

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



SS. PETER & PAUL - YEAR "C" 30TH JUNE 2019

Some issues affecting Christianity today in our Churches.

Today the Church of England and Wales celebrate the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. She honours two fundamental pillars of the early Church. While all the Apostles form the foundation, Peter and Paul stand out very profoundly in terms of influence and work. And while some have wished to suggest division between them, the Church insists that they must be seen together; hence their feast is set forth in this way. As we celebrate this feast, I find myself reflecting seriously in the lives of two other giants in the faith in our own land who copying from them stood out and gained the highest price of discipleship – **martyrdom. Yes, Saints John Fisher and Thomas More.** The Church will not be the same if we just try one bit to imitate their zealousness in discipleship. In a world plagued with one crisis after another such as: incurable epidemics, economic disasters, international aggression, terrorist extremism, insurmountable poverty to list only a few – what are the biggest issues facing Christians today?

A Cheap Diluted Faith? The chief dangers which confront the present century is: Religion without the action of the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, politics without God, seeking worldly pleasure without direction, life without control and Heaven without Hell. In a society in which there are no absolutes and every individual is a free agent, we are taught to be self-reliant and independent. God becomes an intrusion into our lives and we only know him when we need him. Christianity is no longer the automatic, default faith of young adults and that's a problem.

Pride is the major issue facing Christians. It opens the door for everything else to come in. The same sin that got Satan kicked out of heaven – and the same sin that is causing so much separation in the church today. Many Christians do not even realise that Pride is not only a sin but a deadly sin – a mortal sin. You have to admit you are ill before you can realize the need for healing. And the few who do recognize this find it easy to transfer their sin onto the Church and its members. They separate themselves from the Church and judge her. Let us not forget that Christ love the Church his Bride and so it is time to love the church the same way Christ loved us and died for us.

Bible Illiteracy and lack of sound Catechesis. I find this the biggest problem which is making many to go in the wrong direction. What used to be basic, universally known truths about Christianity are now unknown mysteries to a large and growing number of Christians, especially young adults. For instance, most people regard Good Friday and Easter Sunday more as a bank holiday; only a minority of adults associate Easter with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Talk less about Christmas which has become so commercialized with little or no focus on baby Jesus. Therefore, if the Bible is not regarded as the only truth on which to build the Church, then subjective opinions will surely go a long way to counteract these truths.

Closed Minds? Non-Christian points of view are destructive to the faith. A biblically educated Christian knows that some basic, universally known truths about Christianity are pagan myths that actually contradict what God's Word says about critical issues. So, the answer is not to bar any outside ideas but treat them with an open mind in the light of the Gospels and the magisterium.

Which Way Should We Go? A lack of direction. We are torn between saying things that people want to hear and humanity's yearning for answers. Every week there seems to be a new issue that confronts Christians. As a result we can't make up our minds and swing like a pendulum from one extreme to the other. "Does the future

lie with progressives who can adapt and change – or with conservatives who remain faithful to the old paths?
“Are Christians today basically too timid – or just afraid to act?”

A Lukewarm Attitude. Why would a Christian be reticent about living and sharing his faith in Jesus Christ? Could it be because neither the Word nor the Lord is real to them? And could that be because the doctrine presented to most Christians already self-conceited and illogical, self-contradictory, confusing, unmotivating? There is the tendency of preaching a subjectively erroneous doctrine to people as a show off which ends up confusing them. Furthermore, the church and its members must be engaged in her programmes and not be left in the hands of a few individuals.

A Lack of Honesty. Christianity is about doing the right thing. The world is a great place and life is so much fun, but honesty in people is something very difficult to find. In our Christian communities and the society at large, there is a crisis due to a breakdown of trust. Who do people trust? Politicians? Bankers? The many Churches today and their pastors who are literally out to make money in the name of evangelization? Adults? Police? Businessmen and women, Scientists and the list is long. Christians need to return to basics and live Christ-like lives that build trust and point individuals to the Master we serve. Why should non-Christians trust Christ if we do not live loving, humble, obedient, self-sacrificing lives as Jesus taught us.

Bad Name and Publicity. Then there’s the bad press that the church has received in recent years – ranging from the hate messages to the sexual scandals that have wracked the Catholic church. In the midst of it all, the influence of Christianity on culture and individual lives is largely invisible. We cannot deny the fact that Christianity has provenly added more value to various cultures than any other philosophy, ideology or religion,

Back to the Basics Simple things. We have to stop talking quite so much about visions, plans, strategies, new teachings, missions, buildings, teams and heresies and just start being the heart, hands, voice and compassion of the Body of Christ.

Are We Willing to Serve? Only the Lord Jesus can really touch your heart to the degree that your love for him makes you a servant and a disciple to him, and one who can articulate his faith in such a manner that others can believe. So, seek Him. Ask Him to show you what you are supposed to do. That’s always been the underlying power of Christianity. “Be still and know that I am God,” we are told. And listen for direction, because perhaps that’s the one great issue facing Christ’s church: Too few are listening to Him!

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Philip on Clergy Moves I wish to announce new appointments, which take effect on 8th September 2019, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I would like to express immense gratitude to the priests who are moving for all their hard work for the Lord in their current appointments, and to thank them for agreeing to take on the new assignments. It is deeply moving to receive the humble obedience and joyful willingness of these priests. Moving from one appointment and then settling into another is about the hardest thing we do as secular priests. It can also be challenging for our Deacons and for our parishioners. I pray earnestly that the Lord, Who I am convinced has been guiding this whole process, will grant us all the strengthening and refreshing grace we need.

Fr. Bruce Barnes to Our Lady and the Saints of Guernsey as Dean and Parish Priest;

Fr. Zbigniew Budyn to St. Francis de Sales, Wash Common as Parish Priest, with responsibility for the community of Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford;

Fr. Ross Bullock to Southampton St. Patrick and Annunciation, Netley as Parish Priest;

Fr. John Chandler as Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception, Liphook whilst continuing his present responsibilities;

Fr. Ansel d’Mello to St. Joseph’s and St. Edmund’s, Southampton as Assistant Priest;

Fr. Paul Dzwig to Our Lady, Fleet and Holy Trinity, Church Crookham as Parish Priest;

Fr. Afah Gaston Forbah (student) as priest in residence at St Joseph’s, Basingstoke;

Fr. Tom Kleinschmidt OMV and assistants to Southampton St. Boniface’s as parish priest;

Fr. Paul Lyons to Immaculate Conception, Liphook as Assistant Priest;

Fr Chiatu Anthony Njingo (student) as priest in residence at the Cathedral;

Fr. Leonard Odomeja Onuse to Holy Ghost and St. Bede’s, Basingstoke as Assistant Priest;

Fr. David O’Sullivan to St. John Vianney, Wantage as Parish Priest with responsibility for the community at Sacred Heart, Lambourn;

Fr. Wojciech Paszko to St. Swithun Yateley and St. Thomas More Hartley Wintney as Parish Priest;

Fr. Robert Stewart to Our Lady and the Saints of Guernsey as Assistant Priest;

Fr. Simon Thomson to Corpus Christi, Wokingham as Parish Priest.

Retirements

We thank God and pray for our priests retiring this autumn. Canon Peter Turbitt retires from his dedicated ministry, the last years of which have been spent in North Downs. We thank God also for Fr. David Sillince who retires from his labours in St. Boniface's, Southampton. I am grateful that Fr. David will continue his work on the Diocesan Ordo. Please pray for them both.

Farewell: We bid farewell to Fr. Michal Turbaczewski, who returns to his Diocese of Lomza in Poland. We offer prayers and much gratitude for his service these last two years in Guernsey.

Welcome: We welcome to the Diocese Fr. Thomas Kleinschmidt OMV and two assistant priests, members of the Oblates of Mary the Virgin. We also welcome Fr Chiatu Anthony Njingo and Fr. Afah Gaston Forbah from the Archdiocese of Bamenda, who will be studying at the University of Southampton. We welcome too Fr. Leonard Odomeja Onuse from the Diocese of Lokoja, Nigeria.

New Priests: Please pray for Rev. Mohanraj Edward and Rev. Johnpromise Omeozuru to be ordained priests of our Diocese here in the Cathedral on Saturday 20th July.

New Deacons: Please pray for Tony Darroch, Larry Murawski, Nicholas O'Neill and Paul Severn to be ordained as permanent deacons in the Cathedral on Sunday 21st July. I have asked them to serve as follows:

Deacon Tony Darroch in Holy Ghost and St. Bede's, Basingstoke;

Deacon Larry Murawski at the Cathedral;

Deacon Nicholas O'Neill in St. Michael's, Leigh Park;

Deacon Paul Severn in St. Thomas of Canterbury, Cowes with St. David's, East Cowes.

Please pray also for Matthew King, student for the priesthood, to be ordained a Deacon in Rome on 7th July; having completed his STB, he returns to the Diocese.

That's all for now. There are a few more appointments and details to follow and these will be included in a subsequent appointments.

+ Bishop Philip

Bishop of Portsmouth

Fr. Laurence Bryce will officially celebrate his first Holy Mass with us on Saturday 13th July at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 14th of July at the 10:00 a.m. Mass respectively. The Parish Community will celebrate with him in the Parish hall after the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass

Fr. Vervenne Gerrit last Thursday celebrated his Priestly Golden Jubilee. Father is happy to celebrate a simple (no song no preaching) Holy Mass with the Christian Community of Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at 12:00 noon and thereafter proceed to the Parish Hall at 12:30 p.m. for a Lunch made in his honour. I have been made to understand that attendance for this lunch is now closed.

Visitors – At the beginning of the holiday season, we would like to welcome all visitors to our beautiful Church. Please make yourself known to Fr. George or one of our Readers, who will be only too pleased to inform you about service times and forthcoming events.

LIVING ROSARY GROUP – Please note that our next Meeting of the Living Rosary Group is on Monday 3rd July.

REMEMBRANCE AT THE INDIAN MEMORIAL – BARTON ON SEA – Wednesday 10th July 2019 - This important event, which recognises the Indian Soldiers who fought and sacrificed their lives for us in the First World War, is taking place at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 10th July. Guests will include local residents, associated community groups, embassy officials, local councillors and school children and Fr. George has been asked again this year to say the prayers and give a blessing. Your support attendance would be very much appreciated!

THE CATHOLIC DISABILITY FELLOWSHIP are holding their **Annual Mass** on Sunday 14th July 2019 at 3.00 p.m. in The Church of the Immaculate Conception at Liphook. Address 108 Headley Road, Liphook, GU30 7PT.

The Church Gardens – Spring is a time of re-birth and it is a joy to see all the beautiful flowers in the Church gardens, both around the Grotto and in the garden bordering the car park. When Byard McHugh retired last year after producing such a wonderful car park garden over 3 years, we all worried that it would fall into neglect but our prayers were answered. Perhaps you have noticed 2 familiar people beavering away most days? Those 2 people being Manuel & Antonia Caneda. We owe them a great deal for their hard work, carried out with love, in maintaining this beautiful herbaceous border. Someone, unknown, planted a beautiful yellow lily last week. If you would like to donate a plant for someone special, have a word with Manuel; I am sure he would welcome any additions to our beautiful garden.

SS. PETER & PAUL - YEAR "C" – 30TH JUNE 2019

Saturday Vigil	29	June	Vigil Mass of SS. PETER & PAUL	18.00 VIGIL MASS of SS. PETER & PAUL - Fr. Laurence Bryce's Ordination	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	30	June	SS. PETER & PAUL	10.00 Holy Mass – Kathleen Harradence RIP	
Monday	01	July			
Tuesday	02	July	Tuesday of 13th Week in Ordinary Time	11.00 Requiem Mass for Mrs Ursula Drake 12:00 Holy Mass GOLDEN JUBILEE OF FR. VERVENNE Concelebrant - Sarah Nixon RIP	No Evening Mass
Wednesday	03	July	ST THOMAS	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – Mary Davies – Health & Wellbeing	Confession after Mass
Thursday	04	July	St. Elizabeth of Portugal	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – Akhil Joseph 1st Wedding Anniversary	
Friday	05	July	St. Anthony Zaccaria	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – Bernard Delair RIP	Confession after Mass
Saturday	06	July	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – Mary Griffiths RIP	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time -Sarah, Dan & Children Special Intention	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	07	July	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 Holy Mass. – Clara Fitzgerald RIP	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 22 & 23 June		Sat. 29 June	Sun. 30 June	Sat. 6 July	Sun. 7 July
Loose envelopes	£434.98	Reader M.Newland	C.Barrett	A.Nash	S.Ramsay
	£255.50	J. Marriott	C.Barrett	M.Hobbs	S.Salinger
		EMHC B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian	J.Thomas	A.Caneda
		K. Dempster	Akhil Joseph	M.Harwood	M.Tanner
		M.Newland	S.Salinger	F.Fallon	M.Buckland

2nd Collection on Sunday 30th June for Holy See – Peter's Pence

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