

## 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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

### What is Christian Leadership. Who is ? and how should it look like?

Today's Scripture readings describe leadership as the service of others and offer Jesus as the best example. The sons of Zebedee made a request to Jesus for a favourable position of honour in his Kingdom. The request of James and John reveals their lack of understanding of true leadership. They are looking for positions of power and prestige. They think that leadership comes from where you sit rather than from how you serve.

Who is a leader? What is Christian leadership? What should a Christian leader be like? There is no finer example for Christian leadership than our Lord Jesus Christ. He declared, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). It is within this verse that we see the perfect description of a Christian leader. He is one who acts as a shepherd to those "sheep" in his care. There as long as anyone is in a position of service and not just authority, he/she is a Leader.

Today in our world and sadly in the Church, Leadership roles and some of the people who act in these roles have gone the way of the world. While many are spending themselves for others, there is so much self gratification rather than service to the community in many of our Church leaders. We can say that there are more of Pharisee tendencies in these types of people. Priests and Pastors will do all they can to love a certain church member and serve him or her, and yet so often that very person leaves the Church, spreading rumours about the priest or pastor on the way out. So many times a Christian leader will go out of her way to gently and graciously correct someone she sees is walking into sin, and that person grows offended rather than showing gratitude.

To be a great Christian leader, you will need to possess qualities often not thought of when considering the role of a true Christian. So here are eight marks of a true Christian leader found in Luke 6:26-49.

**1. The desire to please God over people.** <sup>26</sup>*Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.* If you never offend anyone, it probably means you are shying away from the full truth as expressed in the Bible. If you offend everyone, it probably means the truth in the Bible has not taken hold of your heart but you only know it intellectually.

**2. filled with God's Grace.** <sup>27-34</sup> *"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup> And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. <sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.* Grace is a gift someone does not deserve. Your enemy deserves your retaliation. Someone who curses, strikes, or steals from you deserves your punishment.

According to Jesus, however, Christians, especially true Christian leaders, will be marked by giving people what they don't deserve – a grace.

**3. Posses unconditional Love.** <sup>35</sup> *But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.* <sup>36</sup> *Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.*

Loving people so they will love you back, or loving people so you will be seen as a true spiritual leader is not a mark of a true Christian leader. The hard truth about leadership is that often love given is not reciprocated. To love like God, we must love “expecting nothing in return.” Those who love like that have the mark of a true Christian leader. I know many people serve in Church because they are hoping to get much in return in the way of earthly praise and relationships. But what we will get in return is not what we often start out seeking; if we stick with Jesus long enough, we will see our real reward is so much better and bigger than expected. The real reward for serving is not personal success but glory to God and pleasure in him. Rejection, pain, and struggle will become common place and in that process your love for Jesus and dependence upon him will deepen like never before. Then your true maturity as a Christian leader expressed in your ability to love the unlovable will grow.

**4. Full of Acceptance.** <sup>37</sup> *“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;”* <sup>38</sup> *give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”* There's never any room for a true Christian leader to judge people's motives. There's never room for true Christian leaders to judge those outside the church. However there will be times to judge observable behaviour of those you are leading. This is the loving type of judgement. But in each of the situations like this, a true Christian leader will be marked by acceptance. (I don't mean that you will be okay with the sin and disfunction in people's lives. Jesus was not okay with godlessness.) Jesus did not heap shame on those already condemned. He sought to draw people to his Father by meeting them wherever they were at, coming for the sick of heart, and spending time with those who didn't already have it all together. Jesus accepted people (while not approving of sin) so he could be an agent of change in the lives of those he came to save.

**5. knowledgeable in the doctrine of the Faith.** <sup>39</sup> *He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?”* <sup>40</sup> *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.* St. Paul tells Timothy that Elders, for example, must not be recent convert. They must be able to teach, lead their families well, and have a level of spiritual maturity the Church can seek to emulate (1 Timothy 3). As Paul said, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). If a Christian leader is not marked by maturity and training, and knowledgeable in the doctrine of the Faith and not his/her personal opinions, those he/she is leading will suffer as they become like him or her. For every student becomes like their teacher, for good or bad.

**6. Examination and authenticity of Self.** <sup>41</sup> *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?* <sup>42</sup> *How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.* Being a great leader is not synonymous with being a great finger pointer. A lot of people can see the problems in others, but only a few have the ability and spiritual gifting to offer helpful solutions rooted in Christ. The person best equipped for helping others with sin are those who have dealt with their own sins first. A true Christian leader will be marked by self-reflection, self-care, quick forgiveness when offended by others, quick apologies when they commit offenses against others, and ongoing repentance of personal sin.

**7. Marked by Good Fruits.** <sup>43</sup> *For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit,* <sup>44</sup> *for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.* <sup>45</sup> *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*

Being a great communicator, visionary, planner, writer, philosopher, or fundraiser is not the same thing as being a great Christian leader. A true spiritual leader will have good works produced in their lives

as an overflow of their relationship with God. If there are no visible good works, this is not the mark of a true Christian leader.

**8. Faithful commitment to the Word of God.** <sup>46</sup> *Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?* <sup>47</sup> *Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:* <sup>48</sup> *he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.* <sup>49</sup> *But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”* Those who actually do what God says are those who will last. New ideas and schemes, come and go – along with the leaders who use such tactics. But the mark of a true Christian leader is perseverance rooted in a commitment to building his or her ministry on what God has said in his word and on what Jesus has accomplished through the gospel.

Fr. George Ngwa

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### ***Altar Rail***

I am happy to inform the community that our appeal for the Altar Rail made last Sunday was generously accepted and will be paid for by Mrs Johanna Mountevans in memory of her late husband. Hence the rail will bear an inscription to this effect. It will be good for me to say that the request came from the Finance committee and not from Fr. George Ngwa. Secondly It is totally wrong for anyone to make himself /herself the mouth piece of others and to pre-empt the generosity of individuals. It is not correct to say that Father is always asking for money when people are poor. The Church will always appeal to the goodwill and generous consideration of its faithful who are always willing to act following their prudent judgements. The help they give comes from their pockets through their charitable hearts. Lastly please do not question the secretary for any issue in our Newsletter, ask Father for clarity. Thank you

**LIVING ROSARY** – Please note that our next Meeting of the Living Rosary Group is on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 5.45 p.m.

**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 Monday **22<sup>nd</sup> October at 6.30 p.m.** in the Church Hall. Please let him know if you are unable to come!

### **DIOCESAN DAY OF PRAYER AND REPARATION FOR LIFE**

Please keep 23<sup>rd</sup> October as a Special Day of Prayer and Reparation. It's now over 50 years since the 1967 Abortion Act, one of the most liberal in the world, came into effect. Since then ten million babies in the UK have been aborted. As a people of life, our efforts to defend the unborn child, to care for pregnant mothers and to reverse or blunt this Act have had mixed results. Bishop Philip Egan encourages us from now on to keep every 23<sup>rd</sup> October, the day the Act was passed, as a Diocesan Day of Prayer & Reparation for Life. On that day, as we celebrate being People of Life, Priests are being asked to offer a Mass for the Progress of Peoples but wearing the purple vestments of penitence.

### **COUNTERING CONSUMERISM**

What does it mean to be Holy? How can we find holiness given our busy modern lives? Pope Francis offers some ideas in his new letter, *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and Be Glad). He encourages us to open our eyes, ears and hearts, to be unsettled by the words of the Gospel and expand our often limited horizons. We are invited to be disturbed by faith, challenge the culture of consumerism and respond to the Pope's profound invitation to care for our common home. Pope Francis asks us to find time for our own holiness. So this Autumn, take time out of your everyday life to explore Scripture and Church teaching together and be inspired by one another and CAFOD's campaigning and work overseas. The retreats are free of charge and all are welcome, whether or not you have been involved in CAFOD'S campaigns. Please join us for the CAFOD Portsmouth Retreat on Countering Consumerism on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at St. Joseph's Retreat Centre, Ashurst, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

## TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	21	Oct.	29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Vigil Mass of 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time- <i>Elza</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Paul &amp; Gehane Gordelier (healing &amp; blessing)</i>	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	22	Oct.	St. Paul II		
Tuesday	23	Oct.	St. John of Capestrano	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>MPP</i>	Council of Priests
Wednesday	24	Oct.	St. Anthony Claret	0.90 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hilary Sendall</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	25	Oct.	29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	0.90 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Maria &amp; John Richardson</i>	
Friday	26	Oct.	St. Chad & St. Cedd	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Paul &amp; Bill Ratcliffe</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	27	Oct.	Our Lady on Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – 18.00 Vigil Mass of 29 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Jack &amp; Mary Loftus (RIP)</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	28	Oct.	30 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>The Tanner Family (grace &amp; blessings)</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 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> October		Sat. 20 Oct.	Sun. 21 Oct.	Sat. 27 Oct.	Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup>
loose	<b>£401.79</b>	Reader T.Gearey	S.Ramsay	K.Dempster	P.Caffyn
envelopes	<b>£158.30</b>	M.Newland	C.Barrett	A.Nash	S.Salinger
		EMHC M.Newland	J.Nichols	F.Fallon	M.Tanner
		M.Harwood	M.Tanner	J.Thomas	A.Caneda
Thank you for your continued support		J.Thomas	Joseph Kurian	T.Gearey	J.Nichols

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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**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