

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**



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR "C" 17TH MARCH 2019

Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart” Lent is Learning Humility of the Heart

This Lent, we want to try to enter more deeply into the mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ, to follow him more closely, to commit ourselves once more to making his life the pattern for our own. Humility is the key that allows us to enter into the heart of Jesus Christ as he tells us, “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart”.

When we think about it, the “humility of God” is one of the defining truths of our faith. It is amazing and beautiful to reflect on this. In the Incarnation, the Word of God, through whom the universe was created, chooses to become a creature himself. The ruler of heaven and earth makes himself lowly, coming down to become our servant. As Saint Paul said, “He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross.”

This is who God is. He is a God who loves us so much that he humbles himself to share in our humanity; a God who reaches down to lift us up; who dies for us, so we can share in his divinity. God’s humility is meant to show us a whole new way to live. To imitate Jesus in his humility — this is how we discover our true humanity. And Jesus commands us to humility in so many different ways. “Whoever wishes to be great among you, should be your servant,” he tells us.

But humility is too often misunderstood. It does not mean that we should degrade ourselves or beat ourselves up for our failures and weakness. It is not about feeling inferior or as if we are not worth anything. This is not humility. Saint Teresa of Ávila said that humility is truth. It means knowing who we are, it requires being honest with ourselves. The truth is that we are sinners and we are not worthy to stand in God’s presence. We acknowledge this every time we celebrate the Eucharist. We begin Mass by confessing our sins and before Communion, we pray, “Lord, I am not worthy...”

But this is not the whole truth about who we are. In humility we know that we are broken, that we are weak. But in humility we also know that we are loved by God, and that he calls us to walk with Jesus, to follow him and to share in this holiness. That path that Jesus calls us to follow is his path — the path of humility. To grow in humility, we need to start by remembering that everything we have comes from the loving hands of God.

We need to call to mind often how much we have been given, how much we have been forgiven, all God’s tender mercies in our life. Striving to be grateful will keep us humble. We become more aware of God’s gifts in our lives and more aware that there is nothing we could ever do to “deserve” or earn his love. Humility means knowing that we need God that we depend on him for everything. Humility means knowing that with God all things are possible and that we can do all things through the strength he gives us. We grow in humility also by giving ourselves to others, serving others as Christ came to serve us.

At the Last Supper, Jesus knelt before his disciples and washed their feet. He serves us, he bows before us, even though we are sinners and even though we are weak. We are called to this same humility, this same service of others, especially the poor. “I have given you a model to follow,” he tells

us. “As I have done for you, you should also do.” Christ’s love is a humble love, a servant’s love. In his humility, he stoops down to lift us up to him, just as a father bends down to pick up his child.

We need to seek his face, just as a child seeks the face of its parents. This is what Jesus means when he calls us to be humble like “little children.” We need to trust in God’s Providence, that he will always provide for us. We need to humble ourselves, giving up our own will in order to serve his will. As the saints tell us, humility means seeing ourselves as a paintbrush in the hands of an artist, trusting in his plan, allowing him to use our lives to serve his purposes.

As we continue on our Lenten journey let us pray for each other and let us turn especially in this holy season to our Blessed Mother Mary. In her humility, she offered herself to be the handmaid of God. Through her intercession, may God grant us the grace to be humble of heart as she was — and as Jesus calls us to be.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FR. GEORGE NGWA - 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, the 25th anniversary of my ordination is this Tuesday 19th of March. This presented me with something of a dilemma since, whilst I fully intend to celebrate this significant occasion, I did not think it appropriate to do so during the observance of Lent. Many people who have devoutly taken to a sincere spiritual journey in this holy season find it difficult to do any celebration which will make them indulge in things given up and to recommit themselves to them later. Therefore I think a more fitting time for us to celebrate will be the joyous period of Easter; **Sunday 12th May 2019 in the 10:00 a.m.** Holy Mass and the celebrations thereafter in our Parish Church.

It had always been my intention to have a big celebration here in New Milton with all my parishioners and friends, my Cameroon and African communities here in the UK and family members and friends abroad. However this presents me with the issue and a need of a bigger Church and hall for the celebrations.

However, unbeknown to me, my brother Bamenda priests in the UK have already started to organise a celebration to include fellow priests from various parts of the world with the Cameroon and African Communities and suggested that the Annunciation Church, 218 Charminster Road will be more suitable as both the church and hall are much larger than our lady of Lourdes. This will take place in the summer and precisely **Saturday 27th July 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** to which of course all parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes will be very welcome.

Fr. Bernardine Nsom the Parish Priest of The Annunciation and St. Edmund Campion, who has celebrated Mass here when I’m called away, intends to coordinate the activities to mark my special occasion.

It is hard and very sad indeed to celebrate my Silver Jubilee with the very disturbing situation of war which has been likened to genocide back in the English speaking side of Cameroon, instigated by a dictator President who with his autocratic system of governance has been in Power for 35 years and ruined everything the country was renowned for. Today because of the war which has been raging on since October 2016, many people are living in the bushes with very little or nothing for a livelihood. It was my intention to go home and celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving with them. My heart goes out to all these people many of whom have lost everything they ever had and have seen their homes burnt and other properties and businesses destroyed. I have been asked the question if I would love any particular gift to be donated to me. After careful consideration, I have decided to donate my Jubilee gifts to help and provide just the basic needs of these people (food and medicines) who for the safety of their lives fled their homes and are living in the bushes. It is sad to note that some have given birth to babies in these bushes whilst still trying to survive.

Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so by bank transfer into Fr. George’s account as follows:

Bank: Lloyds;	Sort Code: 77-49-23	Account Number: 72915960	Reference Silver Jubilee Gifts:
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Alternatively cheques can be given to our secretary Lizzie Davies, made out to *Fr. George – Anniversary Gift*.

Thank you ever so much and may God richly bless you. - Fr. George.

THE PURPOSE OF LENT

Fr. Mike Schmitz in the Diocesan Newsletter asks about what is the real connection between the Israelites' forty years in the desert and the forty days of Lent. True, they both involve the number forty—which often represents a time of test and trial in the Bible—but what's the more important connection? The Israelites' time in the desert and our forty-day Lenten fast represent God's invitation for us to trust him completely. Fr. Mike explains, the Israelites did not believe the Lord could bring them into the Promised Land because it was inhabited by a people much more powerful and larger than Israel—they didn't trust him even after he delivered them from slavery to the largest civilization on the planet, Egypt. We can be the same way. We think God can't give us the strength to overcome this or that sin or habit. But Lent is a time for us to trust God completely so we can see that he is all we need.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REP: Our lady of Lourdes Parish is still in need of a Health and Safety Rep. Please do come forward and render your invaluable service to the Church and mankind. Thanks

Tuesday 16th April - Chrism Mass 2019 - This year's Chrism Mass will be held on Tuesday 16th April at 11am in the Cathedral. If you will be attending, please let Sussie know. Details in subsequent bulletins.

Chrism Mass Musicians - Chris Olding is hoping to assemble a choir and musicians for the Chrism Mass. Please encourage singers etc from your own parish to volunteer. Chris will arrange a practice a couple of weeks before the Mass, probably in the Eastleigh area. Please ask volunteers to email: mryan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk who is helping with registration. – **Bishop Philip**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Please don't forget our Programme starts today 10th March. Full details on the noticeboard at the back of Church.

CAFOD LENT DAY – Sunday 17th March

CAFOD's Head of Volunteering, Jo Kitterick, said: "The changing weather is devastating lives in many parts of the world. The donations of parishioners in England and Wales will help people around the world to support themselves, whatever the weather brings. Our work is made possible by the support of parishioners and we are so grateful. This Lent, it is your generosity which will help ensure no one is beyond reach of the love and care they need. Thank you."

THE AWAKENING OF SPRING

Lent is a time of reflection for us all but it is also a time to welcome Spring and watch the explosion of new life all around us. We need not look further than the carpark at the back of the Church, where nature is coming into all its glory with splashes of colour – primroses, daffodils – all the Spring flowers surrounding Our Lady's statue. We thank Byard for his legacy but let's not forget also to thank God for His great gift to us – the gift of the Resurrection, the gift of re-birth!

30th March in Reading and 15th June in Chandlers Ford

The response to these training and support days has been excellent. There are just a few more places left for 30th March in Reading. These days will be a great opportunity for both new and experienced liturgy Leaders to meet others, discuss approaches and resources and to consider ideas for the following two Sundays.

Don't forget that you can also find lots of help and resources on **the Children's Liturgy of the Word page** on the Diocesan website.

Saturday Vigil	16	Mar.	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR "C"	18.00 VIGIL MASS of SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR "C" – <i>Brigid Horan</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday morning	17	Mar.		10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Brigid Horan</i>	
Monday	18	Mar.		18:00 Exposition, 18:30 Rosary, 18:50 Benediction, 19:00 p.m. Vigil Mass of Solemnity of St. Joseph.	
Tuesday	19	Mar.	ST. JOSEPH (Solemnity)	19.00 Holy Mass - <i>John Lewis d’Espagnac (RIP)</i>	No Stations of the Cross
Wednesday	20	Mar.	Wednesday of the 2nd Week of Lent	09.25 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Concetta & Raffaella Trombetta</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	21	Mar.	Thursday of the 2 nd Week of Lent	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Thanksgiving for God’s Love & Healing M. Buckland</i>	
Friday	22	Mar.	Friday of the 2 nd Week of Lent	09.25 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	23	Mar.	Saturday of the 2 nd Week of Lent	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Liza Antony (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday vigil Mass			Saturday of the 3 rd Sunday of Lent	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the Second Sunday of Lent – <i>Thanksgiving for the Fittell Family</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	24	Mar.	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Mrs Fe G. Leonardo (R.I.P. – 1st Anniversary)</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 9/10 March		Sat. 16 Mar.	Sun. 17 Mar	Sat. 23 Mar.	Sun 24 Mar.
loose	£350.95	Reader J. Marriott	A. Veluthedathu	T. Gearey	S. Salinger
envelopes	£192.00	G. Gordelier	A. Joseph	M. Newland	S. Ramsay
		EMHC F. Fallon	J. Nichols	K. Dempster	A. Caneda
		M. Newland	S. Salinger	Cd’Espagnac	J. Kurian
Thank you for your continued support		T. Gearey	M. Buckland	B. Dempster	M. Tanner

2nd Collection Today - 17th March CAFOD Lent Day

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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

Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

ololnewmilton@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 Minister: Tony Harwood Tel: **01425 511 952** or email hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk

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.