

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

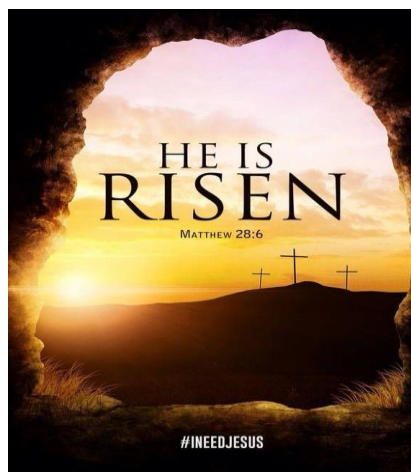
Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

Church opening hours **7:00am - 6.00pm**



**EASTER SUNDAY YEAR "C" 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2019**

## **POPE FRANCIS RADIATES THE JOY AND COMMITMENTS OF EASTER.**



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Gospel of this radiant night of the Easter Vigil, we first meet the women who go to the tomb of Jesus with spices to anoint his body (cf. Lk. 24:1-3). They go to perform an act of compassion, a traditional act of affection and love for a dear departed person, just as we would. They had followed Jesus, they had listened to his words, they had felt understood by him in their dignity and they had accompanied him to the very end, to Calvary and to the moment when he was taken down from the cross. We can imagine their feelings as they make their way to the tomb: a certain sadness, sorrow that Jesus had left them, he had died, his life had come to an end. Life would now go on as before. Yet the women continued to feel love, the love for Jesus which now led them to his tomb. But at this point, something completely new and unexpected happens, something which upsets their hearts and their plans, something which will upset their whole life: they see the stone removed from before the tomb, they draw near and they do not find the Lord's body. It is an event which leaves them perplexed, hesitant, full of questions: "What happened?", "What is the meaning of all this?" (cf. Lk 24:4). Doesn't the same thing also happen to us when something completely new occurs in our everyday life? We stop short, we don't understand, we don't know what to do. Newness often makes us fearful, including the newness which God brings us, the newness which God asks of us. We are like the Apostles in the Gospel: often we would prefer to hold on to our own security, to stand in front of a tomb, to think about someone who has died, someone who ultimately lives on only as a memory, like the great historical figures from the past. We are afraid of God's surprises; we are afraid of God's surprises! He always surprises us!

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not be closed to the newness that God wants to bring into our lives! Are we often weary, disheartened and sad? Do we feel weighed down by our sins? Do we think that we won't be able to cope? Let us not close our hearts, let us not lose confidence, let us never give up: there are no situations which God cannot change, there is no sin which he cannot forgive if only we open ourselves to him.

But let us return to the Gospel, to the women, and take one step further. They find the tomb empty, the body of Jesus is not there, something new has happened, but all this still doesn't tell them anything certain: it raises questions; it leaves them confused, without offering an answer. And suddenly there are two men in dazzling clothes who say: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; but has risen" (Lk 24:5-6). What was a simple act, done surely out of love – going to the tomb – has now turned into an event, a truly life-changing event. Nothing remains as it was before, not only in the lives of those women, but also in our own lives and in the history of mankind. Jesus is not dead, he has risen, he is alive! He does not simply return to life; rather, he is life itself, because he is the Son of God, the living God (cf. Num 14:21-28; Deut 5:26; Josh 3:10). Jesus no longer belongs to the past, but lives in the present and is projected towards the future; he is the everlasting "today" of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples and all of us: as victory over sin, evil and death, over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for me and for you, dear sister, dear brother. How often does Love have to tell us: Why do you look for the living among the dead? Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness... and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive!

Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do.

There is one last little element that I would like to emphasize in the Gospel for this Easter Vigil. The women encounter the newness of God. Jesus has risen, he is alive! But faced with empty tomb and the two men in brilliant clothes, their first reaction is one of fear: "they were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground", Saint Luke tells us – they didn't even have courage to look. But when they hear the message of the Resurrection, they accept it in faith. And the two men in dazzling clothes tell them something of crucial importance: "Remember what he told you when he was still in Galilee... And they remembered his words" (Lk 24:6,8). They are asked to remember their encounter with Jesus, to remember his words, his actions, his life; and it is precisely this loving remembrance of their experience with the Master that enables the women to master their fear and to bring the message of the Resurrection to the Apostles and all the others (cf. Lk 24:9). To remember what God has done and continues to do for me, for us, to remember the road we have travelled; this is what opens our hearts to hope for the future. May we learn to remember everything that God has done in our lives.

Today, throughout the world, the Church echoes once more the astonishing message of the first disciples: "Jesus is risen!" – "He is truly risen, as he said!" By his resurrection, Jesus Christ has set us free from the slavery of sin and death, and has opened before us the way to eternal life. All of us, when we let ourselves be mastered by sin, lose the right way and end up straying like lost sheep. But God himself, our shepherd, has come in search of us. To save us, he lowered himself even to accepting death on the cross. Today we can proclaim: "*The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep, and willingly died for his flock, alleluia*" (Roman Missal, IV Sunday of Easter, Communion antiphon).

In every age, the Risen Shepherd tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world. With the marks of the passion – the wounds of his merciful love – he draws us to follow him on his way, the way of life. Today too, he places upon his shoulders so many of our brothers and sisters crushed by evil in all its varied forms.

He takes upon himself all those victimized by old and new forms of slavery, inhuman labour, illegal trafficking, exploitation and discrimination, and grave forms of addiction. He takes upon himself

children and adolescents deprived of their carefree innocence and exploited, and those deeply hurt by acts of violence that take place within the walls of their own home.

The Risen Shepherd walks beside all those forced to leave their homelands as a result of armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, famine and oppressive regimes. Everywhere he helps these forced migrants to encounter brothers and sisters, with whom they can share bread and hope on their journey.

Dear brothers and sisters, as Christians with one voice, in every part of the world, we proclaim the great message: "The Lord is truly risen, as he said!" May Jesus, who vanquished the darkness of sin and death, grant peace to our days.

Happy Easter – Pope Francis

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CAFOD/Caritas Joint Conference, St Peter's, Winchester – 4<sup>th</sup> May

Do you want to put your faith into action? Do you want to be a parish that looks outwards and helps those in need? This joint conference from CAFOD and Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth will show you how to do that. By learning more about CAFOD's Living Simply award and about Caritas's social action projects you can as an individual or as a parish or community group truly put your faith into living action. The day starts at 10:30 and ends at 4pm and will include two talks, one by Dan Hale, the head of CAFOD's Campaigns Team, and the other from Fr Richard Mckay, from St Nicholas of Tolentino, Bristol. Bring your own lunch but tea and coffee will be provided. More information and registration can be found on Eventbrite or get in touch with [caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call Kevin Gallagher on 07388994057. Come along and see how you personally or your parish can really put your faith into action.

**SAVE THE DATE: Sat 11th May! March for Life UK** is happening in London. Join thousands of other pro-lifers in creating awareness of the hurt and damage abortion causes and helping to promote a culture of life. Inside festival (LifeFest19) 9.30am - 1.30pm, booking required. March starts 2pm (no booking required). For more info see posters/leaflets on the Noticeboard at the back of Church or go to [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk) or call 07773501721/ 07885505116

**THANK YOU:** I will like to express my sincere appreciation to all who came out to pray and console the family of Andy Doolan and to pray for the repose of his gentle soul. It was a very prayerful funeral.

**CHRISM MASS:** The Parish was duly represented for this years Chrism Mass. A gesture emphasised and highly recommended by Canon Law, as it is an occasion for the Bishop to celebrate with his Priests and Christians. I thank all who sacrificed that much to be part of the celebrations last Tuesday.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** Next Sunday there will be another Holy Mass in the Afternoon precisely at 2:30 p.m. to celebrate and receive the indulgences for Divine Mercy. This is a change from our normal prayer format.

**FR. GEORGE NGWA – 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION** – Celebration on 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN** thank the parish of our Lady of Lourdes for its help and support of the *White Flower Appeal*. The money raised will be used to do everything they can to defeat any Bills in Parliament to decriminalise Abortion. The money raised was £120.15.

Saturday Vigil	20	Apr.	HOLY SATURDAY	18.00 VIGIL MASS of Easter Sunday	Confessions 5:30 p.m.
Sunday morning	21	Apr.		10.00 Holy Mass – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Missa Pro Populo	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Monday	22	Apr.			
Tuesday	23	Apr.	Tuesday WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass - Elza (RIP)	
Wednesday	24	Apr.	Wednesday WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – - <i>Wise Family Living &amp; Dead</i>	
Thursday	25	Apr.	Thursday WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass <i>Currihan Family Living &amp; Dead</i>	
Friday	26	Apr.	Friday WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Yon Family</i>	
Saturday	27	Apr.	Saturday WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass - MPP	Confession afterwards
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	18.00 - Vigil Mass of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter. - <i>Andy Doolan (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	28	Apr.	DIVINE MRECY SUNDAY	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Grace &amp; Blessing for Claudia &amp; Harry</i> 2:30 p.m. Mass and Plenary Indulgence	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 13/14 April		Sat. 20 Apr.	Sun. 21 Apr.	Sat. 27 Apr.	Sun. 28 Apr.
loose	£244.80	Reader M.Newland	C.Barrett	G.Gordelier	P.Caffyn
envelopes	£424.84	T.Gearey	S.Ramsay	C.d’Espagnac	P.Caffyn
		EMHC C.d’Espagnac	Akhil Joseph	K.Dempster	M.Buckland
		J.Thomas	Joseph Kurian	B.Dempster	S.Salinger
		T.Gearey	M.Tanner	F.Fallon	A.Caneda
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 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 Minister: Tony Harwood Tel: 01425 511 952 or email [hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.