

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



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 12TH AUGUST 2018

JESUS OUR EUCHARISTIC AND ETERNAL FOOD

We are living in a world where people of all races and creeds hunger more for spiritual sustenance than for physical food. In response to the spiritual hunger of people in his own day, Jesus, in today's Gospel passage from John 6, proclaims himself to be "*the Bread of Life that came down from heaven.*" It is through Jesus, the bread of life, that we have access to the Divine life during our earthly pilgrimage to God. The sixth chapter of the Gospel of John, which contains Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist, begins with Jesus' miraculous feeding of his five thousand hungry listeners in a deserted place to satisfy their bodily hunger. Today's Gospel offers us part of Jesus' discourse in the synagogue at Capernaum on his return there after his miraculous feeding of the five thousand. During the discourse, Jesus reveals himself as the true "*Bread of Life that came down from Heaven,*" to give life to the world. "Manna" was God's gift rained down "from Heaven" upon the Israelites to prolong their earthly life. Jesus proclaims himself the new and perfect manna, the Incarnate Son of God, literally "come down from Heaven." This means that the Bread we consume in the Eucharist is more than just a guarantee that one day we'll have eternal life. It actually gives us a share in that eternal life while we are still on earth. But some of those who had just witnessed Jesus' ability to supply them with earthly food would turn away when he explained the source of his mysterious power and his Heavenly origin.

The first reading describes the physical and spiritual hungers experienced by the prophet Elijah. In this reading, the Bread of Life Jesus speaks about is prefigured by the miraculous food with which the angel nourished the Prophet Elijah in the desert while he was fleeing from the soldiers of Queen Jezebel. After being nourished by the Lord, Elijah was strengthened for the long journey of forty days to Mount Horeb where God had given Moses the Ten Commandments. *The refrain for today's Responsorial Psalm* (Ps 34), "*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord,*" invites us to come to Him in our fears and afflictions and discover how blessed we are when we "take refuge in Him." *The second reading* presents Christ Jesus, the "Bread of Life," as a "*sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.*" Paul reminds the Ephesian Christians that, instead of seeking satisfaction in anger, slander, bitterness and malice, they are to nourish one another with compassion, kindness and mutual forgiveness. It is Faith that strengthens us to live in this way, doing the right thing in our relationships with others, in a world filled with terror and violence and in a Church marked by betrayal and disillusionment.

Jesus makes a series of unique claims in today's Gospel passage: 1) "*I am the Living Bread that came down from Heaven.*" 2) "*I am the Bread of Life.*" 3) "*The Bread that I will give is My Flesh for the*

life of the world.” 4) “No one can come to me unless the Father Who sent me draw him.” 5) “I will raise him on the last day.” 6) “No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God.” In short, Christ Jesus reveals himself as God and as the “Bread of Life from Heaven,” sent by the Father for our salvation.

Jesus knows quite well that we need both spiritual and physical food for life’s journey. He offers both to us. Thus, the meal that we share at the Eucharistic table provides the food for this journey (“viaticum”). Furthermore, He tells us that this Bread from Heaven is *His Flesh, given for the life of the world*. The Jews, as well as Jesus’ disciples, understood that he was speaking literally when he said that His Body was food. This statement appeared to some as outrageous and impossible. Later, Jesus insists that His words must be accepted literally, and that His Father will draw men to accept them. Hence let us accept Jesus as the Heavenly Bread, medicine for the sick soul, nourishment for a wounded spirit, light and strength for a weary mind and the source of new and eternal life.

We need to eat the Living Bread from Heaven and be one with Jesus: Jesus wants us to eat him because he IS Bread. "You are what you eat?" Jesus is Bread and he wants us to eat his Flesh. Thus, we bring him into the core of our being. He is ready to come into our lives, regardless of who we have been, or how unqualified we feel. Let us live the life of Faith ... making changes so that He becomes the staple food of our spiritual life, not a side dish. Let us be people who recognize that Jesus, whom we consume, is actually God Who assimilates us into His being. Then, from Sunday to Saturday we will grow into Jesus, as he grows in us, our lives will be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we will become more like him. Thus, we shall share in the joyous and challenging life of being the Body of Christ for the world – Bread for a hungry world, and Drink for those who thirst for justice, peace, fullness of life, and even eternal life.

We need to accept the “Real Presence” of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist as an inspiring challenge. Based on sound tradition and the centuries-long teaching of the Magisterium, the Roman Catholic Church has consistently held fast to the belief in the Real Presence. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: “The mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the other sacraments as the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all sacraments tend.” In this most blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist "the Body and Blood, together with the soul and Divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ, is truly, really, and substantially* contained" (CCC #1374). The Fathers of the Church explain that, while ordinary food is assimilated into man, the very opposite takes place in Holy Communion. Here man is assimilated into the Bread of Life. Hence, let us learn to receive Jesus, really present in the Eucharist, with due reverence, true repentance, proper preparation and grateful hearts. Let us remember that Holy Communion a) increases our intimate union with Christ; b) preserves, increases, and renews the Sanctifying Grace received at Baptism; c) cleanses us from past sin and preserves us from future sins; d) strengthens the theological virtue of Charity in us, thus enabling us to be separated from our disordered attachments and to be rooted in Christ; and e) unites us more deeply to the mystery of the Church.

We need to appreciate God’s love for us expressed in the Holy Eucharist. Pope John Paul II taught: “The Eucharist is the Sacrament of the Presence of Christ, who gives himself to us because he loves us. He loves each one of us in a unique and personal way in our practical daily lives: in our families, among our friends, at study and work, in rest and relaxation. He loves us when he fills our days with freshness, and also when, in times of suffering, He allows trials to weigh upon us: even in the most severe trials, He lets us hear his voice. To celebrate the Eucharist, ‘to eat his Flesh and drink his Blood,’ means to accept the wisdom of the Cross and the path of service. It means that we signal our willingness

to sacrifice ourselves for others, as Christ has done" Encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (**Holy Thursday, April 17, 2003**).

4) We are participating in Christ in the Eucharistic celebration: The "Sacrifice of the Altar" is our participation in the entirety of Christ – his life, his ministry, his crucifixion and death for our sins, his Resurrection, and his Ascension to Heaven. We unite with him by offering our lives to him so that he ministers to the world through us. We sacrifice our will whenever and wherever it interferes with his, which results in our being raised up to new Life as we follow Christ to Heaven. Every Catholic Mass accomplishes this by providing us with our living Saviour's Body and Blood, crucified and Risen, here and now, in the form of edible food. As Pope St. John Paul II pointed out in *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, "The Second Vatican Council rightly proclaimed that the Eucharistic banquet of Mass is 'the source and summit of the Christian life'."

Fr. George Ngwa

Monsignor Matija Maticic

This weekend we say 'cheerio' and 'thank you' to Msgr Matija for returning to our Parish as a supply priest. It has been our custom to express our 'thanks' with a donation. If you wish to make a contribution please put it in an envelope which can be found at the back of the church and in the Sacristy, and hand it to him personally. His last mass will be on Sunday after which he will depart for the Airport. We thank him for his spiritual and pastoral Ministry during Fr George's absence. We wish him and his friends a safe journey home to Croatia.

Thank you

VISITING THE SICK

Due to unforeseen circumstances, 2 Eucharistic Ministers are **urgently** needed to visit housebound parishioners in the Milton Green area of New Milton. If 2 volunteers come forward, visits would be once a month; if 1 comes forward, visiting would be every 3 weeks. At the moment, with only 2 Ministers, visiting is alternate weeks! Please contact **Madeleine Newland on 01425 620 507** if you can help. Thank You!

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE – Thursday 23rd August

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. Our Fr. George will be giving the blessing.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

In order to comply with this new legislation on Data Protection, we need to receive your personal permission to use your personal details for administrative purposes. Consequently I have addressed a letter to every person on the Church Register with a Consent Form for signature. Therefore, would you please check for your personal letter in the Parish Post Box at the back of the Church by the confessional. I would be grateful if you could return your completed Consent Form at your earliest convenience. If you are unable to find your personal envelope, please contact me at the Parish Office on Wednesdays or Fridays between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. **Lizzie Davies**

Bank Offerings for July

Bank Offerings for July totalled £1,040.00

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. Please take a copy of our Newsletter, which will give you times of Masses and information about our Church life.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 12TH AUGUST 2018

Sunday	12	August	19 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Vigil Mass of 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time 10.00 Holy Mass –	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	13	August			
Tuesday	14	August	St. Maximilian Maria	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Catherine Herion (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	15	August	Solemnity The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	0.90 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass –	Confession after Mass
Thursday	16	August	St. Stephen	NO MASS TODAY	
Friday	17	August		09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall</i>	
Saturday	18	August	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Czestawa Shopyre (RIP)</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass of 20 th Week in Ordinary Time – <i>MPP</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	19	August	20 th 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 4/5 th August		Sat. 11 Aug.	Sun. 12 Aug	Sat. 18 Aug.	Sun. 19 Aug
loose	£426.66	Reader M.Newland	C.Fradd	C.d'Espagnac	S.Ramsay
envelopes	£172.00	M.Hobbs	C.Fradd	K.Dempster	J.Thomas
		EMHC C.d'Espagnac	Akhil Joseph	K.Dempster	S.Salinger
			M.Buckland	T.Gearey	A.Caneda
Thank you for your continued support		M.Harwood	S.Salinger	F.Fallon	Joseph Kurian

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email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: **07475753040**

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.nfwp.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