

# 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**



**7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR "C" 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

## **PAPAL INFALLIBILITY**

Last Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February we celebrated the feast of the Chair of Peter. This celebration reminds us of the **"POWER OF THE KEYS"**, when Jesus declared St. Peter as the head on whose faith the Church will be built. Papal infallibility is a dogma of the Catholic Church that states that, in virtue of the promise of Jesus to Peter, the Pope is preserved from the possibility of error "when, in the exercise of his office as shepherd and teacher of all Christians, in virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Church." Infallibility means more than exemption from actual error; it means exemption from the possibility of error.

The Catholic Church's teaching on papal infallibility is one which is generally misunderstood by those outside the Church. In particular, Fundamentalists and other "Bible Christians" often confuse the charism of papal "infallibility" with "impeccability." They imagine Catholics believe the Pope cannot sin. Others think the Pope relies on some sort of amulet or magical incantation when an infallible definition is due. Given these common misapprehensions regarding the basic tenets of papal infallibility, it is necessary to explain exactly what infallibility is not.

Infallibility is not the absence of sin. Nor is it a charism that belongs only to the Pope. Indeed, infallibility also belongs to the body of bishops as a whole, when, in doctrinal unity with the Pope, they solemnly teach a doctrine as true. We have this from Jesus himself, who promised the apostles and their successors the bishops, the magisterium of the Church: "He who hears you hears me" (Luke 10:16), and "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven" (Matt. 18:18).

### **Vatican II's Explanation**

Vatican II explained the doctrine of infallibility as follows: "Although the individual bishops do not enjoy the prerogative of infallibility, they can nevertheless proclaim Christ's doctrine infallibly. This is so, even when they are dispersed around the world, provided that while maintaining the bond of unity among themselves and with Peter's successor, and while teaching authentically on a matter of faith or morals, they concur in a single viewpoint as the one which must be held conclusively. This authority is even more clearly verified when, gathered together in an ecumenical council, they are teachers and judges of faith and morals for the universal Church. Their definitions must then be adhered to with the submission of faith" (*Lumen Gentium* 25).

Infallibility belongs in a special way to the Pope as head of the bishops (Matt. 16:17–19; John 21:15–17). As Vatican II remarked, it is a charism the pope "enjoys in virtue of his office, when, as the supreme shepherd and teacher of all the faithful, who confirms his brethren in their faith (Luke 22:32), he proclaims by a definitive act some doctrine of faith or morals. Therefore his definitions, of themselves, and not from the consent of the Church, are justly held "irreformable", for they are pronounced with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, an assistance promised to him in blessed Peter."

The infallibility of the Pope is not a doctrine that suddenly appeared in Church teaching; rather, it is a doctrine which was implicit in the early Church. It is only our understanding of infallibility which

has developed and been more clearly understood over time. In fact, the doctrine of infallibility is implicit in these Petrine texts: John 21:15–17 ("Feed my sheep . . . "), Luke 22:32 ("I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail"), and Matthew 16:18 ("You are Peter . . . ").

### **Based on Christ's Mandate**

Christ instructed the Church to preach everything he taught (Matt. 28:19–20) and promised the protection of the Holy Spirit to "guide you into all the truth" (John 16:13). That mandate and that promise guarantee the Church will never fall away from his teachings (Matt. 16:18, 1 Tim. 3:15), even if individual Catholics might.

As Christians began to more clearly understand the teaching authority of the Church and of the primacy of the Pope, they developed a clearer understanding of the Pope's infallibility. This development of the faithful's understanding has its clear beginnings in the early Church. For example, Cyprian of Carthage, writing about 256 AD, put the question this way, "Would the heretics dare to come to the very seat of Peter whence apostolic faith is derived and whither no errors can come?" (*Letters* 59 [55], 14). In the fifth century, Augustine succinctly captured the ancient attitude when he remarked, "Rome has spoken; the case is concluded" (*Sermons* 131, 10).

### **Some Clarifications**

Infallible pronouncement—whether made by the pope alone or by an ecumenical council—usually is made only when some doctrine has been called into question. Most doctrines have never been doubted by the large majority of Catholics. Pick up a catechism and look at the great number of doctrines, most of which have never been formally defined. But many points have been defined, and not just by the pope alone. There are, in fact, many major topics on which it would be impossible for a Pope to make an infallible definition without duplicating one or more infallible pronouncements from ecumenical councils or the ordinary magisterium (teaching authority) of the Church.

Some ask how Popes can be infallible if some of them lived scandalously. This objection of course, illustrates the common confusion between infallibility and impeccability. There is no guarantee that Popes won't sin or give bad example. (The truly remarkable thing is the great degree of sanctity found in the papacy throughout history; the "bad popes" stand out precisely because they are so rare.) Other people wonder how infallibility could exist if some Popes disagreed with others. This, too, shows an inaccurate understanding of infallibility, which applies only to solemn, official teachings on faith and morals, not to disciplinary decisions or even to unofficial comments on faith and morals. A Pope's private theological opinions are not infallible, only what he solemnly defines is considered to be infallible teaching.

What infallibility does do is prevent a Pope from solemnly and formally teaching as "truth" something that is, in fact, error. It does not help him know what is true, nor does it "inspire" him to teach what is true. He has to learn the truth the way we all do—through study—though, to be sure, he has certain advantages because of his position. ( *To be Continued ...*) **Fr. George Ngwa**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Monsignor Edwin Barnes R.I.P. – Funeral Details**

Sunday 24th February at 5pm - Reception of the Body and Vigil for the Deceased, at St Osmund's, Exeter Street Salisbury SP1 2SF

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm – Solemn Funeral Mass, at **St Osmund's, Exeter Street, Salisbury SP1 2SF**

**BASICS BANK – URGENT** Please respond to the following application for a new building *before the end of February*. Thank you. Katherine Dempster

The NFBB has submitted a Planning Application to NFDC for a new building to be erected on a new site at the lower end of the High Street, as the current “Cabin” behind the URC is no longer large enough for the growing demands on it. **The Planning Application Reference No. is 19/10072.** For this Planning Application to be approved, **it is essential that as many people as possible support this application by writing direct to NFDC: Ms Vivienne Baxter, Planning Officer NFDC at the Planning Office, NFDC, Appletree Court, Beaulieu Road, Lyndhurst, SO43 7PA quoting Reference No. 19/10072 or use the link on the website [NFDC.gov.uk/Planning](https://nfdc.gov.uk/Planning)** and follow the instructions for commenting on an application. In your comments you may wish to include – the importance of the NFBB in supporting local people’s needs. The impact of there not being a Food Bank. The need for larger premises because the existing building is not big enough for the growing demand and anything else you consider relevant.

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

Thank you to everyone who has answered the call to come forward and put their names on the Reading Rota. Please see new Rotas on the noticeboard at the back of Church.

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY** Please don’t forget - our busy Children’s Liturgy program starts on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Full details on the noticeboard at the back of Church.

**PORTSMOUTH R.C. VOCATIONS – Vocation Seekers Evening – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### **CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

CAFOD Lent family fast day is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters overseas who are in need. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March can you eat a simple meal so that others can simply eat. Through CAFOD’s global network your support can reach to the ends of the earth so please collect your fast day envelope from church and give whatever you can or you can donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Fast-Day> Thank you!

### **PILGRIMAGE TO THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES & THE SPECIAL SAINTS OF ITALY 16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Fr. Marcin Drabik is leading a Eucharistic Pilgrimage to Italy in September. There are details on the noticeboard at the back of Church. Should anyone be interested, please contact Fr. Marcin at Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Swithun’s, 105 Waverlea Road, Southsea, PO5 2PL, tel. 02392 828 305 or email [mdrabik@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:mdrabik@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). Please note all applications and deposits should be received no later than 18<sup>th</sup> April.

### **CATHOLIC YOUTH - FLAME 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

There are a small number of tickets left for Flame on March 2<sup>nd</sup>! Individuals aged 14-17 may buy tickets if they travel on the coach from Portsmouth and will be accompanied by diocesan staff. Anyone travelling from other locations must attend with an adult. Individuals/groups aged 18+ may of course buy a ticket and travel as they wish. Content for the day is world class and well pitched; you don't have to be young to enjoy and benefit! Tickets: £23, coach from Portsmouth £16. This is an ideal opportunity for a family with teenagers or a parish who could not gather a group but had interest. Allocation is first come first served. Tom Sellars, Department for Educational Chaplaincies 02392 893609

Saturday Vigil	23	Feb.	SEVENTH SUNDAY YEAR "C" In Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS 7 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY YEAR "C" - <i>Elza RIP</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday morning	24	Feb.		10.00 Holy Mass – MPP	
Monday	25	Feb.			
Tuesday	26	Feb.	7 <sup>th</sup> Week in Year C	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Jane Gow - Operation</i>	
Wednesday	27	Feb.	St. Gregory of Narek	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>For the Holy Soul &amp; in thanksgiving for the life of Charles Curry MBE</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	28	Feb.	7 <sup>th</sup> Week in Year C	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>John Lee Williams RIP (90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)</i>	
Friday	01	March	ST. DAVID	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Speedy Recovery for a beloved Brother</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	02	March	Our Lady on Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –	Confession after Mass
Saturday vigil Mass				18.00 - VIGIL MASS 8 <sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY YEAR "C" -	17.30 Confession
Sunday	03	March	SUNDAY OF 8 <sup>TH</sup> WEEK IN YEAR C	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Fr. George – Private Intention</i>	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 16/17 Feb.		Sat. 23 Feb	Sun. 24 Feb.	Sat. 02 Mar.	Sun. 03 Mar.
loose	£371.76	<b>Reader</b> M. Hobbs	C. Barrett	A. Nash	S. Salinger
envelopes	£189.00	J. Marriott	C. Barrett	C. d’Espagnac	S. Ramsay
		<b>EMHC</b> J. Thomas	M. Tanner	T. Gearey	A. Caneda
Thank you for your continued support		B. Dempster	J. Nichols	B. Dempster	Joseph Kurian
		K. Dempster	A. Caneda	K. .Dempster	M. Tanner

**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** Wednesday 12.00h-16.00h & Friday 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.