

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "C" 12TH MAY 2019

Christian View of Obedience to Government, Authority and Law. The Moral Basis of Law and Governmental Authority

Governmental Authority: A key question in political theory is how to determine the limits of governmental authority. With the remarkable growth in the size and scope of government in the 20th century, it is necessary to define clearly the lines of governmental authority. The Bible provides some guidelines. However, it is often difficult to set limits or draw lines on governmental authority. Part of this difficulty can be eased by separating two issues. First, should government legislate morality? Second, what are the limits of governmental sovereignty? These are a few general principles helpful in determining the limits of governmental authority.

As Christians, we recognize that God has ordained other institutions besides civil government which exercise authority in their particular sphere of influence. This is in contrast to other political systems that see the state as the sovereign agent over human affairs, exercising sovereignty over every other human institution. A Christian view is different.

The first institution is the church (Heb. 12:18–24; 1 Pet. 2:9–10). Jesus taught that the government should work in harmony with the church and should recognize its sovereignty in spiritual matters (Matt. 22:21).

The second institution is the family (Eph. 5:22–32, 1 Pet. 3:1–7). The family is an institution under God and His authority (Gen. 1:26–28, 2:20–25). When the family breaks down, the government often has to step in to protect the rights of the wife (in cases of wife abuse) or children (in cases of child abuse or adoption). The biblical emphasis, however, is not so much on rights as it is on responsibilities and mutual submission (Eph. 5:21).

A third institution is education. Children are not the wards of the state, but belong to God (Ps. 127:3) and are given to parents as a gift from God. Parents are to teach their children (Deut. 4:9) and may also entrust them to tutors (Gal. 4:2).

In a humanistic system of government, the institutions of church and family are usually subordinated to the state. In an atheistic system, ultimately the state becomes a substitute god and is given additional power to adjudicate disputes and bring order to a society. Since institutions exist by permission of the state, there is always the possibility that a new social contract will allow government to intervene in the areas of church and family.

A Christian view of government recognizes the sovereignty of these spheres. Governmental intervention into the spheres of church and family is necessary in certain cases where there is threat to life, liberty, or property. Otherwise civil government should recognize the sovereignty of other God-ordained institutions.

Moral Basis of Law: Law should be the foundation of any government. Whether law is based upon moral absolutes, changing consensus, or totalitarian manoeuvres is of crucial importance. Until fairly recently, Western culture held to a notion that common law was founded upon God's revealed moral absolutes. *In a Christian view of government, law is based upon God's revealed commandments. Law is not based upon human opinion or sociological convention. Law is rooted in God's unchangeable character and derived from biblical principles of morality.*

Unfortunately, our modern legal structure has been influenced by relativism and utilitarianism, instead of moral absolutes revealed in Scripture. Relativism provides no secure basis for moral judgments and thus there are no firm moral absolutes upon which to build a secure legal foundation.

Utilitarianism looks merely at consequences and ignores moral principles. This legal foundation has been further eroded by the relatively recent phenomenon of sociological law. In this view, law should be based upon relative sociological standards. No discipline is more helpless without a moral foundation than law. Law is a tool, and it needs a jurisprudential foundation. Just as contractors and builders need the architect's blueprint in order to build, so also lawyers need theologians and moral philosophers to make good laws. Yet, most lawyers today are extensively trained in technique, but little in moral and legal philosophy.

Legal justice in the Western world has been based upon a proper, biblical understanding of human nature and human choice. We hold criminals accountable for their crimes, rather than excuse their behaviour as part of environmental conditioning. We also acknowledge differences between wilful, premeditated acts (such as murder) and so-called crimes of passion (i.e., manslaughter) or accidents.

It is, therefore, not by accident that we have seen a dramatic change in our view of criminal justice. The emphasis has moved from a view of punishment and restitution to one of rehabilitation. If our actions are governed by something external, and human choice is denied, then we cannot punish someone for something they cannot control. However, we must rehabilitate them if the influences are merely heredity and environmental. But such a view of human actions diminishes human dignity. If a person cannot choose, then he is merely a victim of circumstances and must become a ward of the state.

As Christians, we must take the criminal act seriously and punish human choices. While we recognize the value of rehabilitation (especially through spiritual conversion, John 3:3), we also recognize the need for punishing wrong-doing. The Old Testament provisions for punishment and restitution make more sense in light of the biblical view of human nature. Yet today, we have a justice system which promotes no-fault divorce, no-fault insurance, and continues to erode away the notion of human responsibility.

The Political Community and the Church: The Church, because of her commission and competence, is not to be confused in any way with the political community. She is both the sign and the safeguard of the transcendent character of the human person. "The Church respects and encourages the political freedom and responsibility of the citizen.

It is a part of the Church's mission "to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it. The means, the only means, she may use are those which are in accord with the Gospel and the welfare of all men according to the diversity of times and circumstances. (*cf.* CCC 2245 – 2246)

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVING ROSARY GROUP - For the attention of the LIVING ROSARY MEMBERS – The Meeting scheduled for Monday 13th May has been cancelled. However, please do not miss coming to the Church at 5.45 p.m. on Monday to say the Rosary with the children as planned. It is their first time saying it together and they need your support and prayers. Anyone else who would like to come, would be very welcome!

19th May – WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Fr. David Adams, Co-Ordinating Pastor for 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.

A SPECIAL 25TH CELEBRATION FOR FR GEORGE – Sunday 12th – *Don't forget – Buffet Lunch & Entertainment after Mass this Sunday.*

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

THE TIME IS NOW

"The earth, our home is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth" Pope Francis. In his encyclical *Laudato Si'* Care for our Common Home Pope Francis urges us to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and to take action. Climate Change is the biggest threat to our planet, and we are calling on everyone to tell their MPs that the time to act is NOW! Please join us on **Wednesday 26th June** for the Time is Now Lobby of Parliament. For more information and to sign up go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby>

CAFOD Portsmouth is organising a coach to the lobby leaving from Sacred Heart Church Ringwood cost £20. To book use the link above. You can park in the church car park for the day.

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. Please note the closing date is 19th May! Secondly He has also indicated his willingness to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving at some point during the summer with us in the Parish.

NEW FOREST WEBSITE - During Holy week our website <https://www.nfwp.org.uk> had 2,160 visits. Why not take a look at the website and see what is going on around the New Forest Pastoral area.

VOCATIONAL SEEKER EVENING – Friday 7th June 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. – Our Diocesan Vocation Seeker Group meets monthly, on the First Friday, for food, prayer, reflection & friendship. Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to consider a new trajectory? "The Spirit calls specific people to specific tasks". For further information please contact:-

Fr. John Cooke on 01329 318 869 or email to vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or visit us at www.portsmouthvocations.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS - There are several vacancies for Mass Intentions this month, so please contact Lizzie in the office if you wish to book an Intention for a loved-one.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR “C” 12TH MAY 2019

Saturday Vigil	11	May	SATURDAY WITHIN OCTAVE OF EASTER	<u>18.00</u> VIGIL MASS of 4 th Sunday of Easter – <i>John Currie (RIP)</i>	Parish Party for Fr. George after Mass today
Sunday morning	12	May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass –	
Monday	13	May			
Tuesday	14	May	ST. MATHIAS	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass -	
Wednesday	15	May	Wednesday of the 4 th Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – - <i>MPP</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	16	May	Thursday of the 4 th Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass –	
Friday	17	May	Friday of the 4 th Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Jane Sloman Family & Philip Sloman (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	18	May	Saturday of the 4 th Week of Easter	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass -	Confession after Mass
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil of 5 th Sunday of Easter	18.00 - Vigil Mass of 5 th Sunday of Easter - <i>Brigid Horan</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	19	May	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Ian Russell (RIP)</i>	

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 4 th /5 th May		Sat. 11 May	Sun. 12 May	Sat. 18 May	Sun. 19 May
loose	£360.29	Reader B.Dempster	S.Salinger	J.Marriott	P.Caffyn
envelopes	£194.15	K.Dempster	S.Ramsay	M.Newland	P.Caffyn
		EMHC F.Fallon	M.Tanner	T.Gearey	A.Caneda
		J.Thomas	M.Buckland	K.Dempster	Akhil Joseph
		C .d’Espagnac	J.Nichols	B.Dempster	M.Buckland
Thank you for your continued support					

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