

## 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



### SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018

#### **SHARING IS A GIFT AND A BLESSING**

Our basic knowledge of Sacred Scriptures from infancy to whom we are today tells us that God created the world and on the seventh day he rested. Then he gave to mankind one of the greatest gifts – to continue the work of creation and distribution of his gifts. Today's readings invite us to become humble instruments in God's hands by sharing our blessings with our needy brothers and sisters. Miracles can happen through our hands, when we collect and distribute to the needy the food destined for all by our generous God. Today's readings also remind us that if we have been blessed with an abundance of earthly bread or with the technical capabilities to produce such an abundance, then these gifts are for sharing with the hungry. When physical hungers are satisfied, then we are challenged to satisfy the deeper hungers – for God, for love, mercy, forgiveness, companionship, peace and fulfilment.

*The first reading* tells us how the prophet Elisha, by invoking God's power, fed one hundred men with twenty barley loaves. This miracle foreshadowed the Gospel account of Jesus' miraculous feeding of the crowd who followed him to hear his words.

*Today's Responsorial Psalm* (Ps. 145) tells us: "*The hand of the Lord feeds us; He answers all our needs.*"

*The second reading*, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians that Jesus united the Jews and the Gentiles, bringing them together as Christians in "*one Faith, one Baptism [with] one God and Father of us all.*" Hence, he urges them to keep this unity intact as "*one body and one spirit*" by living as true Christians, "*bearing with one another through love,*" in "*humility and gentleness, with patience, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace*". If we become such a community, nobody will go hungry, and God will meet the needs of people through the services provided by members of our community.

*The Gospel*, presents the miraculous feeding of the five thousand people by Jesus, with five barley loaves and two fish, as described in today's Gospel, is early associated in Church tradition with the Holy Eucharist. John's version of the miracle clearly heightens the Eucharistic allusions when we read it along with the miraculous feeding of 100 men by the prophet Elisha in today's first reading. But unlike Elisha, Jesus himself assumed the Divine role, feeding the people with eschatological plenty. The reaction of the people was immediate and unanimous; they interpreted the miracle as a Messianic sign and gave Jesus two Messianic titles: "*The Prophet*" and "*the One who is to come.*" This miracle teaches us that God works marvels through ordinary people. Elisha's servant and Jesus' disciples distributed the bread, provided by God. Thus, God meets the needs of the people through the services provided by the members of His community.

Jesus' withdrawals into the wilderness were probably intended to provide periods of rest and reflection for Jesus and his disciples, and a time for him to teach them privately. In addition, withdrawal might have allowed them to avoid danger from those hostile to him, particularly after the execution of John the Baptist. Today's Gospel shows us one such incident, Here, we see Jesus trying, in vain, to withdraw with his apostles from the crowds at Capernaum by sailing to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus stepped ashore near a remote village called Bethsaida where the River Jordan flows into the north end of the Sea of Galilee and faced a large crowd of people who had pursued him around the Sea on foot. His immediate reaction was one of deep compassion. There he began to heal the sick among them and to teach them at length. This was the scene of the miraculous feeding of the five thousand.

**A great miracle before a multitude:** The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 is found in all four Gospels, although the contexts and emphases vary. This is the only miracle, other than the Resurrection, that is told in all the four Gospels, a fact that speaks of its importance to the early Church. The Gospel story should be treated as a witness to the power of God and an implicit declaration of Jesus' Divinity. It also shows how, to this day, Jesus empowers his disciples to continue his works of compassion. We may regard the incident both as a miracle of Divine providence and also as a Messianic sign in which Jesus multiplied loaves and fish in order to feed his hungry listeners. The lesson for every Christian is that, no matter how impossible his or her assignments may seem, with Divine help they can be done because "nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

**"You give them something to eat."** The Gospel story teaches that Jesus meets the most basic human need, hunger, with generosity and compassion. Today's readings also tell us that God really cares about His people and that there is enough and more than enough for everybody. Studies show that the world today produces enough food grains to provide every human being on the planet with 3,600 calories a day, not counting such foods as tuber crops, vegetables, beans, nuts, fruits, meats, and fish. Over the past twenty-five years, food production has exceeded world population growth by about 16%. This means that there is no good reason for any human being in today's world to go hungry. "The problem in feeding the world's hungry population lies with our political lack of will, our economic system biased in favour of the affluent and our tendency to blame the victims of social tragedies such as famine. We all share responsibility for the fact that populations are undernourished. Therefore, it is necessary to arouse a sense of responsibility in individuals, especially among those more blessed with this world's goods." (*Pope John XXIII, Mater et Magistra (1961) 157-58*).

**Sharing is a gift and a blessing.** It is too easy to blame God, too easy to blame governments, too easy to see these things as other people's problems. They are also our problems. That is the meaning of the Eucharist we celebrate every day. In other words, as Christians we need to commit ourselves to share what we have with others, and to work with God in communicating his compassion to all. God is a caring Father and He wants our co-operation to be part of His caring for all of us, His children. That's what the early Christians did, generously sharing what they had with the needy. They were convinced that everything they needed to experience a fulfilling life was already there, in the gifts and talents of the people around them. People of our time need to be encouraged to share, even when they think they have nothing to offer. Whatever we offer through Jesus will have a life-giving effect in those who receive it. We are shown two attitudes in the Gospel story: that of Philip and that of Andrew (John 6:7-9). Philip said, in effect: "The situation is hopeless; nothing can be done." But Andrew's attitude was: "I'll see what I can do; and I will trust Jesus to do the rest." Let us have Andrew's attitude.

**God blesses those who share their talents, with loving commitment.** This is illustrated by St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), who went to serve the slum dwellers of Calcutta with just twenty cents in her pocket. When she died forty-nine years later, God had turned those original twenty cents into eighty schools, three hundred mobile dispensaries, seventy leprosy clinics, thirty homes for the dying, thirty homes for abandoned children and forty thousand volunteers from all over the world to help her. We can begin our own humble efforts at "sharing" right in our parish by participating in the works of charity done by organizations like the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Knights of St. Columba, the Catenians and so many other volunteer groups. We may say, "I do not have enough money or talent to make any difference". But we need to remember that the small boy in the story had only five barley loaves and two dried fish for his pack lunch. The Bible guarantees that every disciple of Jesus has at least one gift from the Holy Spirit. This is our one "tiny fish". Perhaps our "fish" is not money, but a talent or an ability that God has given us. We all have something. If you have never trusted God with your time, or your talent, or your treasure...all your resources...this is the time to start. Let us offer ourselves and whatever we have to God saying, "Here is what I am and what I have Lord; use me; use it." And He will bless us and bless our offering, amplifying it beyond our expectations. When we give what we have to God, and we ask Him to bless it, it is then the miracle happens. We, too, can perform wonders in our own time and place, by practicing the four "Eucharistic verbs" of Jesus: *Take humbly and generously what God gives us, bless it by offering it to others in God's love, break it off from our own needs and interests for the sake of others, give it away with joy-filled gratitude to God who has blessed us with so much. We are called by Christ to become the*

*Eucharist we receive at this altar: giving thanks for what we have received by sharing those gifts -- our talents, our riches, ourselves – to work our own miracles of creating communities of joyful faith.*

**Fr. George Ngwa**

**Living Rosary Group** is on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August at 5.45pm. Please bring your petitions if you have any with you. Look forward to seeing you all. **Mary Tanner**

### **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.

**Home Help** – Rosalynne Carter - one of our Congregation is wheelchair bound and is looking for a Home Help to assist her with day-to-day tasks. Unfortunately Rosalynne finds it difficult to attend Mass because of her disability but receives Home Communion on a regular basis. Is there anybody out there who could help Rosalynne or anybody who knows somebody who might be interested in this job? If so, please contact Johanna Thomas or Lizzie Davies in the Office.

**Thursday 23 August 2018** - There will be a Service of Remembrance for the New Milton residents who lost their lives when enemy bombs fell on our town during World War II. There will be a short service of Remembrance starting at 11.00 a.m. that morning at the Memorial Clock on Station Road (opposite Bradbeers), when we will assemble for 1 minute's silence, a prayer and acknowledgement. The Mayor, Cllr David Rice-Mundy warmly invites us to join him at the Memorial Clock for this special occasion. Fr. George will be giving the blessing.

**Are you going into hospital or know of someone going in?** If so, here are some things to think about on how to prepare spiritually. Firstly, you will no doubt have time on your hands when you there so go in with your rosary, perhaps a favourite prayer book and anything else you can think of. It's a brilliant opportunity to pray and a time to be aware of the presence of God. I recommend an excellent small prayer book with some reflections, prayers and practical suggestions, produced by CTS called, 'A Catholic Patient's Guide to Hospital'. Secondly, as with the NHS in general, a person has to opt in to see a Chaplain. Make sure you tell the staff when you enter that you are Catholic and would like to see the Chaplain. The Lord wants to be part of all that we do in life and this includes when we are ill and going into hospital. You can ask the priest/chaplain to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick especially if you are having surgery.

**Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen**

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018

Sunday	29	July	17 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Vigil Mass of 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Minnie &amp; Charles Garbett (RIP)</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – MPP	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	30	July	St. Peter Chrysologus		
Tuesday	31	July	St. Ignatius of Loyola	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Christine Gagliardi (undergoing major surgery)</i>	
Wednesday	1	August	St. Alphonsus Liguori	09.30 Rosary, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Louis &amp; Catherine d’Espagnac</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	2	August	17 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.30 Rosary 10.00 Holy Mass – MPP	
Friday	3	August	17 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.30 Rosary 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Naaman Haadad (RIP)</i>	
Saturday	4	August	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –  18.00 Vigil Mass of 18 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Thanksgiving Mass</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	5	August	18 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass -	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 21/22 July		Sat. 28 July	Sun. 29 July	Sat. 4 Aug.	Sun. 5 Aug.
loose	£176.00	Reader T.Gearey	P. Caffyn	P.Thorpe	C.Barrett
envelopes	£405.79	A. Nash	P. Caffyn	B.Dempster	C.Barrett
		EMHC B.Dempster	J.Nichols	J.Thomas	A.Caneda
		K.Dempster	M.Buckland	M.Newland	Joseph Kurian
		T. Gearey	S.Salinger	F.Fallon	M.Tanner

**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

[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.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