

## 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



**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018**

### **PEOPLE OF THE WORD AND THE EUCHARIST**

*Nourished and sustained by God's Word and the Eucharist.*

The Liturgy of the Word this Sunday challenges us to trust in the providence of a loving and caring God and to hunger and thirst for the Bread of eternal life – the Holy Eucharist. As human beings, we hunger for many things besides food and material possessions. We hunger to be recognized and honoured, to love and be loved, to be listened to and to be appreciated, to help, console and encourage people and receive gratitude. But only God can satisfy our various forms of spiritual hunger. St. Augustine said: *"O God, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You"* (*Confessions, I, 1.*).

**First reading, Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15, explained:** The passage from Exodus describes how the people complained to Moses of the acute shortage of food in the desert and accused him of leading them from Egypt, where food was plentiful, into the desert, to "die of famine." God heard the complaint of His people and lavished on them "food from heaven" in the form of fleshy quails in the evening and delicious manna in the morning. The restrictions imposed by God for collecting the manna remind us to trust that God will always provide what we need. Sometimes we have to be stripped of our usual sources of support in order to remember that our ultimate sustenance comes only from God, and to acknowledge humbly our total dependence on God.

**Today's Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 78), refers to manna as "*Heavenly bread*" and the "*bread of angels*" which God provided for Israel and provides for us today.

**Second Reading**, In today's second reading, St. Paul encourages the Jewish and Gentile Christians to live out the consequences of their unification, by treating each other like members of one family. He also demands of the Gentile Christians of Ephesus radical changes from their pre-Christian way of life. They must a) "*put away the old self of their former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires,*" b) "*be renewed in the spirit of their minds,*" and c) "*put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.*" They must put away the old pagan life and put on the new Christian life.

**Today's Gospel** presents an introduction to Jesus' famous discourse on the Holy Eucharist in the form of a dialogue between Jesus and the Jews who had gone around the Lake and come to Capernaum searching for him. The people were looking for a repeat performance of their miraculous feeding. In answer to their question about his arrival, Jesus told them that they looked for him for another free meal and that such meals would not satisfy them. Hence, he instructed them to labour for food that would give them eternal life.

Jesus offered to satisfy the spiritual hunger of the people gathered around him on one condition. They must believe him to be the Messiah, sent with the message that God is a loving, holy, and forgiving

Father, and not a punishing judge. Belief in Jesus is not simple intellectual assent, but an authentic, total commitment to Him of loyalty and solidarity.

**The Giver and the Gift:** Jesus not only gives the Bread of Life (John 6:11, 27). He is the Bread of Life (John 6:35, 48). **The Giver and the Gift are one and the same.** As the Bread of Life from Heaven, Jesus states that only he can satisfy man's spiritual hunger. While bodily food helps us to stay alive in this world, spiritual food sustains and develops our supernatural life which will last forever in heaven. Through God's infinite love we are given, in the Blessed Eucharist, the very Author of the gifts of Faith and sanctifying grace. Thus, the Eucharist is not a mere "symbol" of Jesus; rather, it is a Sacramental sign of Jesus' Real Bodily Presence in his glorified risen Body. This Bread of Life which is Jesus himself gives mankind a new relationship with God, a relationship of trust, obedience and love.

**"The source and summit of the Christian Life:"** The emphasis in this segment of the Bread of Life Discourse is placed on the Faith-acceptance of the teaching of Jesus. In other words, Jesus is nourishment first of all as one who offers us the life-giving words of God about the meaning of our lives. Moreover, this Divine message, if it is to nourish for eternal life, must be accepted in a way that leads us from self-centeredness to unselfish love and sacrifice for others. It is for this reason that Jesus states that he is the bread of life for the one who "comes"? to him and "believes"? in him (John 6:35). In fact, what the Eucharist is not is a kind of "static" presence of Christ, but the living and perfect self-offering of Christ to his Father, carried out by giving himself to us and for us. We believe that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian Life" (*Lumen Gentium*), because it contains the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Jesus Christ Himself. The Eucharist is a *Sacrament of love* that unites us with Christ who lived, died and rose again to bring us salvation, strengthens and makes holy our relationship with our fellow-Christians, nourishes us with the transforming power of grace and prepares us for the future glory of God's Heavenly banquet.

**We need spiritual nourishment from the word of God and from the Holy Eucharist:** In the Holy Mass, the Church offers us two types of bread:

- ✓ a) the Bread of Life, contained in God's Word and
- ✓ b) the Bread of Life, contained in the Holy Eucharist.

Unfortunately, many come to Mass every week only to present on the altar our earthly needs without accepting spiritual nourishment by properly receiving God's Word and the Holy Eucharist. It is good to nourish our souls with this Heavenly manna and carry Jesus to our homes and workplaces, radiating his love, mercy and compassion all around us. It is perhaps the plainness and ordinariness of the consecrated Bread and Wine and their easy availability in our Churches that sometimes prevent some of us from appreciating the great gift of God in the Holy Eucharist. But we should not take for granted the Divine generosity that provides these gifts so readily and gratuitously by sharing in the Bread of Life simply as a matter of habit and without showing due attention and proper respect.

**Gain spiritual life and strength by properly receiving the Holy Eucharist:** It gives us:

- ✓ Courage to carry out God's work in the world,
- ✓ Help to live the life God wants for us,
- ✓ Inspiration to know the will of God in our lives,
- ✓ A deeper Understanding of the holy mystery of Christ's presence,
- ✓ Encouragement to love others and strengthen the Faith community,
- ✓ Grace to overcome temptation and avoid sin, and
- ✓ Joy and Peace of heart, knowing that Christ lives in us and will bring us to God's Heavenly Kingdom. Hence, we must receive the Holy Eucharist with our whole minds and hearts.

Let us never forget that the “Bread of Life” is Jesus Christ himself, not merely human bread. When we pray, "*give us this day our daily bread,*" let us remember that the **Holy Eucharist** is not simply a "snack," such as we might eat at a party or at lunch. It is food for our souls giving us a share in God's life.

**Multiply good works like the loaves and fishes,** (Pope Francis July 26, 2015) “Jesus satisfies not only material hunger, but the most profound of hungers, the hunger for meaning in life, the hunger for God. In the face of suffering, loneliness, poverty and difficulties of so many people, what can we do? Complaining, does not solve anything, but we can offer what little we have. We certainly have a few hours of time, some talent, some expertise. ... Who among us, does not have his or her “five loaves and two fish”? If we are willing to put them in the hands of the Lord, we will bring a little more love into the world, a bit more love, peace, justice and joy. God is able to multiply our small gestures of solidarity and make us partakers of his gift.” **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**

**CHOIR** - We are now on holiday and return for our practices - Thursday, after Mass, September 6th. New members always welcome. **Jane Gow 01425 501 126**

### **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.

### ***Preparing for the Assumption - a reflection by Jennifer Geach***

Our brethren in the Eastern churches have a two week fast before the celebration of the great feast which is coming. So I am imitating them in beginning reflections on the Assumption early, in order to take in the magnitude of what God has done for our blessed mother, which holds a promise and a hope for us too.

While belief in the Assumption is very old, it was not dogmatically defined until Pope Pius XII affirmed it in the encyclical *Munificentissimus Deus*, in 1950. In this encyclical, the roots of this belief both in scripture and tradition are explored: and it is asserted as a dogma of faith that Mary, after completing her earthly life, was taken bodily into heaven. The question as to whether she died first is left open by the encyclical: the consensus in East and West is that like her son, Mary did undergo death, not as a punishment for sin, from which both of course were entirely free, but in Mary's case as a way of showing that she shared the common lot of humanity. For thus her Assumption shows us what our hope is

**WELCOME to all our Visitors . Please take a copy of our Newsletter for Mass Times.**

**Church Cleaners** – Help is wanted to clean our Church. Please add your name to the Rota on the Noticeboard at the back of the Church. Thank you!

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018

Sunday	5	August	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 Vigil Mass of 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>In Thanksgiving</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Ray Tiller &amp; Phillipa Tiller (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	6	August	The Transfiguration of the Lord	7.00 a.m. Mass – <i>Ray Tiller &amp; Phillipa Tiller (RIP)</i>	Early Morning Mass
Tuesday	7	August	18 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass -	
Wednesday	8	August	St. Dominic	09.30 Rosary, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Fr. Marcin (Health)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	9	August	St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	09.30 Rosary 10.00 Holy Mass –	
Friday	10	August	St. Laurence	09.30 Rosary 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Len &amp; Louisa Castle</i>	
Saturday	11	August	St. Clare	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Marie Bazerghi (RIP)</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass of 19 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Diana Troke (RIP)</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	12	August	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Brigid Horan (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 28/29 July		Sat. 4 Aug.	Sun. 5 Aug.	Sat. 11 Aug.	Sun. 12 Aug
loose	£342.51	Reader P.Thorpe	C.Barrett	M.Newland	C.Fradd
envelopes	£189.00	B.Dempster	C.Barrett	M.Hobbs	C.Fradd
		EMHC J.Thomas	A.Caneda	C.d'Espagnac	Akhil Joseph
		M.Newland	Joseph Kurian		J.Nichols
Thank you for your continued support		F.Fallon	M.Tanner	M.Harwood	M.Buckland

**Live Streaming Stats. Total Number of Viewers for July 6,905 Number of Unique Viewers 1,524**

**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