h-14.00h

Our Parish Live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton>

Website: [www.nfw.org.uk](http://www.nfw.org.uk)

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

**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

