

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**



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "C" 2ND JUNE 2019

Pope Francis' Message for the 53rd World Day of Social Communications

«We are members one of another» (Eph 4:25).

From social network communities to the human community

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Ever since the internet first became available, the Church has always sought to promote its use in the service of the encounter between persons, and of solidarity among all. With this *Message*, I would like to invite you once again to reflect on the foundation and importance of our being-in-relation and to rediscover, in the vast array of challenges of the current communications context, the desire of the human person who does not want to be left isolated and alone.

The metaphors of the net and community

Today's media environment is so pervasive as to be indistinguishable from the sphere of everyday life. The Net is a resource of our time. It is a source of knowledge and relationships that were once unthinkable. However, in terms of the profound transformations technology has brought to bear on the process of production, distribution and use of content, many experts also highlight the risks that threaten the search for, and sharing of, authentic information on a global scale. If the Internet represents an extraordinary possibility of access to knowledge, it is also true that it has proven to be one of the areas most exposed to disinformation and to the conscious and targeted distortion of facts and interpersonal relationships, which are often used to discredit.

We need to recognize how social networks, on the one hand, help us to better connect, rediscover, and assist one another, but on the other, lend themselves to the manipulation of personal data, aimed at obtaining political or economic advantages, without due respect for the person and his or her rights. Statistics show that among young people one in four is involved in episodes of *cyberbullying*.^[1]

In this complex scenario, it may be useful to reflect again on the metaphor of the *net*, which was the basis of the Internet to begin with, to rediscover its positive potential. The image of the net invites us to reflect on the multiplicity of lines and intersections that ensure its stability in the absence of a centre, a hierarchical structure, a form of vertical organization. The net works because all its elements share responsibility.

From an anthropological point of view, the metaphor of the net recalls another meaningful image: the *community*. A community is that much stronger if it is cohesive and supportive, if it is animated by feelings of trust, and pursues common objectives. The community as a network of solidarity requires mutual listening and dialogue, based on the responsible use of language.

Everyone can see how, in the present scenario, *social network communities* are not automatically synonymous with community. In the best cases, these *virtual communities* are able to demonstrate cohesion and solidarity, but often they remain simply groups of individuals who recognize one another through common interests or concerns characterized by weak bonds. Moreover, in the *social web* identity is too often based on opposition to the other, the person outside the group: we define ourselves starting with what divides us rather than with what unites us, giving rise to suspicion and to the venting of every kind of prejudice (ethnic, sexual, religious and other). This tendency encourages groups that exclude diversity, that even in the digital environment nourish unbridled individualism which sometimes ends up fomenting spirals of hatred. In this way, what ought to be a window on the world becomes a showcase for exhibiting personal narcissism.

The Net is an opportunity to promote encounter with others, but it can also increase our self-isolation, like a web that can entrap us. Young people are the ones most exposed to the illusion that the *social web* can completely satisfy them on a relational level. There is the dangerous phenomenon of young people becoming “social hermits” who risk alienating themselves completely from society. This dramatic situation reveals a serious rupture in the relational fabric of society, one we cannot ignore.

This multiform and dangerous reality raises various questions of an ethical, social, juridical, political and economic nature, and challenges the Church as well. While governments seek legal ways to regulate the web and to protect the original vision of a free, open and secure network, we all have the possibility and the responsibility to promote its positive use.

Clearly, it is not enough to multiply connections in order to increase mutual understanding. How, then, can we find our true communitarian identity, aware of the responsibility we have towards one another in the online network as well?

“We are members one of another”

A possible answer can be drawn from a third metaphor: that of the *body and the members*, which Saint Paul uses to describe the reciprocal relationship among people, based on the organism that unites them. “Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each to his neighbour, for we are members one of another” (Eph 4:25). Being *members one of another* is the profound motivation with which the Apostle invites us to put away falsehood and speak the truth: the duty to guard the truth springs from the need not to belie the mutual relationship of communion. Truth is revealed in communion. Lies, on the other hand, are a selfish refusal to recognize that we are members of one body; they are a refusal to give ourselves to others, thus losing the only way to find ourselves.

The metaphor of the body and the members leads us to reflect on our identity, which is based on communion and on “otherness”. As Christians, we all recognize ourselves as members of the one body whose head is Christ. This helps us not to see people as potential competitors, but to consider even our enemies as persons. We no longer need an adversary in order to define ourselves, because the all-encompassing gaze we learn from Christ leads us to discover otherness in a new way, as an integral part and condition of relationship and closeness.

Such a capacity for understanding and communication among human persons is based on the communion of love among the divine Persons. God is not Solitude, but Communion; he is Love, and therefore communication, because love always communicates; indeed, it communicates itself in order to encounter the other. In order to communicate with us and to communicate himself to us, God adapts himself to our language, establishing a real dialogue with humanity throughout history (cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, 2).

By virtue of our being created in the image and likeness of God who is communion and communication-of-Self, we carry forever in our hearts the longing for living in communion, for belonging to a community. “Nothing, in fact, is as specific to our nature as entering into a relationship one with another, having need of one another,” says Saint Basil.^[2]

The present context calls on all of us to invest in relationships, and to affirm the interpersonal nature of our humanity, including in and through the network. All the more so, we Christians are called to manifest that communion which marks our identity as believers. Faith itself, in fact, is a relationship, an encounter; and under the impetus of God’s love, we can communicate, welcome and understand the gift of the other and respond to it. Communion in the image of the Trinity is precisely what distinguishes the person from the individual. From faith in God who is Trinity, it follows that in order to be myself I need others. I am truly human, truly personal, only if I relate to others. In fact, the word “person” signifies the human being as a “face”, whose face is turned towards the other, who is engaged with others. Our life becomes more human insofar as its nature becomes less individual and more personal; we see this authentic path of becoming more human in one who moves from being an *individual* who perceives the other as a rival, to a *person* who recognizes others as travelling companions.

From a “like” to an “amen”

The image of the body and the members reminds us that the use of the *social web* is complementary to an encounter in the flesh that comes alive through the body, heart, eyes, gaze, breath of the other. If the Net is used as an extension or expectation of such an encounter, then the network concept is not betrayed and remains a resource for communion. If a family uses the Net to be more connected, to then meet at table and look into each other’s eyes, then it is a resource. If a Church community coordinates its activity through the network, and then celebrates the Eucharist together, then it is a resource. If the Net becomes an opportunity to share stories and

experiences of beauty or suffering that are physically distant from us, in order to pray together and together seek out the good to rediscover what unites us, then it is a resource.

We can, in this way, move from diagnosis to treatment: opening the way for dialogue, for encounter, for “smiles” and expressions of tenderness... This is the network we want, a network created not to entrap, but to liberate, to protect a communion of people who are free. The Church herself is a network woven together by Eucharistic communion, where unity is based not on “likes”, but on the truth, on the “Amen”, by which each one clings to the Body of Christ, and welcomes others.

From the Vatican, January 24, 2019

The Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales

POPE FRANCISCUS

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIVING ROSARY GROUP –

The Living Rosary meeting is on the 3rd June at 5.45 p.m.

PALS – All members and interested parishioners - Men & Women - Our next meeting is on Friday 7th June. We meet after Mass in the Hall. Help yourself to coffee etc. We will be arranging our future Diary Dates and other matters. Welcome to all those who would like to see us. We have the blessing from our Bishop and our own Patron Saints – The Friends of Jesus. See you there – Jane Gow – contact 01425 501 126.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will take place during the 10.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday 16th June.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS – Saturday 6th July - If anyone would like an Intention for this Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass to be held at St. Bede’s Church, Basingstoke, on Saturday 6th July at 11.00 a.m., please ask Lizzie for a Mass Request Form, which will need to be completed and returned to St. Bede’s Parish Office (details on the form).

ORDINATION OF DEACON LAWRENCE – Saturday 22nd June The arrangements are now finalised for our trip to Cardiff Cathedral to join in the celebrations with Deacon Lawrence. The minibus will leave promptly from the church car park at 07.00 on the 22nd June. Our journey will take almost 4 hours (with a comfort stop). We will arrive back in New Milton at approximately 1930. The cost of the 16 seater minibus is £540.00 which was the best available ‘deal’ on the day. Therefore we are asking for a minimum donation of £25.00 per person to partially cover the cost. The balance will be, as stated previously, paid for from church funds. I will collect all monies, preferably cheques, or cash on the day of departure BUT please confirm with me which payment method you prefer. Cheques should be made payable to PRC DTR NEW MILTON. I will pass over cash given to me, to our Treasurer, Andy Thomas. My numbers are:- 01425 611643/mobile 07887 747493. Email katherine.dempster@btinternet.com Many thanks for your kind attention. I am sure we will all have a very enjoyable day. God bless you Katherine Dempster

GOLF DAY in aid of CAFOD 12th July 2019

The Catenians of Province 11 are organising a Golf Day to raise funds for CAFOD on Friday 12th July at Weybrook Golf Club in Basingstoke. After the golf there will be a dinner for golfers and their non-golfing partners which will include a speaker from CAFOD head Office. For more information please contact Pat Murphy on pfm190654@outlook.com

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 Mulherns on 07764 761006 or email dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHRIST – THE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE - 10th-17th November 2019

For further details of this Pilgrimage, please see the notice on the Noticeboard at the back of Church or call Jonathan on 0800 689 4792, email: travel@aglowpilgrimages.com web: www.aglowpilgrimages.com

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR “C” 2ND JUNE 2019

Saturday Vigil	01	June	Vigil of the 7 th Sunday of Easter	18.00 VIGIL MASS of 7 th Sunday of Easter – <i>Emmanuel Saliba RIP</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday morning	02	June	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Fr. Marcin Drabik – 20th Anniversary of Ordination</i>	
Monday	03	June			
Tuesday	04	June	Of the 7 th Week of Easter	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass - <i>Catherine & Louis d’Espagnac – Wedding Anniversary</i>	
Wednesday	05	June	Wednesday of the 7 th Week of Easter <i>St. Boniface</i>	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Thomas Nixon RIP</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	06	June	Thursday of the 7 th Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Susan Harries RIP</i>	
Friday	07	June	Friday of the 7 th Week of Easter	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Muriel McCourts RIP</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	08	June	Saturday of the 7 th Week of Easter	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil of Pentecost Sunday	18.00 - Vigil Mass of Pentecost Sunday <i>Paul & Gehane Gordelier 21st Wedding Anniversary</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	09	June	PENTECOST SUNDAY	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Anthony McCourts RIP</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 25/26 May		Sat. 01 June	Sun. 02 June	Sat. 08 June	Sun. 09 June
Loose	£349.08	Reader M.Hobbs	A Punchekunn	C.d’Espagnac	C.Barrett
envelopes	£197.90	A.Nash	Annice Joseph	G.Gordelier	C.Barrett
		EMHC F.Fallon	M.Buckland	K.Dempster	Akhil Joseph
		J.Thomas	A.Caneda	T.Gearey	M.Tanner
		M.Newland	.S,Salinger	B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian
Thank you for your continued support					

2nd Collection for Holy See – World Communications Day 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