

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



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 19TH AUGUST 2018

OUR FAITH IS A DELIBERATE CHOICE TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST

The main theme of today's readings is that Christian life is a series of daily choices for God or against God, as we choose to live out or reject the truths He has revealed through His prophets in the Old Testament and especially through His Son Jesus in the New Testament. They remind us that the fundamental choice we make determines how we live our lives. Joshua, in our first reading, and Paul, in the second reading, make similar challenges to the people to make their choice. Today we, too, are challenged to decide whom we will serve.

First reading: Joshua challenges the Israelites to decide whom they will serve, the gods of their fathers, the gods of the Amorites in whose country they are then dwelling or the God of Israelites who has done so much for them. The Renewal of Covenant ceremony in Joshua 24 reminds us that the Eucharist is a Covenant meal that calls for a decision of Faith.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 34): The Response for today's psalm encourages perseverance to the end, when we shall eventually "taste" (fully realize through personal experience), and "see" (everything, past, present and future, falling into place), "the goodness of the Lord!"

Second reading: St. Paul, in the second reading, emphasizes the unity that must exist in the Body of Christ and the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers. It also challenges the Ephesians' Christians to build Christian marriages on mutual respect and love. Paul says that the Christian husband and wife should stand together in love before God, respecting each other's rights and dignity. He also uses the husband-wife relationship as an analogy to explain the close relationship between Christ and the Church. That is why he urges his faithful community in Ephesus, "**Live in love, as Christ has loved us.**" He wants them to make the right choice in life. Paul reminds us that Jesus nourishes us, the members of his Church, through the Eucharist, making us his own Flesh and Blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Gospel: Concluding his long Eucharistic discourse in today's Gospel, Jesus challenges his Jewish audience to make their choice of accepting the New Covenant he offers in his Body and Blood or of joining those who have lost their Faith in him and left him, expressing their confusion and doubts about his claims. Today's passage describes the various reactions of the people to Jesus' claims. As Joshua spoke to his followers, Jesus speaks to the twelve apostles and gives them the option of leaving him or staying with him. The disciples cannot reject Jesus after all that he has done for them. Peter, their spokesman, asks Jesus how they can turn to anyone else Jesus is the only one who has the message of eternal life. The apostles exercise their freedom of choice by choosing to stay with Jesus. In the Eucharistic celebration, we, like Peter, are called to make a decision, profess our Faith in God's Son and renew the Covenant ratified in his life, death and Resurrection.

Peter's response, "*Master, to whom we shall go? You have the words of eternal life,*" reflects the Faith-filled, free and whole-hearted decision of the early Christian community to follow Jesus and his teaching. While giving Holy Communion, the priest says, "*The Body of Christ*" and we respond with a total, "Amen" or "*Yes!*" That "*Yes!*" is not just an act of Faith in the Real Presence but a total commitment of myself to Jesus in the community of which I am a member.

Faith is not simply a set of ideas to be held on to. It is a living relationship with a Person and His vision of life. It is a relationship that needs to grow and be deepened with the years. It is a relationship that has constantly to be re-appraised in a constantly changing world. We must hear Peter's words to Jesus resounding through the centuries: "*To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*"

Let us make our choice for Christ and live it: We Christians have accepted the challenge of following the way of Christ and making choices for Christ, fortified by the Bread he gives and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. The Heavenly Bread and the Holy Spirit will give us the courage of our Christian convictions to accept the Church's teachings and to face ridicule, criticisms and even social isolation for our adherence to sound Christian principles in our lives. The very option or possibility of choosing for or against Jesus is repeated over and over again in the modern age. We should resolve to take a stand for Jesus and accept the consequences. We recognize, in our going to Communion, the accepting of that challenge to be totally one with Jesus. When the priest gives us Holy Communion saying, "*The Body of Christ,*" we respond, "*Amen.*" That "*Amen,*" that "*Yes,*" is not just an act of Faith in the Real Presence; it is a total commitment of ourselves to Jesus in the community of which we are members. We must accept him totally, without any conditions or reservations. Christ's thoughts and attitudes, his values, his life-view must become totally ours, and must govern and shape our lives. Above all, we are to identify with him in the offering of his Flesh and the pouring out of his Blood on the cross, the symbol of God's unutterable love for us.

Pope Francis: Trust God – not idols

Speaking to a large group of pilgrims to Rome, the Holy Father Pope Francis admonished them to Trust in God and not Idols. He told them that attachment to idols is a failure, to trust totally in God and to reject these idols, Catholics must accept their weaknesses, inviting Christ to heal their hearts. Healing from the attachment to idols comes from Jesus Christ, "who became poor, who accepted failure, who took our precariousness to the end to fill it with love and strength," the Pope said.

When we let Jesus Christ into our hearts, "we discover that recognizing our weakness is not the misfortune of human life, but it is the condition to open up to who is really strong, then God's salvation enters through the door of weakness. Man's freedom arises from letting the true God be the only Lord and this allows us to accept our own fragility and reject the idols of our hearts. "Everything," the Pope said, stems from the inability to trust above all in God, to place our safety in Him, to let Him give true depth to the desires of our heart. Without God's primacy one easily falls into idolatry and is content with meagre assurances.

The Pope catechesis reflected on a passage from the Book of Exodus, in which the Israelites, who were awaiting the return of Moses from the mountain where he would receive the Ten Commandments, fashioned a golden calf and began worshipping it as a god. The context of this story, the desert, has its own precise meaning. "What is the desert? It is a place where uncertainty and insecurity reign – there is nothing in the desert – where there is no water, there is no food and there is no shelter." The image of the desert represents the uncertainty and lack of guarantee found in human

life and noted that the anxiety of life's unpredictability, or feeling God is not present, can lead people to cling to false, or "custom-made" gods, like the Israelites did with the golden calf.

In the end, the Pope concluded that, God's greater work was not freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt but removing "idolatry from the heart of the people. God continues to work to remove it from our hearts. This is the great work of God: to take away 'that Egypt' that we carry within, which is the charm of idolatry. God comes to reveal to us the fatherhood of God; in Christ our fragility is no longer a curse, but a place of encounter with the Father and the source of a new strength from above,".

Fr. George Ngwa

URGENT MEETING FOR READERS AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Fr. George is calling an URGENT Meeting for all Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion on Thursday 12th September at 6.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. Please let him know if you are unable to come!

PALS

All members: Please remember our September Lunch is on Thursday 6th September, the day before our September Meeting on Friday 7th. The venue is very local and voted for by those at our July meeting.

Although a number is booked you are still able to come if you would like to join us. If you need to know information please phone Jane - 501 126 or contact any member. If you need transport, cars will be in the Church car park 11:50. The table is booked 12:00 for 12:30. We are Looking forward to our first lunch after the summer holiday. Anyone who would like to join PALS is welcome to join us for this our first September event. Contact any member or Jane Gow 501 126.

NEW FOREST CATENIAN CIRCLE MEETING

Our next Circle Meeting will be at 19.00h on Tuesday, 29th August, at The Crown Manor Hotel, Lyndhurst followed by Dinner at 20.00h.

CHURCH CHOIR Please note circumstances mean that there is only one practice in September, which will be on **Thursday 13th.**

During part of this time some members will be on the 'Trinity Pilgrimage' - N. Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania, **Regular practices will continue from Thursday October 4th.**

EARLY WARNING DIARY DATE for our HARVEST SUPPER

Our Harvest Supper is taking place on Saturday October 20th at 7.00 p.m. Don't forget to keep this evening free!

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.

READER & EMHC ROTAS

Apologies but I have had to re-vamp the Rotas to begin next weekend, 1st September, due to unforeseen circumstances. I would be grateful, if all concerned, would check the amended Rotas on the noticeboard at the back of Church for any additional duties. I am conscious that I have had to ask you all to take on extra responsibilities but this is due to the shortage now of available people on the list. If there are any members of the congregation that feel they could take up Reading Duties, please contact me in the Parish Office.

Many thanks! Lizzie

TWENTYFIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 26TH AUGUST 2018

Sunday	26	August	21 st Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Vigil Mass of 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time- Elza (RIP) 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Baby Freddie's Recovery</i>	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	27	August			
Tuesday	28	August	St. Augustine of Hippo	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - MPP	
Wednesday	29	August	The Passion of St. John the Baptist	0.90 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>John & Joan Miller (65th Wedding Anniversary)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	30	August	SS Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	0.90 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Holy Souls</i>	
Friday	31	August	St. Aidan & All Saints of Lindisfarne	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Holy Souls</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	01	Sept.	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Minnie & Charles Garbett (RIP)</i> 18.00 Vigil Mass of 22 nd Week in Ordinary Time –	17.30 Confession
Sunday	02	Sept.	22 nd 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 18/19 August		Sat. 25 Aug	Sun. 26 Aug	Sat. 1 Sept.	Sun. 2 Sept
loose	£315.12	Reader J.Marriott	P.Caffyn	M.Hobbs	S.Ramsay
envelopes	£142.00	T.Gearey	P.Caffyn	B.Dempster	P.Caffyn
		EMHC M.Newland	M.Tanner	T.Gearey	A.Caneda
		F.Fallon	Akhil Joseph	B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian
Thank you for your continued support		J.Thomas	J.Nichols	K.Dempster	M.Tanner

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Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

ololnewmilton@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