

## 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



### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018

#### ATTITUDES AFFECTING THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL

Our Gospel today, St. Mark shows us that many people of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth did not accept him as a prophet because they "knew" him and his family too well. They knew that he was the Son of a carpenter with no schooling in Mosaic Law and knew that he could not be the promised Messiah who would come from Bethlehem as a descendant of David's royal family. Besides, they were angry when Jesus did not work any miracles in Nazareth but chided them with prophetic courage for their lack of Faith and warned that he would go to other people to do his preaching and healing ministry.

The story of what happened to Jesus when he decided to return to his town is a familiar story, one that happens to all of us: we achieve wonderful things far away from home – in another city, or perhaps in some other part of the world, where we are not well known; then the time comes when we know we must return to our own country and teach there, and we find that people at home do not see us in the same way. As we reflect on this passage, you may find yourself identifying with the people who rejected Jesus because he was so well known to them. Or you may prefer to identify with Jesus, remembering times when you or others had an experience like his. This Sunday's reflection gives us the opportunity to see other reasons we fail to evangelise.

**Lack of Gospel Knowledge:** St. Jerome who single-handedly wrote the commentary on the entire 73 books of the Bible said "Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. If you have been a Christian, even for a short time, you have likely heard the gospel hundreds of times. Yet, many of us still struggle to articulate the truths of the gospel in a simple, coherent, and intelligible way. Could you share the essential message of the gospel in sixty seconds, right now?"

**Attitude:** Sometimes we don't care that much about lost people. We might not have said it, but our priorities and lives reveal it. We make no time in our busy schedules to interact and engage with those who do not know Christ. We have long stopped praying for lost people in our neighbourhoods and workplaces. We have no non-Christian friends, and barely any ties. We could even say that lost people are a low priority. For instance, when was the last time you invited someone into your home who did not know Christ?

**Fear of being known:** What will others think of me? What if they don't like me or my family? Some are paralyzed by the thought of being disliked, marginalized, laughed at, or openly mocked. We are afraid we will lose business or get passed up for that promotion. What if they stop inviting my kids to the birthday parties or to play with their own children? What if talking about Christ makes seeing my neighbours awkward?

**We give no priority to evangelism.** This may sound strange. But Christians who do not make evangelism a high priority are really making it no priority at all. Our hobbies take a better part of our time.

**Many laypersons believe that evangelism is what we pay the pastors and staff to do.** Such a perspective is first unbiblical and, second, unproductive. Christ gave the command to his Apostles

and to all of us to go and reach the gospel to all Nations and Baptize people in the Triune God. St, Paul reminds us that the task of preaching the Gospel is obligatory to all believers.

**The blaming culture.** So pastors blame it on the laity. The laity blame it on the pastor. And both blame it on culture, the denomination, or some other external scapegoat.

**We should constantly pray for Mission of the Church.** Many members are pretty good at praying for those who have physical needs. But above all we should pray for people who have the greatest need: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**We must preach by example:** Evangelism always ultimately includes a clear articulation of the gospel. But too many Christians never get that opportunity to share the gospel, because they fail to show Christ in their actions and compassion.

The issue in our Gospel reading is that they knew him a little too well. Hence the saying Familiarity breeds contempt. He was no one great, they said, no one extraordinary. He is one of us. The carpenter. The son of Mary. He was born amongst us. He lives with us. He works with us. He shares our sorrows and our joys. He carries our sins and our sufferings. He celebrates alongside us. He turns our water into wine, and our mourning into hope. He is part of our families, part of our lives. The Ordinarity of Christ, and his relative insignificance in his own time, is precisely the most important thing about him.

This is expressed so well in this famous passage

*He was born in an obscure village  
The child of a peasant woman  
He grew up in another obscure village  
Where he worked in a carpenter's shop  
Until he was thirty  
He never wrote a book  
He never held an office  
He never went to college  
He never visited a big city  
He never travelled more than two hundred miles  
From the place where he was born  
He did none of the things  
Usually associated with greatness  
He had no credentials but himself  
He was only thirty three  
His friends ran away  
One of them denied him  
He was turned over to his enemies  
And went through the mockery of a trial*

*He was nailed to a cross between two thieves  
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing  
The only property he had on earth  
When he was dead  
He was laid in a borrowed grave  
Through the pity of a friend  
Twenty centuries have come and gone.  
All the armies that have ever marched  
All the navies that have ever sailed  
All the parliaments that have ever sat  
All the kings that ever reigned put together  
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth  
As powerfully as that one solitary life*

God shares and touches and embraces our lives. The one who made everything, who made us, is one of us. He is with us.

**Fr. George Ngwa**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Many thanks: I want again to sincerely reach out to each and every one of you who contributed and thus enabled me to go to the Holy Land on Pilgrimage. As you would have and will continue to discover from my write-ups, that Pilgrimage meant a life-time experience.
2. **Holiday Cover** Mgr. Matija is coming from Croatia to cover holiday leave for Fr. George from 16<sup>th</sup> July for a month. In order to avoid putting too much strain on Parish finances and to make life easier for our guest, is there anybody in the Congregation who has a spare car that they could lend him during his stay with us.
3. Mgr. Matija made an appeal through Jane Gow for some donations for the renovation of the Cathedral in Croatia. Any such money should be given to Jane Gow and not through any of the Parish channels.

**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.

### This Sunday is Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday will be celebrated on the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> July. During Mass this weekend please remember to pray for seafarers, their families and all who support them, including Apostleship of the Sea. Please support our second collection this Sunday, which will go to the Apostleship of the Sea to support their work. Apostleship of the Sea provides spiritual and practical support, information and a listening ear to seafarers.

**A Request.** Are you interested in becoming the **Health and Safety Rep** for this Parish? It may be that you do it already at work or are retired and have done it in the past somewhere. You may be someone who likes checking things. You may just want to give it a try. No experience is really necessary as the Diocese provide training. If this is striking a chord with you and you feel you could help the parish in this way then please let Father George know and give your name in to the office.

### Ecumenical Colleagues

There will be a **Circuit Welcome Service** at Highcliffe Methodist Church on Thursday evening, 30<sup>th</sup> August, at 6.00 for 6.30 p.m. Refreshments will be served on arrival. The Circuit will be welcoming a new Probationer Minister, Revd. Phil Dixon, together with Revd. Martin Keenan, an ordained minister of some years, who is coming to the Barton Section. It would be good if those of you who will be ecumenical colleagues to Martin in this Barton Section, were able to come and welcome Martin.

### Personal Cheques for Fr. George

Any personal cheques written to Fr. George should be made out as follows please:- “Fr. George”.

### First Holy Communion 2019

Parents of eligible children are invited to register with the office. The date planned is Holy Trinity Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019. There will be a meeting for parents on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm when the programme for the year will be explained. We will be using the programme translated and written by Sister Hyacinth of the Dominican Sisters and these preparation classes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist will start from the beginning of October. **To register**, fill in a form that is at the back of the church on the shelf and place in an envelope to give in to the office. If you wish to do this by email, the following information is required: parents' names, child's name, date of birth, date and place of baptism, current school and your current address, telephone number and address. This info will be kept confidentially in the office.

### Basics Food Bank

The money which has been collected in the poor box at the back of the church will be sent to the Basic Food bank.

### Our Parish Live Steaming:

Total Number of Viewers for the Month of June – 6,388, No. of Unique Viewers 1,353

Total Time viewed 2,990 hours

# FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018

Sunday	08	July	14 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Vigil Mass – 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Colin Bryce ( Birthday)</i>	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	09	July			Living Rosary Group
Tuesday	10	July	14 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Joseph Stevenson (Healing &amp; well-being)</i>	No Morning Confession
Wednesday	11	July	St. Benedict	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall</i>	
Thursday	12	July	14 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peter Currigan (RIP)</i>	
Friday	13	July	St. Henry	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Susie Ramsay (Thanksgiving for recovery to good health)</i>	
Saturday	14	July	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Gisele Bazerghi ( Birthday)</i>  18.00 Vigil Mass of 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Tina ( Birthday &amp; Wedding Anniversary)</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	15	July	15 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>MPP</i>	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass

**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 place 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 notice and phone the office during opening times or call in to check the date is available. Thank You!

Collections 30 June/01 July		Sat. 7 July	Sun. 8 July	Sat. 14 July	Sun. 15 July
loose	£415.21	Reader B.Dempster	C.Barrett	M. Hobbs	C. Fradd
envelopes	£157.00	M.Newland	C.Barrett	C.d'Espagnac	C. Fradd
		EMHC T.Gearey	M.Tanner	F. Fallon	M.Buckland
		B.Dempster	Akhil Joseph	J. Thomas	S.Salinger
Thank you for your continued support		K.Dempster	J. Nichols	M.Newland	A. Caneda

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July for Apostleship of the Sea**

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) emergency mobile: **07475753040**

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

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

**Secretary: Lizzie Davies** Wed & Fri 10.00h-14.00h (NB Thursday instead of Wednesday this week)

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

Website: [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.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