

## 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 9.00am- 7.00pm



**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2018**

### **Pastores dabo vobis – I will give you shepherds (Shepherds after his own Heart)**

Today's readings explain how God, like a Good Shepherd, redeems His people and provides for them. They also challenge us to use our God-given authority in the family, in the Church and in society, with fidelity and responsibility. Today "pastoral" ministry includes not only the pastoral care given by those named or ordained as "pastors" but the loving service given by many others who follow different callings to serve and lead others. In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah (sixth century B.C.), thunders against Israel's careless leaders - the king, some priests and some court prophets – because they have shown no concern for the poor. The prophet also foretells the rise of a good, new shepherd in the family line of David. Then he consoles the Israelites enslaved in Babylon, by assuring them that God will lead them back to their original pasture in Israel. Today's Good Shepherd Psalm (Ps 23) affirms David's Faith and trust in God, the "Good Shepherd." The second reading introduces Jesus as the shepherd of both Jews and Gentiles and explains how Jesus, the good shepherd, reconciled all of us with His Father by offering himself on the cross. Paul also speaks about another reconciliation, that between the Jews and the Gentiles, brought about by Jesus who accepted both into the same Christian brotherhood. The reading from the Gospel of Mark presents Jesus as the good shepherd fulfilling God's promise given through his prophet Jeremiah in the first reading. Here we see Jesus attending to his weary apostles, who have just returned from their first preaching mission, while at the same time expressing his concern for the people who, like "sheep without a shepherd," have gathered to meet him in the wilderness.

Our Gospel reading presents the sympathetic and merciful heart of Jesus who lovingly invites his apostles to a desolate place for some rest. Jesus had sent his apostles on their first mission, which was one of healing, teaching and preaching. When they returned, they were no doubt exhilarated by the experience. They had witnessed at first hand the power of God's Word. Nonetheless, they were hungry, exhausted, and in need of rest, both physical and spiritual. In fact, Jesus was eager to hear about their missionary adventures as they proudly shared their experiences. But Jesus, too, was in need of a break from the crowds who were constantly pressing on him, demanding his attention and healing. Hence, he led the Apostles by boat to a "deserted place" on the other side of the Lake for a period of rest and sharing. This Gospel teaches that "the mission of the Church should be based on the Gospel of compassion we seek to live and share, from the authority of our commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation; and that leadership, inspired by the wisdom of God, means not dictating and ruling over others but inspiring, providing for and selflessly caring for those whom we are called to lead."

**“Sheep without shepherd:”** When Jesus and the Disciples came ashore there was a large crowd waiting for them. Jesus’ *heart was moved with pity* for those people who were “*sheep without a shepherd.*” Here the reference to the *shepherd* was probably to religious leaders, because at this time the Jews were an occupied people and the real political power was in the hands of the Romans. This brief description, “*sheep without a shepherd,*” is also dense with Biblical allusions. Like the people of Israel, the crowds were in the desert where they would receive not only miraculous food, but guidance and instruction, just as the Torah had been given in the desert of Sinai. “*Sheep without a shepherd*” will perish because:

- ✓ they cannot find their way and will probably end up eaten by a wolf or other carnivores
- ✓ they cannot find pasture and food and
- ✓ they have no defence against the dangers which threaten them.

Jesus' first act with this shepherd-less sheep was *to teach them* and then *to feed them* and finally *to protect his closest disciples, who were also His sheep, from the storm.* This text affirms Jesus’ extraordinary availability and his compassion for the needy. It teaches us that a Christian should be ready to sacrifice his time and even his rest in the service of the Gospel.

**Christians must be people of prayer and action:** The Christian life is a continuous passage from the presence of God to the presence of people and back again. Prayer is essentially listening to God and talking to Him. One of our main problems is that we do not truly allow God the opportunity to speak to us. We also do not know how to "be still and to listen." Hence, we are often in danger of refusing to allow God to recharge us with spiritual energy and strength. In addition, we do not set aside enough time for Him to speak to us and for us to speak to God. How can we shoulder life's burdens if we have no contact with the Lord of Life? How can we do God's work unless we rely on God's strength? And how can we receive that strength unless we pray to him individually, in the family and as a parish community in the Church and receive His grace by participating in the Holy Mass and through the reception of the Sacraments? However, we must never seek God's fellowship in order to avoid the fellowship of men but always in order to prepare for it. From our reflection on today’s Gospel, let us remind ourselves that the Christian life consists of meeting with God in the secret place so that we may serve people more effectively in the market place.

**The Church has the double responsibility of teaching and feeding:** People today find it difficult to balance those two aspects of the Christian life. Some apparently believe that the social ministry of the Church is all that is needed to make Christ present in the world. Others seem to believe that the Church's major concern should be preaching the Gospel, rather than feeding the hungry and healing the sick. The Church's duty, so the argument goes, is to spread the Gospel and provide for public worship. Both views are one-sided. There can be no true Christianity without the proclamation of the Gospel. Teaching the Word of God is essential to a Christian community. But that is only half of the story. Christians must also display the same compassion for the suffering that Jesus exhibited by meeting the social and material needs of others - even those who are not members of our Church.

**Priest after the heart of Jesus:** The Church needs ideal pastors: The Priest/pastor must be a person of compassion. He must be able to feel deeply the suffering of others, to understand why they fear and tremble. The pastors are also called to lead and “govern wisely” (Jer 23:5), living the teaching they communicate. They are to guide people in right paths and are to be concerned about what is right and

just. Their pastoral care should be involved and peaceful care and guidance. They must make sure that the control of the Church does not slip into the hands of a few individuals. It is their duty to see to it that the Church is a family where all feel at home and belong. There are very many people searching for truth today, people hungering for instruction, good people who are looking for direction. They may be parents who are sick with grief over the future of a troubled child; a man stripped of his dignity by unemployment; a woman facing a pregnancy alone; elderly people who feel the diminishing surge of life in their bodies; people who are angry and confused because they have lost confidence in their leaders, whether political or religious. They are people who are looking for answers and for meaning. They are like sheep without a shepherd. They all need ideal pastors filled with the spirit of Christ the "Good Shepherd."

**Fr. George Ngwa**

### **CHURCH OPENING TIMES**

Please note that from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August the Church will be open from 09.00h until 19.00h daily.

### **PALS**

25<sup>th</sup> July - Wednesday - OUR MASS (Feast of St James)

26<sup>th</sup> July Thursday - Monthly outing - meet usual venue 9:50 (note time -route C) - which includes ferry.

**CHOIR - Practice - Thursday 26th, after morning Mass**

### **NEW FOREST CATENIAN MEETING**

Our next Circle meeting will be at **19.00 on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July** at the Crown Manor Hotel, Lyndhurst followed by dinner at 20.00. Those of our Ladies wishing to meet and dine will do so at Prezzo opposite the Crown in Lyndhurst from 19.00.

### **CHURCH SOCIAL EVENTS**

There will be a Meeting in the Hall after Mass on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August** to discuss our next Social Event. We will need plenty of support, so please come along to this important Meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Robin Bantin 01425 838 227**

**JULIAN QUINN** - This is to let you know that initial reports are that Julian Quinn, our Parish Support Accounts Officer, is making an encouraging recovery having suffered a stroke whilst on a parish visit in Southampton yesterday afternoon. Thanks to very prompt action by parish staff and the ambulance service, Julian was receiving treatment at Southampton General Hospital an hour after falling ill. Please keep Julian and his family in your prayers. **David Lawes / Head of Department for Administration**

**Bookings for the National Eucharistic Congress CLOSE 27th JULY** - Ticket bookings for the National Eucharistic Congress, Adoremus in Liverpool will **CLOSE** on **Friday 27th July** after which it will not be possible to request further tickets. Please can I ask you to ensure that all pending requests for Adoremus are sent to me immediately to process.

**Sue Field, Project Assistant to Fr PJ Smith Educational Chaplaincies**

# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2018

Sunday	22	July	16 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – Susan Murphy (RIP)	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	23	July	St. Bridget of Sweden		
Tuesday	24	July	St. Sharbel MakhluF	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - Helen Taylor (RIP)	
Wednesday	25	July	St. James	09.30 Rosary, 10.00 Holy Mass – The Feast of St. James the Apostle (Patron of PALS)	Confession after Mass
Thursday	26	July	SS Joachim & Anne	09.30 Rosary 10.00 Holy Mass – Mr Churcher (thanksgiving for good health & recovery)	
Friday	27	July	16 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.30 Rosary 10.00 Holy Mass – Susie Ramsay (thanksgiving to friends who helped during her illness)	
Saturday	28	July	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –  18.00 Vigil Mass of 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Minnie & Charles Garbett (RIP) ( 12.30 Wedding )	17.30 Confession
Sunday	29	July	17 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - MPP	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 14/15 July		Sat. 21 July	Sun. 22 July	Sat. 28 July	Sun. 29 July
loose	£231.00	Reader K. Dempster	S.Ramsay	T.Gearey	P. Caffyn
envelopes	£411.91	J. Marriott	J.Thomas	A. Nash	P. Caffyn
		EMHC M.Harwood	Joseph Kurian	B.Dempster	J.Nichols
		C.d’Espagnac	M.Tanner	K.Dempster	M.Buckland
Thank you for your continued support			Akhil Joseph	T. Gearey	S.Salinger

**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

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