

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



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C" 4TH AUGUST 2019

VANITY OF VANITIES – ALL IS VANITY

All three of today's readings warn us about the idolatry that is **vanity** as Ecclesiastes calls it and the idolatry that is greed as St. Paul and our Lord call it.

Idolatry today very rarely takes the form that it did in the ancient world: making graven images and bowing down before them in worship. Today, idolatry takes a far more subtle, and, hence, more dangerous form. At least with a graven image, the idolatry is obvious, and, therefore, easier to defend against. But today idolatrous acts just kind of creep into our life without us even knowing about it.

The idea of vanity is discussed throughout the Bible.

The term "vanity" appears in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. The Hebrew word translated as "vanity," "hebel," appears most frequently in the Old Testament in the Psalms and in the Book of Ecclesiastes. One of the better-known lines about vanity in Ecclesiastes introduces and concludes the author's investigation into the many ways vanity takes over people, and its consequences. New Testament writers infrequently discussed vanity, but they wrote about it in negative terms. The fathers of the early Christian church continued ancient cautionary themes. The biblical notion of vanity, while incorporating the common definition of a person with an exaggerated sense of self-importance, more broadly conveys a sense of emptiness and lacking life without meaning and a connection to God.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians comprises one of three times in which the idea of vanity appears in the Christian scriptures. In Ephesians 4:17, Paul cautioned church members at Ephesus to discard lives of vanity or futility, which are marked by alienation and heartlessness. Within the context of his message about the church's mission in the world, Paul worried that early Christians would become disconnected from life in God. With consistent messages about the illusory nature of vanity throughout the Bible, early Christian church fathers picked up the theme and developed it for future generations of Christians. John Chrysostom, for instance, employed the famed Ecclesiastes line in a letter about a controversy during his time. The writer described the fleeting appearance and loss of the glittering satisfactions of festivals and applause and warned that such a life could end only badly.

Pope Francis and Vanity. Pope Francis highlighted the sin of vanity in his preaching, saying that Christians must reject it by peeling away one layer at a time. He cited the Desert Fathers, the saints of early Christian Egypt, who saw that vanity is a temptation against which we must battle our whole life, because it always comes back to take the truth away from us. Drawing from their comparison, Pope Francis explained that vanity is "like an onion," with layers that must be removed. You take it and begin to peel it – the onion – and you peel away vanity today, a little bit tomorrow, and your whole life you're peeling away vanity in order to overcome it. At the end you are pleased: I removed the vanity, I peeled the onion, but the odour remains with you on your hand.

Many Christians live for appearances, their life seems like a soap bubble. The soap bubble is beautiful, with all its colours! But it lasts only a second, and then what? Even when we look at some funeral monuments, we feel its vanity, because the truth is returning to the bare earth, as the Servant of God Paul VI said. "The bare earth awaits us, this is our final truth." Vanity is "a liar, a fantasist" that "deceives itself" and deceives the vain, he added. The vain man begins by pretending to be something, and ends by believing in his pretension. Vanity sows

wicked anxiety, takes away peace,” Pope Francis said. Vanity is like someone who puts on too much makeup and fears the rain will come and wash it away.

The Pope said vain Christians sometimes say, “I am a Christian, I am related to that priest, to that sister, to that bishop; my family is a Christian family.” Jesus tells us we must build our house – that is, our Christian life – on the rock, on the truth,” he said, noting that Jesus warned that the vain “build their house on sand, and that house falls, that Christian life falls, slips, because it is not able to resist temptations.”

Ways to guard your hearts from Vanity: Vigilance is the action or state of keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties. That’s exactly what God calls us to do with our hearts and faith. We are to pay extra attention to our actions and watch them closely. There will be dangers and difficulties we will *for sure* face in this life, and we should be ready.

1 We need to use wisdom in what we allow into our hearts. We only have a limited time each day to make much of God, so train your eyes to look away from a culture that is anti-God and replace it with things that are Godly. Your heart will then remain protected.

2. Persevere in the face of difficulties. Difficulties are going to happen in this life. They have to. That’s the product of a sinful world filled with sinful people. There will be times that you don’t feel the Lord’s presence or feel like He is listening to your prayers. Persevere! Trust that He is always completing a good work in you. Believe that the Lord will prevail, in *all* things. As you persevere, you will continue to grow in Godliness and your heart will be strong.

3. Follow What The Lord Is Leading or telling You To Do. Everyone is different. We all have different skills and desires and that’s a good thing. God has made us different, intentionally. He calls us to follow Him in so many different ways. Trust Him and go for it! The longer you quench that desire, the more strain you are putting on your heart.

4. Cultivate An Atmosphere Of Community.

When we are adopted as sons and daughters of the one true King, we come into a family and are sent on mission. This involves people. There’s no way to follow Jesus in isolation, we need people. We need community.

5. Keep Priorities High And Do Not Compromise.

There’s wisdom in keeping our priorities. Of course, those need to be the right priorities to begin with, but nonetheless keeping them is a big deal. What can happen (and it’s happened for me many times) is that we let the day dictate our priorities instead of our priorities dictating the day. Once you make a little compromise here or there, you begin to add toxicity to your heart. The good news is that if you keep them, your heart will grow in wisdom.

6. Trust The Lord With Rest. When we rest in the Lord (including taking a full day off), we are declaring our dependency on Him. We are admitting we can’t do life on our own.

7. Preach The Gospel To Yourself Each Day. This last one sums up everything above and couldn’t be more important. The Gospel isn’t just a “one time” thing and a ticket to heaven, but something we all need each and every day...really every minute.

Fr. George Ngwa



We thank the good and gracious Lord for the healing grace for our brother and friend Byard Denis McHugh seen here in Southampton General , but now back with us. – He has just these words for the community –THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIVING ROSARY GROUP is on this coming Monday – 5th August at 5.45 p.m.

PALS – August No dates as this is a Holiday Month.

Friday 16th August 2019 at 7pm ORGAN RECITAL by DAVID OLDFIELD at the Bournemouth Oratory, Sacred Heart Church.

All Parishioners and Friends are warmly invited to our Monthly Concert. Free admission, with a retiring Collection for the Oratory Redevelopment Fund. For more information please contact Sharon Head, Parish Office Administrator on 01202 411 140 or via Email: sacredheart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD UPDATE MEETING – Saturday 21st September.

You are invited to a CAFOD meeting on Saturday 21st September from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St. Edmund Campion Church in Bournemouth. If you would like to attend, please book your place by emailing portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or by phone 01252 329 385.

FR. LAURENCE – We have received a Thank You card from Fr. Laurence with the following message “Dear Fr. George and the whole Parish, many thanks for the very generous gift for my Ordination and for your hospitality when I came to say Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes; it was very special! Please be assured of my continued prayers.”

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTAS - The new rotas from 7th September until 2nd February 2020 are now drawn up and copies are on the noticeboard at the back of Church. Also individual copies are in envelopes addressed to each person on the rotas, which will be found in the post box by the Confessional. Thank you all so much for your continued support!

Situation Vacant - Diocesan Property Manager –

The Portsmouth Diocesan Trust, a Registered Charity, has an extensive portfolio of property that includes Churches, associated Church buildings, schools, houses, offices, residential and investment property. The Diocese consists of the counties of Hampshire, part of Dorset and Berkshire, South Oxfordshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. Considerable travelling will be involved. The Diocese is seeking to recruit a Diocesan Property Manager who will be a member of the Diocesan Estate Team providing an effective property management and advice service to the Parishes and Schools of the Diocese and protecting the interests of the Portsmouth Diocese. This role will include acquisitions, disposals, leases, ASTs, ensuring statutory compliance, arranging remedial works, managing consultants and contractors for maintenance projects, and other general estate management duties.

For an application form, job description and Equal Ops Monitoring form please go to the Diocesan website (www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Please return the application and Equal Opportunity Monitoring forms to:- Victoria Nightingale, HR Manager, Support & Administration Services, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth, PO1 3QA or via email to:- vnightingale@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 14th August 2019

LIVE STREAMING Figures for July - Total number of Viewers 6152. Number of Unique Viewers 1202

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS – We extend a warm Welcome to all our visitors. Please make yourself known to a member of our Congregation who will be happy to answer any queries.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 4TH AUGUST 2019

Saturday	03	Aug.	Vigil Mass of the 18 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 18 th Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Don & Agnes Campbell (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	04	Aug.	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Ray & Philpa Tiller (RIP)</i>	
Monday	05	Aug.			
Tuesday	06	Aug.	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Peter Currigan (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	07	Aug.	St. Sixtus II	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Maria Alonso</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	08	Aug.	St. Dominic	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Hicks (RIP) & blessings for Derek & Family</i>	
Friday	09	Aug.	ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>John & Ann Gorman</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	10	Aug.	ST. LAURENCE	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Neal Gillie (health & Healing)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 19 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	11	Aug.	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>The Kelleher Family (health & happiness)</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 20/21 & 27/28 July		Sat. 3 Aug.	Sun. 4 Aug.	Sat. 10 Aug.	Sun. 11 Aug.
Loose	£703.34	Reader J.Marriott	A.Veluthedathu	M.Hobbs	C.Barrett
Envelopes	£375.00	M.Newland	Annice Joseph	A.Nash	C.Barrett
		EMHC K.Dempster	S.Salinger	T.Gearey	Akhil Joseph
		B.Dempster	A.Caneda	C.d'Espagnac	M.Tanner
Thank you for your continued support		M.Newland	J.Nichols	M.Harwood	S.Salinger

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 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