

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**



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "C" 5TH MAY 2019

Christian View of obedience to Government, Authority and Law

The very first verse of our First reading sets the stage this Sunday for our reflection on the Christian View of obedience to Government authority and Law; *“We gave you a formal warning not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have **FILLED** Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man’s death on us. I reply Peter and the apostles said, **OBEDIENCE TO GOD COMES BEFORE OBEDIENCE TO MEN**”.*

What is a biblical view of government? Why do we have government? What kind of government does the Bible allow? Government affects our lives daily. It tells us how fast to drive. It regulates our commerce. It protects us from foreign and domestic strife.

Developing a Christian view of government is difficult since the Bible does not provide an exhaustive treatment of government; because the Bible does not speak directly to every area of political discussion, Christians often hold different views on particular political issues. Although people are free to believe whatever they want, Christians should not abandon the Bible when they begin to think about these issues because there is a great deal of biblical material that can be used to judge particular political options.

The Old Testament teaches that God established government after the flood (Gen. 9:6). And the Old Testament provides clear guidelines for the development of a theocracy in which God was the head of government. The Bible does not propose nor endorse any specific political system. The Bible, however, does provide a basis for evaluating various political philosophies because it clearly delineates a view of human nature, and every political theory rests on a particular view of human nature.

A Christian view of government differs significantly from views proposed by many political theorists. The basis for civil government is rooted in our created nature. Since we are rational and beings who are not determined by fate, as the Greeks, nor are we determined by our environment as modern behaviourists say. We have the power of choice. Therefore we can exercise delegated power over the created order. Thus a biblical view of human nature requires a governmental system that acknowledges human responsibility. Since civil government is necessary and divinely ordained by God (Rom. 13:1–7), it is ultimately under God’s control. **It has been given three political responsibilities: the sword of justice (to punish criminals), the sword of order (to thwart rebellion), and the sword of war (to defend the state).**

As citizens, Christians have been given a number of responsibilities. They are called to render service and obedience to the government (Matt. 22:21). Because it is a God-ordained institution, they are to submit to civil authority (1 Pet. 2:13–17) as they would to other institutions of God. As will be discussed later, Christians are not to give total and final allegiance to the secular state. Other God-ordained

institutions exist in society alongside the state. Christians' final allegiance must be to God. They are to obey civil authorities (Rom.13:5) in order to avoid anarchy and chaos, but there may be times when they may be forced to disobey (Acts 5:29). Because government is a divinely ordained institution, Christians have a responsibility to work within governmental structures to bring about change. Government is part of the order of creation and a minister of God (Rom. 13:4). Christians are to obey governmental authorities (Rom. 13:1–4, 1 Peter 2:13-14). Christians are also to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5:13–16) in the midst of the political context.

Although governments may be guilty of injustice, Christians should not stop working for justice or cease to be concerned about human rights. We do not give up on marriage as an institution simply because there are so many divorces, and we do not give up on the church because of many internal problems. Each God-ordained institution manifests human sinfulness and disobedience. Our responsibility as Christians is to call political leaders back to this God-ordained task. Government is a legitimate sphere of Christian service, and so we should not look to government only when our rights are being abused. We are to be concerned with social justice and should see governmental action as a legitimate instrument to achieve just ends.

RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS: A Christian view of government should also be concerned with human rights. Human rights in a Christian system are based on a biblical view of human dignity. A bill of rights, therefore, does not grant rights to individuals, but instead acknowledges these rights as already existing.

LIMIT INFLUENCE OF SIN: A Christian view of government also recognizes the need to limit the influence of sin in society. This is best achieved by placing certain checks on governmental authority. This protects citizens from the abuse or misuse of governmental power which results when sinful individuals are given too much governmental control.

RIGHT USE OF POWER: The greatest threat to liberty comes from the exercise of power. History has shown that power is a corrupting force when placed in human hands. In the Old Testament theocracy there was less danger of abuse because the head of state was God. The Bible amply documents the dangers that ensued when power was transferred to a single king. Even David, a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22), abused his power and Israel experienced great calamity (2 Sam. 11–21). *To be continued*

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVING ROSARY GROUP

The next Living Rosary Meeting is on the 13th May since the first Monday of May is a Bank Holiday. We have been asked to pray the Rosary with the children preparing for Holy Communion at 5.45 pm in the church. We will continue our Meeting in the hall afterwards.

19th May – WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Fr. David Adams, the chair of New Forest Pastoral Area has chosen Our lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton for the celebration of the **World Day of the Sick** on the 19th of May 2019 at 3:00 p.m. In this Holy Mass there will be Prayers and the administration of the Sacrament of the sick to whosoever desires.

THANK YOU FROM MISSIO The Diocese of Portsmouth raised £155,522 which contributed to the £4.6m raised throughout England and Wales, for projects in mission dioceses around the world.

A SPECIAL 25TH CELEBRATION FOR FR GEORGE – Sunday 12th May On the 12th 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 desserts, cakes, etc. Soft drinks and wine would also be welcome. We are also putting on entertainment. 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 event for Fr George an occasion that he will always remember with affection and fond memories of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Call me any time to join our small team, on 01425 611643. *If you would like to contribute a dish – either savoury or sweet or both! , however small, to this very special occasion to honour Fr. George, we will have stewards on duty after Masses on Saturday both this week and next and on this Sunday 5th May to take any pledges for food contributions. Katherine Dempster and Jan Marriott will be stewards on the 2 Saturdays after Mass and Judith and Mary Tanner on Sunday. Thank you in advance for your kind contribution!*

If you wish to make a donation to Fr. George’s 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. Thank You!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – Sunday 12th May Novena for Good Shepherd Sunday On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, let us join in prayer and ask the Lord to help us discover his plan of love for our lives, and to grant us the courage to walk in the path that, from the beginning, he has chosen for each of us.

A message from Pope FRANCIS

Clerk to Governors - St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Dorset Road, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 3DA

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, is looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic clerk to their Governing Body. This flexible, part-time role involves working closely with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors to ensure the smooth and effective running of the governance of the school. Hours approximately - 10 hours per meeting, 6 meetings per year, term time only. Dorset Grade 5, SCP 4-6 (£9.55-£9.94 per hour). For more information and/or an application form, please contact Mrs Amanda Flack on 01202 485976 or email office@stjosephs.dorset.sch.uk.

Closing date for applications: 17th May 2019

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).

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.

FOUND – Catholic Bible in a leather case found on Ramley Road, Pennington on Sunday 21st April. Please contact 07789 993542

Streamlining – Totals for April – Number of Viewers – 9107. Number of Unique Viewers 1783.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR “C” 5TH MAY 2019

Saturday Vigil	04	May	SATURDAY WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	18.00 VIGIL MASS of 3 rd Sunday of Easter – <i>Deacon Lawrence for his forthcoming Ordination</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday morning	05	May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass –	
Monday	06	May			
Tuesday	07	May	Tuesday of the 3 rd Week of Easter	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass -	
Wednesday	08	May	Wednesday of the 3 rd Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – - <i>Bernard Delair (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	09	May	Thursday of the 3 rd Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>John Hamon (Lizzie’s Twin Happy Birthday)</i>	
Friday	10	May	Friday of the 3 rd Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Natalie Watson Healing for Cancer</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	11	May	Saturday of the 3 rd Week of Easter	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass -	Confession after Mass
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil of 4 th Sunday of Easter	18.00 - Vigil Mass of 3 rd Sunday of Easter - <i>John Currie (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	12	May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass. –	Parish Party for Fr. George after Mass today

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 27/28 April		Sat. 4 May	Sun. 5 May	Sat. 11 May	Sun. 12 May
loose	£299.13	Reader A.Nash	S.Ramsay	B.Dempster	S.Salinger
envelopes	£190.70	M.Hobbs	C.Barrett	K.Dempster	S.Ramsay
		EMHC M.Harwood	J.Nichols	F.Fallon	M.Tanner
		M.Newland	M.Tanner	J.Thomas	M.Buckland
Thank you for your continued support		J.Thomas	J.Kurian	C .d’Espagnac	J.Nichols

2nd Collection on Sunday for Clergy Training Fund – World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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.