

## 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 7:30am - 5.00pm



**CHRIST THE KING – 34<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 25<sup>TH</sup> NOV. 2018**

### “MY HOUSE WILL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER”

#### *How should people behave in Church?*

These last three weeks we have experienced some very strange and disturbing things happening in our church.

- ✓ A group of boys locking themselves up in the confessional, suggesting doing drugs.
- ✓ The Church having an atmosphere dense with cigarettes puffs
- ✓ Destruction of useful materials - Magazines, pamphlets and papers
- ✓ Altering Church furniture indicative of having a meeting etc.

These and many of such behaviour which we might have experienced in the past or still experiencing are very disturbing for any Christian who grew up knowing that the Church is a place of Prayers, as Christ tells us in Luke 19:45 – 48 that *“my house will be a house of prayer, but you have turned it into a robbers’ den.”*

In one sense, we should not be surprised at the lack of proper manners and dressing at Church. After all, we live in a society where standards are fast fading away. Many companies now have “casual Friday” where male employees no longer have to wear suits and ties, and women employees, suits or dresses; however, *The Wall Street Journal* recently noted that many employees are now looking more like slob on “casual Friday” and consequently approaching their work like slob. More and more, I see casual attire at weddings and funerals, which were always considered “dress-up” events. Many people have lost all sense of basic politeness, like holding the door open for someone, especially a lady, or offering a seat especially to an expectant mother or an elderly person. Yes, we should not be surprised if such a lack of manners overflows into our Churches.

While we may not be surprised at such a state of affairs, we should not condone it or lower ourselves to it. In regard to Church, each of us should strive for good “Church gestures or Mass Manners,” and parents especially should make sure they are teaching their children good Mass gestures and manners. Therefore, as elderly Christians raised up by good, diligent and God fearing parents; who remembered the days when Church behaviour was much talked about, let us present what we consider good Church Manners.

**Preparing for Mass:** First, let us start at how we prepare for Mass. People should dress appropriately. In our society, we still consider coat and tie for men and dresses or suits for women appropriate attire for weddings, for special parties (even Christmas parties), and certainly for meeting dignitaries, like the Pope or the President. We should then dress in the same way to meet our Lord, present in the Holy Eucharist. Granted, perhaps in the summer we could be a little more casual, but we can still be neat, clean, and properly clothed. Frankly, shorts should be worn only by very young children; tee shirts should be kept for picnics; tight pants and tights should be reserved for exercise. In deciding what to wear, we should be thinking, “I am dressing to meet my Lord and to participate in the mystery of my salvation.”

Before leaving home, parents should make sure the children do not take along with them any unnecessary things such as toys, phones, ipads and ipods etc. Let the children see the Church not as extension of their play ground at home but a place very different – the house of God and a place of prayer. Next, leave home with time to arrive at Church before Mass begins, preferably about five or ten minutes. Doing so allows everyone to have a few moments for prayer and to be ready to participate in the Mass. When arriving at Church, discard any gum and cigarette butts in a proper container.

***Entering the Church:*** Teach the children that when entering the Church, they should make the sign of the cross with the holy water; this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and does dispel evil. Before entering the pew, be sure to genuflect, an important act of reverence to the presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist in the tabernacle. Also, please turn off the cell phones and the beepers.

***Attentiveness at Mass:*** Participate in the songs and prayers, follow the readings, and listen attentively to the homily. I am always surprised at those who never open their mouths to sing or pray, or those who read the bulletin during the homily.

***Parents should help their children:*** Parents need to supervise their children. Jesus loves and welcomes children, but they do need our help. If a child is fussy, then the parent should quickly take the child to the vestibule, sacristy or outside, and let the child calm down before returning. Children should not be allowed to rattle keys, drop toys, kick the pews, or run in the aisles. These behaviours are distracting to the other people and especially to a priest who is trying to give a homily. Parents simply need to be parents, using good judgment and discipline with the little ones.

Remind the children always to receive Holy Communion reverently. After Communion, each person must give thanks for the precious gift received and allow the grace to fill our souls. How tragic it is to see people leave Mass right after Communion, not because of an emergency, but because they want to get out of the parking lot first or rush home for a TV programme. We can only think of Judas, who was the first person ever to leave the last supper (Mass) early. To give the Lord one hour– and usually less– for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is really not much of a sacrifice. I wonder how these same people would feel if someone left their own home in the middle of the meal without even saying, “Thank you.”

Finally, after the Mass is concluded with the blessing, wait until the priest has proceeded down the aisle before leaving the pew. The congregation should disperse only after the recessional hymn has concluded. However, before leaving the pew, be sure to put the hymnal back in its holder, and pick up used tissues, bulletins, or other items; otherwise, someone else has to attend to them. (Once my Mom, who used to help clean St. Bernadette’s Church, found a used diaper left in the pew.)

While I am sure that this list is not exhaustive, I have witnessed all of these actions as a priest. I also do not want to seem cynical or condescending, but only teach proper respect for the Mass we all love to offer. Yes, we live in a very casual world where many people have forgotten proper manners and discipline. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that courtesy “is the homage of the heart to the sacredness of human worth” (*Thoughts for Daily Living*, p. 50). Manners, whether at Mass or in other situations, reveal the value we place on each other and God.

*Fr. George Ngwa*

## **FEAST OF CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING AND END OF LITURGICAL YEAR “B” AND CYCLE II**

The seasonal changes are so tangible: colder nights, bare trees, piles of crunchy dead leaves, shorter days, early and longer darkness, and, the biggest contrast to me, the outdoor silence. There are no birds singing, no crickets chirping, no other creatures making their background noises, and no leaves in the trees for the wind to rustle. All this dying and darkness are reminders The Liturgical Year culminates in the celebration of the ***Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe***. Honouring Christ as King is in harmony with the eschatological theme: “Behold I come quickly! And my reward is with me, to render to each

*one according to his works. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (Rev. 22:12-13)", (Gaudium et Spes, 45)*

This feast marks the end of the Liturgical Year with the tone not of fear or despair, but one of hope. The themes of hope and eschatology continue into the Advent season. We are given a new beginning for self-examination and renewal and to prepare for the two-fold coming: 1) remembrance of Christ's first coming as an infant at Christmas and 2) Christ's Second Coming and our Final Judgment.

## **Children Learn What They Live**

**If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.**

**If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.**

**If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.**

**If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.**

**If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.**

**If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.**

**If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.**

**If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.**

**If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.**

**If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.**

**If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.**

**If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.**

**If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.**

**If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.**

**If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.**

**If children live with fairness, they learn justice.**

**If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.**

**If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.**

**If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NOVEMBER REMEMBERING THE DEAD**

**Masses for the faithful departed.** I will be celebrating a number of Masses for the dead as indicated in the lists that were placed in the envelopes all through this Month of November. Please see the Parish Newsletter. If you haven't as yet – **Please place your envelopes in the Wooden Box on the Altar of St. Joseph before next Sunday.**

### **NEW FOREST CATENIAN MEETING**

Our next Circle meeting will be held at **19.00 on Tuesday 27th November** at the Crown Manor Hotel, Lyndhurst as usual followed by **dinner at 20.00.**

As on several occasions during the year our Ladies will be joining us for dinner. Should you wish to enquire further about our Circle please contact: Nick Coghlan 01425 673906

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH ON A MONTHLY ROTA BASIS** – usually in groups of 4 or 5. If you can help, please phone Robin Bantin on 01425 838 227. Thank you!

## THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday	25	Nov.	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	18.00 Vigil Mass of Christ the King – Holy Souls  10.00 Holy Mass – November Lists for the Dead	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass
Monday	26		34 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time		
Tuesday	27	Nov.	34 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass- Don & Agnes Campbell RIP	
Wednesday	28	Nov.	34 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Ramnsay Family	Confession after Mass
Thursday	29	Nov.	34 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – Nov. List for the Dead	
Friday	30	Nov.	St. Andrew the Apostle	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - Nov. List for the Dead	Confession after Mass
Saturday	01	Dec.	Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary.	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass - Nov. List for the Dead  Ordinary Time – Elza (18.00 Vigil Mass of 34th Week in RIP)	17.30 Confession
Sunday	02	Dec.		10.00 Holy Mass - MPP 13.00 Baptism of Lacey Lee Clarke	Coffee & Tea in Hall after Mass

**IMPORTANT – MASS OFFERINGS/INTENTIONS.** If you would like Holy Mass said for your Intention(s), 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 10/11 Nov.		Sat. 24 Nov.	Sun. 25 Nov.	Sat. 01 Dec.	Sun. 02 Dec.
loose	£401.19	<b>Reader</b> J.Marriott	S.Ramsay	P. Thorpe	C. Fradd
envelopes	£180.20	M.Hobbs	S.Salinger	T. Gearey	C. Fradd
		<b>EMHC</b> K.Dempster	Akhil Joseph	M. Newland	S. Salinger
		T.Gearey	M.Tanner	M. Hawwood	A. Caneda
		B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian	J. Thomas	J. Nichols
Thank you for your continued support					

**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