

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



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C" 11TH AUGUST 2019

USE MONEY - TO WIN YOU FRIENDS

Jesus consistently invites us to perceive wealth as a means of building better relationships. In the parable of the astute servant (Lk 16:1-9), Jesus invites us to *“use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into eternal dwellings.”* In the gospel reading of today, as on several other occasions (Mt 6:2-3; Mk 10:21), Jesus invites us to “sell your possessions and give alms” (Lk 12:33). Therefore, one possible way of gathering treasures in heaven is giving away the earthly treasures to people in need.

We must understand that there are only three ways that God can give money to a Christian.

Work - God can bless our work. If a person is an employee, they may be given extra hours, a bonus, an increase in pay, or a big redundancy cheque. If the Christian is self-employed, God can bless them by developing their business. If the Christian is an investor, God can bless them by guiding them in the choice of good investments. In each case, the Christian has to be diligent and work hard to get the blessing.

Miracles - God can use a miracle to provide money. When Jesus needed money to pay the temple tax, he sent Peter to catch a fish. Peter found a coin in the fish's mouth (Matt 17:27). In this situation, God used a miracle to provide Peter and Jesus with money. This kind of miracle is relatively rare, even for Jesus. His needs were mostly provided by his supporters (Luke 8:3). Sometimes when people are in desperate situations, God does provide for his people through creative miracles. The best example is the feeding of the five thousand (Luke 9:13-17) and the feeding of the one hundred (2 Kings 4:42-44). Other examples are the widow's oil and flour used to feed Elijah (1 Kings 17:5,6) and the widow's jar of oil (2 Kings 4:3-7). There are two interesting things about these miracles. Firstly, they were to bless other people, and not for the servant of God. In two cases, the beneficiaries were widows (for whom God has a special concern). Secondly, God only provided food; he did not provide money. The woman who assisted Elisha was able to get money, but primarily to settle her debt.

Sharing - Giving and sharing are at the heart of the Christian faith (Acts 2:45). The main way that God will bless a Christian with additional money is by prompting other Christians to give him some. Sometimes he will prompt non-Christians to give to us (Exodus 12:36). However, non-Christians are not so good at hearing God speak, although they are sometimes better at giving. Sharing is a manifestation of the presence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:44,45 4:31-33).

These are the only three ways that God can bless us with extra money. The first is important, the second will be in rare emergencies and the third is the most common. This means that there is no "easy money". When praying about money problems, Christians often expect that God will answer with a creative miracle. As this is not the normal way that God works, they are often disappointed. He will more often use one of the other two methods. Paul often received financial support from other Christians.

Equality - Paul clearly stated the principle of sharing in 2 Cor 8:8-15. God has set the world up, so we have to share. All people have different abilities and needs, so wealth and income are inevitably unequal. Yet

Paul says that equality is an important goal (v13). This does not mean that all Christians should have exactly the same amount of money. Rather it means that every person should have what they need. People have different needs. Like the manna, no one should have more than they need or less than they need (v.14-15).

God has left us with a dilemma. How can we achieve this type of equality in a world that is inherently unequal? Most human philosophers have agreed with this goal, but they don't agree on how it should be achieved. Robin Hood tried to achieve it, by robbing the rich and giving to the poor. Socialists try and achieve it by taxing the rich and giving benefits to the poor. Neither of these methods has worked.

The Christian answer to the dilemma of equality in an unequal world is **sharing**. Those who have more than they need should give to those who don't have all that they need. This behaviour was modelled by Jesus, who was rich, but became poor, so that we might become rich (v. 9). Christians who are rich should give to those who are poor, so they have all they need. This is a very radical vision, but the church has not taken it seriously. If we really got hold of it, the income distribution within the Christian community would be much more even than in the world. In reality, that is not the case. The church has some who are extremely rich and others who are extremely poor; it is no different from the world.

Paul gave a similar message to Timothy - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be *generous* and *willing to share*. In this way they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation (1 Tim 6:17-19)

Perhaps there should be less teaching about giving to the church and more teaching about giving to other Christians. I certainly find it hard to hear God telling me to give money to another person, especially if they have not always handled their money wisely.

Transfer of Wealth - The great irony of our time is the fact that many Christian programs are short of money. There are many prophecies that God is going to take the wealth of the world and give it to the church. I have my doubts about this.

The church in the west has enormous wealth. If we were to total the incomes of all the Christians in the West, it would be an enormous figure. It would far exceed the national income of the Roman Empire in Jesus' time. Likewise, if we were to add up the value of all the assets owned by Christians in the western world, it would be a huge value, immensely larger than the wealth of Solomon. The assets of the church itself are also immense. The modern church is far richer than the early church. Applying the Parable of the Talents, Jesus has given us hundreds of talents compared to the one given to the early church. Yet the early church has done far more with its one talent, than we have done with our hundreds.

Unless we learn the power of sharing, it is unlikely that God will take the wealth of the world and give it to the church. He could not trust us. More likely he is thinking that it would be better if we had less wealth, so we would be distracted by it. He is more likely to take some wealth off us and give it to Christians in the third world, who really do need it.

As a Christian, you should give money to help those less fortunate than yourself. Jesus said, "give to the poor." There is probably more we could be doing along those lines, for God will always provide for you all the things that we need. Jesus tells His disciples to do these things with respect to the giving of money and everything else that we own, as well. A Christian should give to be in the will of God, and show that he or she has been taken hold of by the spirit of the Gospel because Jesus tells us to give money to the poor, to those in need, those less fortunate than ourselves. He tells His disciples that not only should they give their money, but everything else they own, as well.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE MADE THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN THE LAST 2 YEARS It is lovely to see some of you becoming altar servers and attending Mass. Don't be shy if you want to be a server, just go round to the Sacristy and tell someone and they will kit you out and tell you what to do. Or you can come and tell me as I am usually around on a Sunday.

Also most importantly, To help you remember your special day, Jill O Sullivan has kindly agreed to help us with a small project you can do. This will be on **Saturday 7th September 10.30-14.30** and will include a lunch of pizza and salad. Please sign up for this at the back of the church. There is a list on the board by the confessional. Parents please fill in the consent form provided. This is a requirement of the diocese for your protection. Thank you all and please come along as it should be fun. Love Johanna

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

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE - Friday 23rd August 11.00 a.m. to remember the New Milton residents who lost their lives when enemy bombs fell on our town during World War II. There will be a short service of remembrance starting at **11 am** that morning at the **Memorial Clock on Station Road** when we will assemble for 1-minute silence, a prayer and blessing given by Senior Pastor Tom Rothwell, and the reading out of the names of those killed.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH – 25th Anniversary Garden Party Cream Tea – Monday 26th August. The Dominican Sisters are sending out an invitation to join them at St. Dominic's Priory at Shirley Road, Lymington, SO41 8NH on Bank Holiday Monday – 26th August – at 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about their mission and their history, whilst enjoying a delicious cream tea with homemade scones and live music from Forest Folk. Entrance Fee £7 (no charge for children under 5 years). For further information, call the Priory on 01590 681 874.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT PROMS – on Wednesday 28th August 6.00 to 9.00 p.m. You are warmly invited to a special Outdoor Songs of Praise music recording at The Wight Proms. The evening will include performances from some very special guests! This event will be held in the beautiful grounds of Northwood House, seating will be informal so please bring your own chairs or rugs to sit on the grass. For further information call 0161 873 7073

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTAS - All concerned, please don't forget to pick up your envelopes in the post box at the back of Church!

KINGFISHERS (Colten) CARE HOME have handed us Vouchers for a free Cream Tea, free Lunch, a free Activity or Minibus Trip and a free Salon Appointment. They are also offering special Respite Care deals, 4 weeks for the price of 3. Please see vouchers and flyers at the back of Church.

ANNUAL LEAVE – Due to annual leave the Office will be closed on Friday 16th until Friday 30th August. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Fr. George direct. Thank you! Lizzie

WELCOME TO ALL OUR VISITORS – We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors. Please make yourselves known to one of our Parish team, who will be happy to answer any of your queries.

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 11TH AUGUST 2019

Saturday	10	Aug.	Vigil Mass of the 19 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 19 th Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	11	Aug.	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>The Kelleher Family (Health & Happiness)</i>	
Monday	12	Aug.			
Tuesday	13	Aug.	St. Pontian & St. Hippolytus	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Holy Souls</i>	
Wednesday	14	Aug.	St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jack Garahee (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Wednesday	14	Aug.	Vigil Mass of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	19.00 VIGIL MASS of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Thursday	15	Aug.	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>The Nichols Family (for Peace & Reconciliation)</i>	
Friday	16	Aug.	St. Stephen	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Naaman Haddad (RIP) & Family</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	17	Aug.	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>MPP</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Patricia Cole (recovery after illness)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	18	Aug.	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Zahurul Hoque (Healing, Comfort & Peace)</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!

		Sat. 10 Aug.	Sun. 11 Aug.	Sat. 17 Aug.	Sun. 18 Aug.
Collections 3rd/4th August		Reader M.Hobbs	C.Barrett	C.d’Espagnac	S.Ramsay
Loose	£337.52	A.Nash	C.Barrett	G.Gordelier	S.Salinger
Envelopes	£185.00	EMHC T.Gearey	Akhil Joseph	B.Dempster	M.Buckland
		C.d’Espagnac	M.Tanner	K.Dempster	J.Nichols
Thank you for your continued support		M.Harwood	S.Salinger	J.Thomas	A.Caneda

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