

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 **8:00am - 4.00pm**



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR "C" 17TH FEBRUARY 2019

Racial Justice Sunday 2019 – Dignity for all workers

Racial Justice Sunday is today 17 February 2019. The theme this year is ***“Dignity for all workers”***, recognising the problems faced by people due to racism and ethnic discrimination in the workplace.

In a world steeped in violence, conflict, and discrimination, the Gospel demands that we acknowledge the dignity of the human person, the necessity of building peace, prosperity, justice for all. In Octogesima Adveniens and Gaudium et Spes, St Paul VI teaches that “all people have a right to work ... to lead a worthy life on the material, social, cultural and spiritual level”. We are therefore called to ensure people are not exploited while they work, and to open our hearts to those who face this hatred. “As you did this to the one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me...” In our task as disciples of Christ, our responsibility is to make sure people are treated with dignity at work and are not exploited. Migrant communities and those suffering from racial abuse are particularly vulnerable to being drawn into unjust working conditions and labour exploitation.

Racism - The first thing to understand in this discussion is that there is only one race—the human race. Caucasians, Africans, Asians, Indians, Arabs, and Jews are not different races. Rather, they are different ethnicities of the human race. All human beings have the same physical characteristics (with minor variations, of course). More importantly, all human beings are equally created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to lay down His life for us (John 3:16). The “world” obviously includes all ethnic groups.

God does not show partiality or favouritism (Deuteronomy 10:17; Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9), and neither should we. James 2:4 describes those who discriminate as “judges with evil thoughts.” Instead, we are to love our neighbours as ourselves (James 2:8). In the Old Testament, God divided humanity into two “racial” groups: Jews and Gentiles. God’s intent was for the Jews to be a kingdom of priests, ministering to the Gentile nations. Instead, for the most part, the Jews became proud of their status and despised the Gentiles. Jesus Christ put an end to this, destroying the dividing wall of hostility (Ephesians 2:14). All forms of racism, prejudice, and discrimination are affronts to the work of Christ on the cross.

Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us (John 13:34). If God is impartial and loves us with impartiality, then we need to love others with that same high standard. Jesus teaches in Matthew 25 that whatever we do to the least of His brothers, we do to Him. If we treat a person with contempt, we are mistreating a person created in God’s image; we are hurting somebody whom God loves and for whom Jesus died.

Racism, in varying forms and to various degrees, has been a plague on humanity for thousands of years. Brothers and sisters of all ethnicities, this should not be. Victims of racism, prejudice, and

discrimination need to forgive. Ephesians 4:32 declares, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Racists may not deserve your forgiveness, but we deserved God’s forgiveness far less. Those who practice racism, prejudice, and discrimination need to repent. “Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God” (Romans 6:13). In Galatians 3:28 we read that, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Discrimination: Racism as practiced by many people today begins with the attitude of discrimination. *discrimination* is a negative term referring to the practice of unfairly treating a person or group of people differently from other people or groups of people. Discrimination can be based on disabilities, race, ethnicity, intelligence, or any number of factors that make human beings different.

One of the first problems that arose in the early church was due to discrimination: “But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food” (Acts 6:1,). The Jerusalem church was multi-ethnic, and some racial prejudice crept into their practices and caused trouble. This squabble pulled the apostles away from teaching and preaching, so the church elected the first deacons to deal with the problem and make sure no one was being discriminated against (Acts 6:2–3).

Discrimination was also a problem for the first Jewish believers in Jesus. Because God’s Messiah had come through the line of David and to the Jews first (Romans 1:16), they assumed He was their Messiah only. Disagreement arose then as Gentiles were added to the church. Some Jewish leaders wanted to know how “Jewish” the Gentile believers must become (Acts 14:27; 15:5). Many Jews could not believe that mere faith in their Messiah was enough to justify Gentiles as it had them. Surely the Gentiles should have to do *something* “Jewish,” such as observe the Sabbath or be circumcised, to be saved (see Acts 15:1 and Galatians 5:1–12). This clash of cultures, with its theological implications, necessitated the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15:2–35). The modern church often wrestles with similar problems. Christians can discriminate against certain people groups or lifestyles, unsure if the same faith that saved us is enough to save “those people,” too (Ephesians 2:8–9).

Preferences are fine as long as they don’t turn into legalistic discrimination against believers who differ on non-essential aspects of faith. We can overcome our tendency toward discrimination by modelling Jesus’ attitude of humble service (Matthew 20:28). He washed the feet of Judas, knowing that Judas was traitor (John 13:27). He ministered in Gentile regions and in Samaria (Mark 7:24, 31; John 4:4). Rather than incite discrimination between “us and them,” Jesus’ coming to earth broke down the barriers that separated people: “He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14). We can practice the instruction of Philippians 2:3, which says, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

God has made all who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour one. Jews and Greeks, rich and poor, every nation, and every ethnicity—Jesus has formed His church from all groups (Galatians 3:28; Revelation 5:9). There should be no discrimination within the Body of Christ because there is no discrimination with God (Acts 10:34).

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GRATITUDE: Judy Shaw, Christopher’s sister would like to say ‘thank you’ to everyone who helped with organising the refreshments in the Hall after his Requiem Mass. A special mention goes to Susie, Doreen and Pauline plus all those who were able to ‘give a hand’. Over 100 people attended Christopher’s Requiem

Mass. Judy and her husband Allan were overwhelmed by the community spirit within our Parish and said they had no idea how much he was loved and respected both within our Parish and by the many organisations he belonged to. I am sure we will always remember Christopher and his family in our prayers

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 17th February - Please use this opportunity to promote the resources created by the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales and to recognise the problems faced by people due to racism and ethnic discrimination in the workplace.

New Forest Catenians invite you to share a Day of Reflection on Love – God's love for us and ours for our neighbours on **SATURDAY 23RD FEB.** All are welcome to come along and join us.

The day will be led by Fr Des Connelly at St Joseph's Centre for prayer and missionary outreach in Ashurst, a place of such outstanding work supporting those most in need. We will **start at 11:00** and end the day with Mass at 16:00. Please bring your own lunch; tea and coffee are provided. A £10 contribution to the work of the Centre would be greatly appreciated. **St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, 8 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst SO40 7DU.** Like to join us? Please phone MICHAEL JONES on 01590 623 573.

Christopher Fradd – RIP Judy Shaw, Christopher's sister would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who helped with organising the refreshments in the Hall after his Requiem Mass. A special mention goes to Susie, Doreen and Pauline plus all those who were able to 'give a hand'. Over 100 people attended Christopher's Requiem Mass. Judy and her husband Allan were overwhelmed by the community spirit within our Parish and said they had no idea how much he was loved and respected both within our Parish and by the many organisations he belonged to. I am sure we will always remember Christopher and his family in our prayer

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION ROTAS MARCH TO AUGUST 2019

I am currently working on drawing up new Rotas for March to August. Sadly we have lost Christopher Fradd who was a frequent Reader and in addition, Pauline Thorpe is also standing down. We are getting thin on the ground and, therefore, I am calling on any willing members of the congregation to come forward and volunteer to read at Mass, even on an occasional basis. Thank You! Lizzie Davies

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Dear Parishioners, Parents and Grandparents, the season of Lent is fast approaching and we would like to ask your help in preparing the children of our parish for Easter. Our busy Children's Liturgy program starts on 10th March and I am appealing to you all to help us in the following ways: Please pray for our children to help them learn and understand the important lessons of our Lenten season. Please pray for our Leaders and Helpers that they teach and inspire the children of our parish. A full schedule for Children's Liturgy can be found on the enclosed handouts. **Naomi Mincham.**

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY – All our hospitals in the Diocese have a Priest appointed full time as Chaplain. Please do ask for the Chaplain if you are admitted in any of our hospitals. Any other Priests of your choice including the Parish Priest can be invited later on.

Royal Bournemouth Hospital/Christchurch Hospital chaplain: Non urgent matters ring Chaplain Office directly on 01202 704221.

Urgent/out-of-hours, Catholic duty Chaplain contacted via Switchboard on 01202 303626 Mass 6:00 p.m. Wednesday

Poole Hospital Chaplain: Deacon McConville 01202 442167 (leave message) or 01202665511 (Page Roman Catholic Chaplain) Mass 6:30 p.m. Thursday

PORTSMOUTH R.C. VOCATIONS – Vocation Seekers Evening – Friday 1st March 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Wondering what God is calling you to? The Diocesan Vocation Seekers Group meets monthly, on the first Friday, for food, prayer, reflection & friendship at the Sacred Heart Church, Fareham, 41-43 Portland Street, PO16 0NF. For further information please contact Fr. John Cooke on 01329 318 869 or email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

THE NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH – will take place from 10 – 18th March at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Each year the Mill House Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please contact Fr. Brian Oswald at St. Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or novenamhm@gmail.com

Saturday Vigil	16	Feb.	SIXTH SUNDAY YEAR "C"	18.00 VIGIL MASS 6 TH SUNDAY YEAR "C" - Repose & peace of Sheila Vernon	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday morning	17	Feb.		10.00 Holy Mass – June Savage (RIP)	
Monday	18	Feb.			
Tuesday	19	Feb.	TUESDAY OF 6TH WEEK YEAR "C"	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass	
Wednesday	20	Feb.	WEDNESDAY OF 6TH WEEK YEAR "C"	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Brigid Horan</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	21	Feb.	St. Peter Damian	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>The Holy Rosary Group "thank you"</i>	
Friday	22	Feb.	THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Angela & Edward Nash</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	23	Feb.	St. Polycarp	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –	Confession after Mass
Saturday vigil Mass				18.00 - VIGIL MASS 7 TH SUNDAY YEAR "C" - <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	24	Feb.	SUNDAY OF 7 TH WEEK YEAR "C"	10.00 Holy Mass. MPP	Coffee & Tea in the 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 08/09 Feb.		Sat. 16 Feb .	Sun. 17 Feb.	Sat. 23 Feb	Sun. 24 Feb.
loose	£370.56	Reader P. Thorpe	S. Ramsay	M. Hobbs	C. Barrett
envelopes	£223.00	T. Gearey	S. Salinger	J. Marriott	C. Barrett
		EMHC M. Harwood	Akhil Joseph	J. Thomas	M. Tanner
		J. Fallon	S. Salinger	B. Dempster	J. Nichols
		M. Newland	J. Nichols	K. Dempster	A. Caneda
Thank you for your continued support					

2nd Collection for Racial Justice Sunday (some donations have already been Gift Aided)

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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

Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Secretary: Lizzie Davies Wednesday 12.00h-16.00h & Friday 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.