

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



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 15TH JULY 2018

JESUS SENDING HIS DISCIPLES OUT IN PAIRS. COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

Why did Jesus insist on sending his disciples out in pairs (two by two) to preach the gospel? To answer your question, I find just one reason for Christ sending out his disciples two by two as a sort of 'training exercise' for preaching the gospel. This reason is that two people provide a valid witness instead of just one person (Matthew 18:20). The disciples were called not only to be Jesus' companions but also to be his witnesses to all of His teachings, miracles, etc. They were called and chosen to give a first-person testimony about Jesus' whole ministry.

Therefore they were sent out by twos so that together they could be witnesses as to whether those who heard them accepted or rejected the gospel. If they went out alone one person's word without a witness would not be acceptable in the things of God (see 1Corinthians 14:29, 2Corinthians 13:1). The word of one person is not enough to establish the validity of anything. The apostle Paul told his best friend Timothy not to accept an accusation against an older person (whether in or outside the church) unless there were at least two or three witnesses (1Timothy 5:19). And, Paul makes it plain in the book of Hebrews that it took the words of two or three people to condemn someone to die for rejecting God's laws (Hebrews 10:28).

No person could be convicted of a crime in the Old Testament by the testimony of just one witness. Two or three witnesses were needed to decide whether a person committed a crime or not. A person's honest testimony was taken so seriously that if THEY were found to be a false witness (they lied about what they heard and saw) THEY would receive the same punishment as the one they testified against, even if the punishment was death!

COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

Collaborative ministry happens when a group of individual people are brought together to achieve a common purpose or goal. The needs of the group become more important than the needs of the individual. So collaborative ministry to work efficiently, each person need to put aside their own individual needs so as to achieve the objective of the group.

Cooperation with each other – set aside personal differences

Many people, live only to make a good impression on others or maybe they live to just please themselves. This type of selfishness can cause problems when working in a group. Paul therefore encourages the Christian to have spiritual unity with each other and then work as one for the main purpose. ***Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians Ch.2:3-4.*** Christians need to work as a team, caring for the problems of others as though they were our own problems. With this Christ like attitude the team of God's workers will experience unity.

Cooperation with each other – two is better than one

As we go through life we learn many things. In the same way, the Christian, as he/she reads through the Bible, learns wisdom. He/she may take this wisdom and apply it in his/her own life so as to make his/her life more meaningful. However, the Bible says that he/she shouldn't keep all this information to him/herself. ***Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up...But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes Ch.4:9-12***

In the first century, it was a Jewish custom to travel in pairs, especially at night. To work in pairs is better, for they each can encourage and strengthen the other when they become downcast or depressed among strangers. Also one might take the glory to himself; and there might be a loss of love for the work through jealousy or dissension, as in the case of John Mark. "Two are better than one" appeared to be the guideline for the work of the Apostles in the first century. Two disciples were sent to find the colt. Peter and John were sent to prepare the Passover and were later sent together to Samaria. Paul and Barnabas were sent by the Church to Antioch and later when they had their dissension, each took a companion. Collaborative ministry was a vital part of the work of the apostles in the first century because of its numerous advantages. For this to work, it required cooperation between the two men.

Dedicated commitment to the objectives

In collaborative ministry, the members of the group give full participation to the objectives of the team. Everyone feels that the goals are important and that they are fully committed to achieving them. Each member understands that their contribution will be valuable to meeting the goals. God has given all believers an important responsibility of making disciples in all countries. To achieve this objective involves preaching, teaching, nurturing, giving, administering and numerous other tasks. To try and achieve this objective by ourselves would be extremely difficult. But God has asked us to work as a team for he knows this is the best way to be successful. ***“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.” Ephesians Ch.4:11-12***

As a group each person has his own special abilities that he/she can offer. Some of us can do one task whereas someone else can do another task. Together the united team can serve God more effectively than the individual team members can alone.

It is a human trait to overestimate what we can do as an individual and also to underestimate what can be done by individuals or as a group. But, since Christians are part of the body of Christ, there is a lot more that can be achieved together than can ever be done alone.

The team must be coordinated by a leader

The leader or leaders would help coordinate the team. This would help it achieve the goals it was aiming for. For example, Solomon was someone who knew the advantages of team work. Gifted by God, Solomon was to build a House (temple) for God in Jerusalem and was keen to begin by laying its foundations. First, he reorganized some aspects of the Kingdom and then he proceeded to build up a team of workmen, from Israel and elsewhere, to get the great project underway.

Clear expectations must be communicated

The leaders need to clearly communicate their expectations for the performance of the group. Each group member must know why this group was created. They must understand the purpose of the team. God made it very clear as to what the purpose of Christianity was to be. ***“As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter Ch.2:4-5 NIV***

The Christian community is a team – the stones – which when put together will build a spiritual house. All the parts become one. In the same way, all the individuals become a team. In our individualistic society, we can easily forget our dependence on other Christians. When we are given a task, we must never forget that God is also calling others to work with us. Together the efforts of the individuals will be multiplied.

The members are in training to be a holy priesthood. And this team has been given clear expectations from God – they are to offer spiritual sacrifices to God. This means to sacrifice your own self-interest and to give your life in dedication to God. It is not sufficient to just believe, but we must put this belief into action on a daily basis. With the expectations of God known by the group, it is then easy for the team of believers to work together to achieve purpose of God.

a. Individual study and learn what is required.

Each Christian ensures they have the knowledge to help the group at large to achieve the purpose set by God. The best way to serve God is to become familiar with what he tells us in the Bible. *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* 2 Timothy Ch.3:16-17. So if we are serious about being followers of Jesus then we need to know the Bible very well. God gave it to mankind so that we would know who he is and how we should live.

A Bible reading plan will help believers to cover all parts of the Bible regularly and systematically.

b. Other members help each other to learn

Rather than trying to do things alone rely on others to help you. Also, try to help others. *As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.* Proverbs Ch.27:17. If we see a Christian walking alone, it is the responsibility of the other members to “sharpen” that person by fraternal encouragement.

Members must communicate with each other

Christians must communicate clearly and honestly with each other. There may be different opinions amongst group members but these must be brought out into the open and discussed honestly. *I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.* 1 Corinthians Ch.1:10

There must be regular meetings so that the individual team members can communicate with each other in a formal structure. *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Hebrews Ch.13:16. So open, honest and regular communication is important to keep the unity of Christians. This is required by God.

Fr. George Ngwa

A Monetary Plea for Mgr. Matija. - Mgr. Matija is coming from Croatia to cover holiday leave for Fr. George from 16th July for a month. He will have to hire a car in order to carry out his Parish duties and, therefore, we would very much encourage any contributions towards this cost from our Congregation. The Parish will pay .45p per mile for any mileage used for Parish business but your kindness and generosity in assisting Mgr. Matija during his stay with us, will be very much appreciated.

Church Flower Arrangers - IMPORTANT Please collect your revised rota with our new chosen system and personal dates, this from July 13th to Advent 2018. These are in the post box at the back of the church. **Thank you.... Jane Gow**

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 15TH JULY 2018

Sunday	15	July	15 th Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass MPP	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	16	July			
Tuesday	17	July	St. Bonaventure	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Susie Ramsay</i> (thanksgiving to friends who supported her through her illness)	
Wednesday	18	July	15 th Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Susan Murphy (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	19	July	15 th Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Dom & Agnes Campbell (RIP)</i>	
Friday	20	July	St. Apollinaris	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass –	Confession after Mass
Saturday	21	July	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – 18.00 Vigil Mass of 15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	22	July	16 th Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Susan Murphy (RIP)</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 7 th /8 th July		Sat. 14 July	Sun. 15 July	Sat. 21 July	Sun. 22 July
loose	£420.65	Reader M. Hobbs	C. Fradd	K. Dempster	S.Ramsay
envelopes	£177.00	C.d’Espagnac	C. Fradd	J. Marriott	J.Thomas
		EMHC F .Fallon	M.Buckland	M.Harwood	Joseph Kurian
		J. Thomas	S.Salinger	C.d’Espagnac	M.Tanner
Thank you for your continued support		M.Newland	A. Caneda		Akhil Joseph

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Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

lolnewmilton@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

Safeguarding: Katherine Dempster Tel: **01425 611643** email: 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