

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



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C" 21ST JULY 2019

How Do I Meet Strangers – A Christian View

So, what does the Bible actually say?

The Bible affirms strongly and unequivocally the obligation to treat strangers with dignity and hospitality. The Old Testament: Deuteronomy, delineates a number of specific provisions for treating “the stranger” not just with courtesy but also with active support and provision. For example, the book of Deuteronomy sets out the requirement that a portion of produce be set aside by farmers every third year for strangers, widows and orphans. In the “temple sermon” attributed to the prophet Jeremiah, the Jewish people are exhorted to “not oppress the sojourner.”

The Israelites themselves were “strangers” during their enslavement in Egypt and captivity in Babylon. The Hebrew Bible recognizes that every one of us can be a stranger and, for that very reason, we need to overcome our fear of those who live among us whom we do not know.

Jesus too enjoyed the hospitality of others:

Hospitality can be defined as “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.” In the New Testament, the Greek word translated “hospitality” literally means “love of strangers.” Hospitality is a virtue that is both commanded and commended throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, it was specifically commanded by God: “When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. *Love him as yourself*, for you were aliens in Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34).

During His public ministry, Jesus and His disciples depended entirely on the hospitality of others as they ministered from town to town (Matthew 10:9-10). Likewise, the early Christians also depended on and received hospitality from others (Acts 2:44-45; 28:7). In fact, travellers in ancient times depended heavily on the hospitality of strangers as travelling could be dangerous and there were very few inns, and poor Christians could not afford to stay at them, anyway. This generous provision to strangers also included opening one’s home for church services. Hospitality was indeed a highly regarded virtue in ancient times, especially for Christian leaders (Titus 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:2).

The writer of Hebrews reminds us not to forget to “entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2). Indeed, in the book of Genesis we read of Abraham’s humble and generous display of hospitality to three strangers. Wealthy and aged, Abraham could have called on one of his many servants to tend to the three unannounced visitors. Yet the hospitable and righteous Abraham generously gave them the best he had. And, as it turned out, he had entertained the Lord and two angels (Genesis 18:1-8).

The stranger is Jesus in disguise

Within the New Testament, which Christians read in continuity with the Hebrew Bible or “The Old Testament,” the most often cited passage dealing with welcoming the stranger is from Matthew 25: 31-

40. The stranger is Jesus in disguise. This section speaks of the Final Judgment, when the righteous will be granted paradise and unrepentant sinners will be consigned to eternal fire. Christ says to those at his right hand that they are “blessed” because

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

The righteous then ask,

“When did we see you, a stranger, and welcome you?”

Christ replies,

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”

As Matthew 25 makes clear, the Christians should see everyone as “Christ” in the flesh. Indeed, scholars argue that in the New Testament, “stranger” and “neighbour” are in fact synonymous. Thus the Golden Rule, “love your neighbour as yourself,” refers not just to people whom you know – your “neighbours” in a conventional sense – but also to people whom you do not know.

Beyond this, in the letters written by Paul of Tarsus; *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female.”* From this perspective, being “one in Christ” should be taken literally as acknowledging no fundamental differences in kind among human beings.

He made us all in his image and likeness:

Christians are “God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works” (Ephesians 2:10). As followers of Christ, we emulate His love and compassion when we show hospitality, not only to fellow Christians, but even more so to strangers and the less fortunate. In fact, we honour God when we are kind to the needy (Proverbs 14:31; 19:17). As Jesus said, “When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed” (Luke 14:13). Christ also taught us the second greatest commandment, to “love your neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 22:39), and the Parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that “neighbour” has nothing to do with geography, citizenship, or race. Wherever and whenever people need us, there we can be neighbours and, like Christ, show mercy. This is the essence of hospitality.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus discusses the hospitable behaviour of those who will inherit the kingdom: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matthew 25:34-36). In these days we often don’t think much about entertaining strangers, but hospitality is still an important part of Christian ministry (Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9). By serving others we serve Christ (Matthew 25:40) and we promote the spread of God’s truth (3 John 5-8).

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALS_ - JULY 24th Those booked for the Day Out meet for the coach 8:50 a.m.

AUGUST - NO DATES - HOLIDAY MONTH.

SEPTEMBER - 4th- Lunch - meet Church car park 11:30 6th - PALS Monthly Meeting

17th - Lunch + Visit - meet Church car park 11:30

Fr. Laurence It was a joy to welcome Fr. Laurence back to Our Lady of Lourdes as an ordained priest and for him to participate in our Masses last weekend. We wish him well in his future Ministry and we look forward

to seeing him again soon. Below are some of the pictures of his Ordination and First Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020. The School Summer holidays are here but just to give you notice that the next Holy Communion Classes will be starting with the return of school in the Autumn. If you wish your child to receive instruction, and they are Year 3 or above, then please take a registration form, copies of which are at the back of the Church by the Confessional, fill it in and return to the office (put it in an envelope labelled "The Secretary-reference Holy Communion Preparation "and post through the Presbytery letterbox)

Registration day is Monday September 9th 2019 at 6pm and the first session takes place on Monday Sept 30th at 5.15-6.15pm and continues on Mondays during term time right through to the First Holy Communion Day in June 2020, The actual date will be confirmed nearer Registration. At the Registration day parents must attend and bring their child's Baptism certificate and order and pay for the course Book " I want to make my home in you ". (approx. price £8.25) A course programme of dates will be given at this meeting. For more information or any queries please contact Johanna Tel 01425 291913 Thank you.

HOLIDAY LEAVE – The Office will be closed on Friday 26th July as Lizzie will be on leave. Please address all enquiries to Fr. George.

A WARM WELCOME – We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors. Please make yourself known to one of our members of the congregation who will be happy to give you details about Mass times etc.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 21ST JULY 2019

Saturday	20	July	Vigil Mass of the 16 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 16 th Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Jan Drabik (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	21	July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Susan (RIP)</i>	
Monday	22	July	ST MARY MAGDALENE	Mass 7:00 p.m. Mass – <i>Eduardo Brian Sri (RIP)</i>	
Tuesday	23	July	ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	24	July	St Sharbel MakhluF	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Margaret Morton (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	25	July	ST. JAMES	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Teodulo Obdianela & Leonora (RIP)</i>	
Friday	26	July	SS Joachim & Anne	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Elizabeth Paris (wellbeing fighting cancer)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	27	July			No Morning Mass
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>All deceased members of Joseph Kurian's Family (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	28	July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Minnie & Charles Garbett (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 13/14 July		Sat. 20 July	Sun. 21 July	Sat. 27 July	Sun. 28 July
Loose	£358.96	Reader T.Gearey	P.Caffyn	B.Dempster	S.Salinger
Envelopes	£189.10	D,McCourts	P.Caffyn	K.Dempster	S.Ramsay
		EMHC M.Newland	M.Tanner	F.Fallon	Akhil Joseph
		C.d'Espagnac	J. Kurian	J.Thomas	M.Tanner
Thank you for your continued support		M.Harwood	M.Buckland	T.Gearey	S.Salinger

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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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 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