

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**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR "C" 31ST MARCH 2019

In Gratitude, I Must and Should as a Christian Celebrate and Honour Mother's Day.

Mother's Day—called Mothering Day in the U.K.—can be traced back to ancient pagan practices, but it has gone through a lot of changes and names to get to what we know today. The history of Mother's Day can be traced back to celebrations of ancient Greece in honour of Rhea, the mother of the gods. During the 1600s, the early Christians in England celebrated a day to honour Mary, the mother of Christ. By a religious order, the holiday was later expanded to include all mothers. Mother's Day occurs in the U.S. once a year on the second Sunday of May, while Mothering Day in the U.K. is celebrated the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditional ways to celebrate Mother's Day are to take mothers out to dinner and/or honour them with cards, flowers, or candy. Biblically, honouring mothers (and fathers) is commanded by God in both the Old and New Testaments (Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:2).

The Bible does not command us to dedicate a special day to honour our mothers, nor is there anything in the Bible to condemn it. So the question is whether, considering the pagan roots of the holiday, Christians should celebrate Mother's Day. The key is found in Romans 14:5-8: "One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

A Mother's Love

*There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.*

*There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.*

*There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.*

*For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels
And sent from God above. -- Author Unknown*

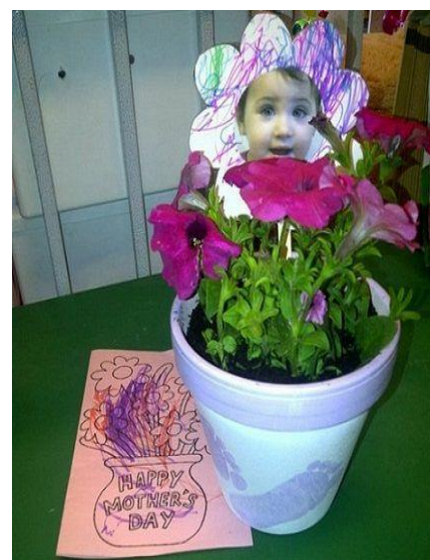
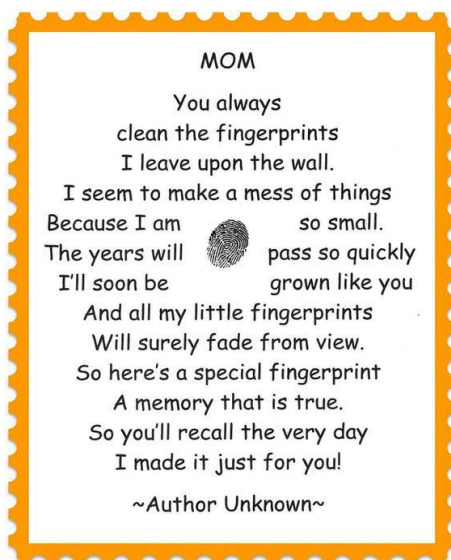
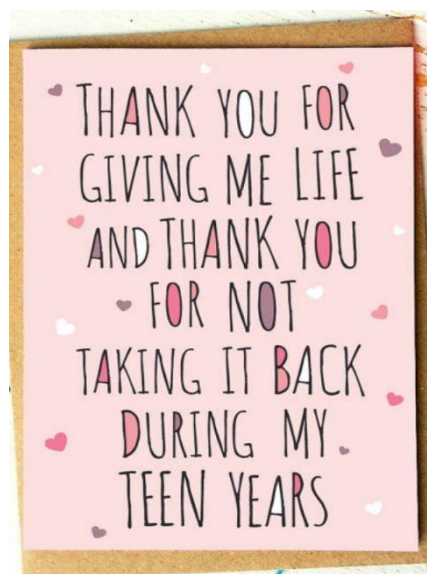
In this uncertain era of our history, when the very foundations of the Christian home, as we have known it, seem to be yielding to the battering rams of unbelief, selfishness and immorality, there is a great need to consider the subject of motherhood.

There can be no great men and women without great mothers. *Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother."* And George Washington the First President of America also said; *My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.*

We honour the dignity and sanctity of womanhood. Whether women realize it or not, they owe everything they have to Jesus Christ. Only in Christianity have women been lifted to a true equality with men. In many parts of the world, a woman is still considered almost a beast of burden. It was Christ who elevated womanhood.

The Bible teaches that the mother is crucial in the family. The family, in the historic sense, is a distinctively Christian institution based on the love of one man for one woman, symbolizing Christ's love for His bride, the church. Today, due to so many different situations, the definition of family has been stretched and sometimes distorted. Living for Christ in the home is the acid test for any Christian. It is far easier to live an excellent life among your friends—when you are putting your best foot forward and are conscious of public opinion—than it is to live for Christ in your home. Your own family circle knows whether Christ lives in you and through you.

If you are a true Christian mother, you will not give way at home to bad temper, impatience, fault-finding, sarcasm, unkindness, suspicion, selfishness or laziness. Instead, you will reveal through your daily life the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering and all the other Christian virtues that round out a Christlike personality.



Our nation is in desperate need of consecrated Christian mothers. If we had more Christian mothers, we would have less delinquency, less immorality, less ungodliness and fewer broken homes. Every mother owes it to her children to accept Christ as her personal Saviour, so that she may be the influence for good in the lives of those whom Christ has graciously given to her. The influence of a

mother upon the lives of her children in her home cannot be measured. They know and absorb her example and attitudes when it comes to questions of honesty, life habits, kindness and hard work.

One of the most difficult jobs in the world is to bring up a family in the nurture and admonition of the Lord during these terrible days. And it is even more difficult for single mothers or fathers. With the magazines full of filthy stories, with immoral conditions in schools and with a thousand temptations that previous generations never knew, it is only by the grace of God that a child can grow up in the fear of the Lord. Mothers cannot do it alone. They must spend time on their knees in prayer.

The Scripture says, “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Your first and foremost job as a mother is to train your children to know Christ, and when they know Him everything else will fall in line. The Bible promises that even though they resent the discipline and training now, they will rise up someday to call you blessed (Proverbs 31:28).

Are your children Christians? Have you done all in your power to win them? If they have not come to know Christ as Lord and Saviour, and are not living the kind of life you think they should live, keep on praying for them.

You may have had a Christian mother who has prayed for you many times, but you have never surrendered your heart and life to Christ. Perhaps your mother has gone to Heaven. She is there waiting for you.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHILDREN PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST COMMUNION. On **Monday 1st April** at 5.40 pm the children preparing for their First Holy Communion will be in the Church praying a children’s version of the Stations of the Cross. Everyone is welcome to join them. Please remember these children in your prayers. Thank you.

LIVING ROSARY is on this coming **Monday, 1st April at 5.45 p.m.**

CHRISM MASS 2019 - Tuesday 16th April -This year’s Chrism Mass will be held on Tuesday 16th April at **4th – 7th April – Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham tour** - The statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Slipper Chapel will be visiting the Cathedral from 4th to 7th April. The event timetable is now available at www.dowrytour.org.uk/portsmouth Please encourage the many faithful to attend. – Bishop Philip Egan

FR. GEORGE NGWA – 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION – Celebration on 12th May 2019 in the 10.00 a.m. Holy Mass and celebrations thereafter in our Parish Church. If you wish to make a donation to my celebration, you may do so by Bank Transfer into Fr. George’s account as follows:-
Bank: Lloyds: Sort Code: 77-49-23 Account No: 72915960 Reference: Silver Jubilee Gifts. Alternatively, cheques can be given to our secretary – Lizzie Davies, made payable to Fr. George – Anniversary Gift.

TREE WORK – Sadly we have had to fell the Beech Tree outside the Church main door, to the right as you enter Church. We are always reluctant to fell trees but in this case it was determined as “unsafe” during a recent Arboricultural survey.

Saturday Vigil	30	Mar.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR "C" Mothering Sunday	<u>18.00</u> VIGIL MASS of FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR "C" – <i>Hilda Keeling (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday morning	31	Mar.		10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Msg. Edwin Barnes (RIP)</i>	
Monday	01	Apr.			
Tuesday	02	Apr.	Tuesday of the 4 th Week of Lent	18.00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass - <i>Deceased members of Kelleher & Tomkins Families</i>	No Stations of the Cross
Wednesday	03	Apr.	Wednesday of the 4 th Week of Lent	09.25 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Sister Maria Alonso</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	04	Apr.	Thursday of the 4 th Week of Lent	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Agnes & Don Campbell (RIP)</i>	
Friday	05	Apr.	Friday of the 4 th Week of Lent	09.25 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Brigid Horan</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	06	Apr.	Saturday of the 4 th Week of Lent	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –	Confession after Mass
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 5 th Sunday of Lent	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent – <i>Mike Garbett (RIP)</i>	17.30 Confession
Sunday	07	Apr.	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>MPP</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 23/24 March		Sat. 30 Mar.	Sun. 31 Mar	Sat. 6 Apr.	Sun. 7 th Apr.
loose	£461.86	Reader M. Hobbs	P. Caffyn	C.d’Espagnac	S.Ramsay
envelopes	£214.20	A. Nash	P. Caffyn	J.Marriott	S.Salinger
		EMHC J. Thomas	M.Buckland	B.Dempster	J.Kurian
Thank you for your continued support		M. Harwood	A. Joseph	K.Dempster	M.Tanner
2nd Collection Clergy Assistance Fund		M. Newland	J. Nichols	T.Gearey	A.Caneda

The requested CAFOD collection should be handed to a member of the Finance Committee

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 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.