

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



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "C" 26TH MAY 2019

The Abiding Presence of God in His Church *(A reflection of the readings of this 6th Sunday of Easter year C)*

Today's readings show us the effects of the abiding presence of God in His Church and of His indwelling in each one of us.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, tells us how the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the Church, helped the apostles to solve a major doctrinal problem, which shook the very foundation of the early Church.

The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 67) prays that all the nations on the earth, not just Israel, may recognize their God and praise Him.

The second reading, taken from the Book of Revelation describes the Church as the Heavenly Jerusalem, a city united in love, with the victorious Jesus residing in it and in each of its members replacing the holy presence of God in the *Holy of Holies* of the Temple in Jerusalem.

The Gospel passage reminds us that the Holy Spirit abiding within us is our teacher and the Source of all peace. The passage offers a vision of hope. Jesus promises his followers that the Holy Spirit will come and instruct them in everything they need to know. This Gospel passage explains the doctrine of the indwelling of the Holy Trinity in the human soul, and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as follows:

1) The abiding presence of God in the human soul: The promise of God's abiding presence must have been of great comfort to John's community who knew that the Temple in Jerusalem, the symbol of God's presence with His people had been destroyed by the Roman army. In today's Gospel passage, Jesus tells us that the one thing in life which we can always trust is God's presence. God inhabits our hearts so deeply and intimately that we become the visible dwelling place of God. His living and life-affirming Presence is always with us, yet "hidden" in the very things we so often take for granted. Thus, we are invited to look for and encounter "God-with-us," yet "hidden", in the person sitting next to us, in the words we speak, and in the songs we sing at worship.

2) Condition for the indwelling of the Holy Trinity: Jesus teaches us the condition for this indwelling of the Holy Trinity, namely, we have to show our love of God by keeping his word. And this keeping of his word will be facilitated by the Holy Spirit, God's Holy Breath.

3) The role of the Holy Spirit is twofold:

a) To "teach" the disciples

b) To “remind” them of what Jesus has already taught them”. Having previously ‘spoken through the prophets,’ the Spirit will now be with and in the disciples, to teach them and guide them ‘into all the truth””

Jesus affirms that even though He will no longer be visibly with them, he will continue to be present among them through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of truth will continue teaching them and helping them to understand and to build on what Jesus has already taught them. The Advocate will bring no new revelation because God has already revealed Himself in Jesus. But the Advocate will deepen their understanding of the revelation given by Jesus.

4) Jesus gives his followers four gifts:

- ✓ First, he gives them his love, which will enable them to keep his word.
- ✓ Second, he gives them the Holy Spirit, who will teach them everything they need to know. The Holy Spirit is the abiding love of God available to us, enabling us to accept the friendship of Jesus, while imitating Him, the Master.
- ✓ Third, he gives them His peace to strengthen them against fear in the face of trouble. Here "peace" is not just the absence of conflict, but also the far wider concept of *shalom*, the total well-being of the person and community. The promise of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will bring a peace that will quell their fears of the unfolding darkness ahead.

The Holy Spirit is available as Comforter and Guide to those who believe in Jesus and follow in his way. The One God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – is pure Love. This Love, the Triune God, comes and lives in us, takes up residence in us and lives in our body. When God’s love lives in us, and we live in Him, there is much more peace in our families, our Churches, our offices. Fourth, Jesus rewards them with the assurance of his second coming.

A Call for Action: Let us be aware of the abiding presence of God within us: We live in the New Covenant of Jesus, daily facing uncertainty, conflict, and temptations. It is the abiding presence of God within us that enables us to face the future with undying hope and true Christian courage. The Holy Spirit, sent upon the Church by the Father at the request of the risen Lord, prompts us to turn to His Holy Scriptures for support and encouragement, enables us to learn the Divine truths, and grants us His peace at all times. However, to be able to receive these gifts, it is necessary for us to spend a little time each day in personal prayer, talking to God and listening to Him. We must deepen our relationship with Jesus, learn to get in touch with him, and sincerely love him. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, we will know His plan for our life and His solutions for whatever problems we face. We will be able to love our fellow human beings, and there will be a core of peace within us. The Holy Spirit teaches us through the Scriptures and preaching during the Holy Mass as well as in our prayer and our private reading of Scripture. Jesus loves us and comes to us in Communion. When the Mass is ended, we go forth in the peace of Christ and all this under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We are not alone: One of the great social and ethical problems of our time is isolation. Today approximately 25% of all adults live alone. Spouses, parents and children often live as virtual strangers to one another. This is unfortunate because we never need to be alone. Jesus can always be present to us. He shares with us his joy and replaces the burden of our guilt with the freedom of forgiveness. He takes our grief and turns it into joy. We need only allow Jesus into our lives to be rid of this loneliness. Oneness with Jesus is the greatest gift we can give our children, our friends, or those who

see no purpose in life. We can help to bring people to unity with Jesus, a unity that will change their lives. As we celebrate this Eucharistic meal, our Mass, let us celebrate in a special way the price Jesus paid for our redemption. May this Eucharistic celebration empower us to lead a true Life in the Spirit.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday 1st June - Please note there will be no morning Mass on Saturday 1st June.

Sunday 2nd June - There will be a standing collection for **Catholic Communications Network**.

NEW FOREST CATENIANS Our monthly Circle meeting will take place at **7.00pm on TUESDAY 28th MAY** at the Crown Manor Hotel, Lyndhurst. Our ladies are meeting at the same time in the 'Imperial China' restaurant which has proved so popular! If you are interested in learning more about the Association please join us : phone Nick Coghlan 01425 673906

PALS - OUTING TO EXBURY GARDENS - Tuesday 28th May. Please note - We are meeting in the Church carpark at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday for our outing to Exbury.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – 30th May

“Go and teach all nations, says the Lord”. Do you feel a calling to be a teacher of the Word as a priest or consecrated religious? To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

DON BOSCO BOYS CAMP - Sunday 28th July to Saturday 3rd August 2019 – Fr Mark Hogan will be leading a camp for boys of secondary school age at St. Cassian’s, Kintbury, Berkshire. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic few days. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £210 (part bursaries may be available on application). To find out more or to reserve a place, please contact Angela Mulkerns on 07764 761006 or email dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Priestly Ordinations of Deacon Lawrence at Cardiff Cathedral – Saturday 22nd June at 12.00 noon

A minibus has now been ordered to take the members of the Parish on the list to attend Deacon Lawrence’s Ordination and, although the cost is being met by the Parish, any contributions towards the transport costs would be very much appreciated. Thank you!

GIFT AIDING. We would like to encourage all parishioners (and other donors to church funds) who pay tax to consider gift aiding their offerings in order that we may claim 25% income tax rebate on those offerings. Once registered, tax will also be reclaimed for 2nd collections and passed on to the relevant charity. Gift aiding increases the value of all donations by 25%. Forms for gift aiding (either through bank donations or cash) are available at the back of the church, or from Lizzie in the Office. Any registered gift aider who is no longer a taxpayer (or pays insufficient tax to cover any tax reclaimed on their offerings) **must** inform the Office in order that their gift aid status can be amended. For further advice please ask the Parish office.

HEALTH AND SAFETY - FIRE RISK. Our Diocesan Insurance company has introduced tighter restrictions on the use of candles in church, as a result of an increasing number of damage claims. Candles must be extinguished when the church is locked and should not be left unattended. Votive candles must be placed on the stands provided before being lit and placed about 10 cm apart from each other. If a fire occurs a fire blanket is available on the wall next to Our Lady's altar (another in the Sacristy) and a fire extinguisher is at the back of the church. Please report any incidents to the office. Further details are in a Diocesan Health and Safety Bulletin No 8 (on a board at the back of the church).

HEALING MASS – a big thank you to all who attended the Healing Mass last Sunday afternoon. Thank you too readers at the Mass and all for the help in the hall for the tea and coffee.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR “C” 26TH MAY 2019

Saturday Vigil	25	May	Vigil of the 6 th Sunday of Easter	18.00 VIGIL MASS of 6 th Sunday of Easter – <i>Johanna Mountevans (restore to health)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday morning	26	May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass –	
Monday	27	May	ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY (FEAST)	10:00 Mass	
Tuesday	28	May	Of the 6 th Week of Easter	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass - <i>Jack Gavahee (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	29	May	Wednesday of the 6 th Week of Easter Vigil Mass of The Ascension of the Lord	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Helen Taylor (RIP)</i> 19.00 Holy Mass	Confession after Mass
Wednesday	29	May	VIGIL MASS ASCENSION THURSDAY	19:00 – Holy Mass	
Thursday	30	May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass –	
Friday	31	May	THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Thanksgiving for the Living Rosary Group</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	01	June	Saturday of the 6 th Week of Easter	THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS TODAY	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil of 7 th Sunday of Easter	18.00 - Vigil Mass of 6 th Sunday of Easter <i>Emmanuel Saliba (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	02	June	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Fr. Marcin Drabik 20th Anniversary of Ordination</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 18/19May		Sat. 25 May	Sun. 26 May	Sat. 01 June	Sun. 02 June
Loose	£469.82	Reader T.Gearey	S.Ramsay	M.Hobbs	A Punchekunn
envelopes	£215.70	G.Gordelier	S.Salinger	A.Nash	Annice Joseph
		EMHC M.Newland	J.Nichols	F.Fallon	M.Buckland
		C.d'Espagnac	S.Salinger	J.Thomas	A.Caneda
Thank you for your continued support		M.Harwood	M.Tanner	M.Newland	.S,Salinger

2nd Collection for Catholic Communications Network Sunday 2nd June

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