

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

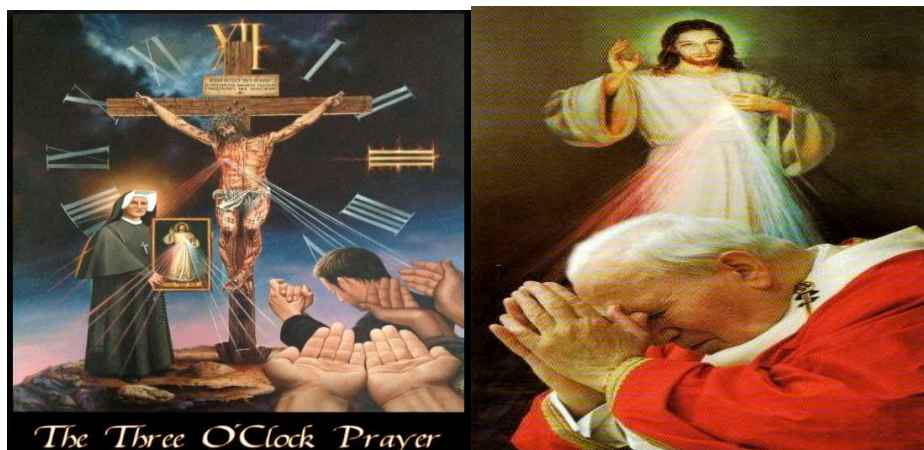
Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "C" 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

## JESUS THE FACE OF GOD'S MERCY



*The Three O'Clock Prayer*

The message of mercy which we celebrate today Divine Mercy Sunday is that, *God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.*

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to understand the meaning of the phrase: *"I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"*. According to the Bible, mercy does matter: It matters because we all need forgiveness. But mercy also matters because it is what can join us all together in spite of our differences.

Perhaps most significantly for Christians, Jesus shows us what it means to be merciful: He healed the sick, welcomed the stranger and pardoned those who persecuted and killed him. As Pope Francis tells us in *Misericordiae Vultus*, his letter introducing the Holy Year of Mercy, Jesus' mercy is not abstract but "visceral" – it's something that quite literally changes us from the inside out. Christians believe that this visceral aspect of mercy comes in the personal relationship Jesus promises to all of us: a relationship based on forgiveness and love, reconciliation and truth. As Pope Francis writes in the very first sentence of *Misericordiae Vultus*, *"Jesus Christ is the face of God's mercy."*

### GOD IS A GOD OF MERCY.

When he appeared to Moses, he declared his name before himself in these words: *"...The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...."* (Exo. 34:6). We see that in mercy he led his people forth out of Egypt to the promised land. (Ex. 15:13). Perhaps one of the most repeated themes of praise in the Bible are the words, *"His mercy endures forever."* In Psalm 136 alone, this refrain is repeated 26 times.

It is God's mercy to which we sinners primarily appeal. We see this demonstrated in the words of the penitent David in Psalm 51:1: *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions."* The Father assures us in Psalm

147:11 that he is pleased with such an approach, for the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his mercy.

Of course, the greatest act of mercy that God has ever demonstrated was to send his Son to die for our sins. In St. Paul's letter to Titus 3:5 we read that *"he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy...."* Mercy was such an important thing to the early Christians that they often included it in their greetings. We see this in 1 Timothy 1:2 and in a lot of other places: *"To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."*

## **GOD EXPECTS HIS CHILDREN TO BE MERCIFUL**

Because God is a merciful God, he expects his children to be merciful. Mercy is so important that God instructs us to bind it around our necks and write it upon the tablet of our hearts (Prov. 3:3). In Matthew 23:23, we learn that mercy is one of the weightier matters of the law, and that it takes precedence over many other things. The prophet Hosea informs us that God desires mercy, even more than he desires sacrifice (Hos. 6:6). In what seems to be a watershed statement in the Hebrew scriptures, the prophet says to us in Micah 6:8: *"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

When Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount, he summarized the biblical teaching in these simple words, *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy"* (Matt. 5:7). In another place, the Lord gives us a simple command to be merciful: *"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"* (Luke 6:36). Let us look at some aspects of mercy and try to bring this command down to where we live our daily lives.

## **SOME ASPECTS OF MERCY**

God's people of old were taught to show mercy in many everyday actions.

1. In Exodus 22:26-27, we read that a garment, taken in pledge for a debt, had to be returned before the sun went down. This was an act of mercy in order that the neighbour may not have to shiver all night without a covering.

2. The people of Israel were warned about oppressing the poor and were commanded instead to show mercy to them.

3. There is a beautiful promise attached that we see in the Psalms: *"Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble"* (Psa. 41:1). This promise is also reflected in:

4. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as we saw above in Matthew 5:7. We learn that what we give in showing mercy, we also receive. There is a beautiful custom in Israel of considering the poor by placing unused bread near the walkways, so that hungry people may be able to eat. God will bless us for such small things. God's people of old were kind to their animals, while even the tender mercies of the wicked were cruel (Prov. 12:10). This also applied to wild creatures. In Deuteronomy 22:6-7 we read that if a bird's nest was found along the way, and the mother was found sitting with the young or on the eggs, the mother could not be taken with the young. In Zechariah 1:16, we have this beautiful promise to Israel: *"Therefore, this is what the LORD says: 'I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem, ' declares the LORD Almighty."*

Mercy begins by opening oneself to those with whom one might strongly disagree. Mercy doesn't end there, of course, but it begins with such small acts of understanding, which can lead to life-changing experiences of love. By asking for the Lord's mercy, trusting in His mercy, and sincerely trying to live His mercy in our lives, we can assure that we will never hear Him say of us,

"Their hearts are far from Me," but rather that wonderful promise, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Fr. George Ngwa

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EASTER FLOWER COLLECTIONS 2019** Thanks a bunch for your generosity in contributing to the cost of the flowers for this joyous Easter season. The donations amounted to £201.38 – amazing! This contribution went a long way in covering all of our costs and has provided us with accessories which we can continually use throughout the year. If there are any favourite flowers you would like to see in future church displays or that remind you of a loved one, an anniversary or special celebration please let me know. Maybe you would like to help to display the flower(s) of your choice? With love and prayers Kathy Dempster 01425 611 643

**Viva Voce:** For this pilot edition we received a smaller print quantity. “This magazine is the pilot issue and we therefore really welcome and encourage any feedback you may have. This will help us to see whether this is a project parishes would like to engage with and if so will you help us to shape the magazine and provide a publication that we can all be proud of”. Please will you give any feedback on the distribution of the magazine to ([kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)).

**Priestly Ordinations of Deacon Lawrence:** Details of his ordination is Saturday 22nd June at 12 noon at Cardiff Cathedral. This an honour to our Parish producing a priest. So as to facilitate preparations; please could you please let me know if you plan to go to this memorable event.

Secondly He has also indicated his willingness to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving at some point during the summer with us in the Parish.

**A SPECIAL 25<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION FOR FR GEORGE – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** On the 12<sup>th</sup> May, our parish will be celebrating with Fr George, the Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. We want this to be a lovely ‘family’ occasion so it is intended to co-ordinate the event with a team of volunteers who will make this a very memorable day. The plan is to have a cold buffet lunch after the Mass on Sunday, which represents the nationalities within our very community-minded parish. Please consider what you could donate food wise and let Mary Tanner know on 01425 614391. We would especially welcome any cold meats, salads, potato salads, chicken dishes, pork dishes and some desserts, cakes, etc. Soft drinks and wine would also be welcome, entertainment will be provided. We would be grateful for offers of help on the Saturday to set up the tables and help decorate them with a cloth and assist in making small flower decorations for the tables. Can we make this an event for Fr George to remember so that he will always remember Our Lady of Lourdes Parish with affection and happy memories. Call me any time to join our small team, on 01425 611643. Thanks in advance God bless you. Katherine Dempster

**SAFEGUARDING REMINDER!** Having been cleared by Portsmouth Safeguarding office, I am now officially the Safeguarding Minister for Our Lady of Lourdes. I have a lot a people to get to know but in the meantime I would like to remind you that you MUST have a current DBS and have attended a Vulnerable Adult course arranged by the Diocese WHEN you visit the sick and housebound. I will be contacting those whose refresher course is in the near future. If you are asked to take Holy Communion to a new person PLEASE let Fr George know. He will always take the first visit and others where necessary. The same applies for those who have contact with CHILDREN either in or out of the church. In order to manage and run any courses or outings with children you MUST have a current DBS and have attended a Child Protection course. There are strict guidelines on the number of adults to children when arranging courses. You may not undertake any Liturgy instruction/First Holy Communion/Confirmation classes without them. The Diocese has very strict rules with regard to children. Firstly the parent must accompany the child but in their absence a named person can accompany the child. Secondly, provided the leader of the group has the appropriate documentation, additional help may be sought from a known parishioner to assist with the group under supervision with permission from the group leader. Again I will be contacting those who will be requiring a refresher in the near future. If there are any parishioners who can come forward to help with these important ministries, please let me know. Please do not be put off by the above paperwork which is very straight forward. I am very happy to explain this procedure to you and I am sure my predecessor would be willing to help too! If there are enough parishioners requiring a refresher course I will arrange this at our Parish. The Diocese will then ask other Parishes to join us. My address and phone number is at the back of the Newsletter. God bless you all **Tony Harwood**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR “C” SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019

Saturday Vigil	27	Apr.	SATURDAY WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	18.00 VIGIL MASS of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – <i>Andy Doolan (RIP)</i>	Confessions 5:30 p.m.
Sunday morning	28	Apr.	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Grace &amp; Blessing for Claudia &amp; Harry</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Monday	29	Apr.			
Tuesday	30	Apr.	ST. GEORGE	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass -	
Wednesday	01	May	Wednesday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – - <i>Jacqueline Health &amp; Healing</i>	
Thursday	02	May	Thursday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Carmena Cutajar (RIP)</i>	
Friday	03	May	Ss PHILIP & JAMES	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass -	
Saturday	04	May	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass - MPP	Confession afterwards
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	18.00 - Vigil Mass of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	
Sunday	05	May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	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 20/21 April		Sat. 27 Apr.	Sun. 28 Apr.	Sat. 4 May	Sun. 5 May
loose	£922.13	<b>Reader</b> G.Gordelier	P.Caffyn	A.Nash	S.Ramsay
envelopes	£492.00	C.d'Espagnac	P.Caffyn	M.Hobbs	C.Barrett
		<b>EMHC</b> K.Dempster	M.Buckland	M.Harwood	J.Nichols
		B.Dempster	S.Salinger	M.Newland	M.Tanner
Thank you for your continued support		F.Fallon	A.Caneda	J.Thomas	J.Kurian

**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.