

# 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



**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C" 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019**

## How Should Christian React In Situations Of Conflict ?

Conflict is so inevitable for Christians that Jesus has taught us, at some length, how to manage conflict and Proverbs has whole sections on it. In today's Gospel, Jesus, too, preaches the word of God which continues to divide families, a word which, he knew, would lead ultimately to his death. The fire Jesus brings is the fire of love and the fire of hope. The disruption, division, and revolution, which Jesus and his true followers cause in society by the fire of sacrificial love and the fire of justice, are necessary to re-set what's fractured, put right what's dislocated and cleanse what's infected. In other words, the curative pain caused by Jesus' ideas and ideals is necessary for the establishment of real *shalom* of God. Even though Jesus brings a sword and causes division, he is the bringer of true and lasting peace. In pursuing his mission, Jesus brings division because some follow him, and others oppose him. We must make a decision to follow him or not, to share his "baptism" or not. This choice can result in division, even within families.

### ***Conflict is inevitable for three reasons:***

- a) Our knowledge is incomplete and imperfect so even sinless people in a perfect world will see the same situation differently through their own knowledge and perspectives.
- b) Satan engineers conflict whenever and wherever possible especially amongst Christians. Satan sets us in conflict with ourselves, God and one another.
- c). We knowingly enter into and initiate conflict with evil whenever we proclaim the gospel, preach holiness, protest against sin in our society, teach against cults or testify to Christ in the midst of a world that does not want to change.

Thus conflict is here to stay and we must learn to manage it in a Christian way until Christ returns to take us home to heaven where there will be no more crying or sickness or pain. So how can you and me manage the conflicts in our lives in a Christian way.

**1. Stand and speak before God until you get His perspective on the conflict.** Do not act or speak out of rashness, anger or a sense of injustice. Moses had to learn this, his impetuous loss of temper in conflict situations cost him 40 years in the wilderness on one occasion and the loss of entry to the Promised Land on another. However when Moses did get God's perspective on situations he was able to intercede with power and resolve even the most difficult of situations such as idol worship and religious rebellion.

**2. Remember God is bigger than the problem.** The God who created the heavens and the earth was able to deal with giants in the promised land, fortified cities and huge warriors called Goliath. Pray through the problem until you are walking by faith not sight and you see the problem as just like a small pebble in the hand of an Almighty God.

**3. Act in the opposite spirit.** If a person is stingy be generous to them. If a person is insultingly aggressive - turn the other cheek. If they impose on you do even more for them than is asked of you. Return love for hatred and prayers for persecution. This actually does work and we have seen lives totally transformed by it. It transforms both lives too! Instead of returning evil for evil and causing the problem to escalate you learn how to overcome evil with good. When combined with persistence in doing good this is a powerful life-transforming weapon against evil. It can produce deep harmony out of raging conflict.

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. {18} If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. {19} Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. {20} Therefore "If your enemy is

hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." {21}  
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:17-21)

**4. Read the book of Proverbs over and over again.** There is so much wise advice on problem solving and human nature in this one book of the Bible that it is amazing. Proverbs is an invaluable source of wisdom that has proven itself over time.

**5. Study how to say things. How something is worded is vitally important.** (Proverbs 25:11-13) A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Whatever you say should be clear, kind, true and appropriate. There is a right time and a right way to say things that is learned by practice and the study of people. Never lie, never muddle about, never forget you are speaking to a fellow human being with feelings and choose your time and place and manner with care. It can make all the difference in the world.

**6. Do not use emotional or forceful language or "legal sounding" words.** Subjugate your desire to make your point to your desire to communicate in a clear and profitable way that will bring the results you want out of the negotiation. Never threaten legal action in a secular court against a fellow believer. (1 Cor 6:1-8) Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

**7. Do not be too harsh or absolute.** (Proverbs 15:1) A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise promotes health, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone. Be gentle, reasonable, merciful pure, full of good fruits. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

**8. Act soon and keep it small.** The beginning of strife is like releasing water from a pipe. Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts. For this to be the case you may have to undergo a cultural change whereby you cease stuffing your anger down inside you until you blow up or blow over. Unless people are confronted with their wrong behaviours they most likely will not change. And we are more likely to learn from a gentle reminder than an all out blazing row which necessitates the use of all our defensive capabilities. *If you are in a church or Christian organization then institute gentle and regular correction as a part of the "corporate culture" so that it becomes an easily accepted part of life.* Do not involve others unless they need to be involved. This is the basic wisdom behind the three stage process in Matthew 18 and Jesus' exhortation on a number of occasions to "go to your brother in private, if he listens to you then you have won him". Once others are involved it is much harder to change your mind without losing face. Also facts tend to be altered a little to garner support.

**9. Avoid angry and easily disturbed people. If possible keep them out of the process.** An angry man stirs up strife and a furious man abounds in transgression. A wrathful man stirs up strife, But he who is slow to anger allays contention. (Proverbs 15:18 NKJV)

**10. Pay attention to the moral character of the people involved and only rely on humble people of integrity and faithfulness to help you in the peacemaking process.** Many who wish to become involved in conflict resolutions are unsuitable because they are gossips, or unreliable in some other way. A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

**11. Do not forget that in Christian circles many conflicts come from within the Church and its members.** In such cases we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual powers. The person who needs to be driven out may be Satan himself. Thus we need to look beyond personalities to the spiritual forces which are taking advantage of our weaknesses and preconceptions just as Satan does in many conflict situations. When this happens good people can be used for bad purposes. Thus we need to be spiritually alert and keen to maintain the bond of peace. Good teaching and prayer in the Spirit on all occasions and holy living will give us an impenetrable armour against such schemes. (Eph 6:10-21)

**12. Be strong and courageous on the basis of God's word.** Before Joshua took on the military conquest of Palestine he was told. "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be

dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:8-9 NKJV). Godly courage solves many giant sized problems.

Fr. George Ngwa

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garden Party Cream Tea – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 – 26<sup>th</sup> August – at 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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

**CAFOD UPDATE MEETING – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2.30 – 4.30 p.m.** You are invited to a CAFOD update Meeting on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September at St. Edmund Campion Church, 481 Castle Lane West, Bournemouth BH8 9TN. We hope to have a speaker from CAFOD head office, who has visited our projects overseas and will tell you how your donations are making a difference to people's lives. Please book your place so that we have an idea of how many people are coming. Email [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) or phone 01252 329 385.

**THE HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE – 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019 –** Walk in the Footsteps of Christ. Pilgrimage package includes return flights from Heathrow, 4 nights in Bethlehem, 1 night in Jericho, 2 nights in Galilee, breakfast & dinner daily, transportation throughout, local guides, full religious programme, 100% financial protection (ATOL protected). Price £1,195, Single Supplement £350, Deposit £500. To book call Jonathan on 0800 689 4792 or book on line at [www.aglowpilgrimages.com](http://www.aglowpilgrimages.com).

**DEEPEN YOUR FAITH JOURNEY –** Reflect on your life and faith. Would you like to explore ways of praying, retreats and quiet days, guided prayer weeks, open door retreats, spiritual accompaniment and study material? Deepen your personal relationship with God. Explore different ways of praying. Discover God's presence in your life. Integrate your spirituality with your daily life. Find a Spiritual Director. For more information visit [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/spirituality](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/spirituality) or phone 07387 645 699 or email: [spirituality@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:spirituality@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

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

**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.

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019**

Saturday	17	Aug.	Vigil Mass of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Patricia Cole (Recovery after illness)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	18	Aug.	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Zahurul Hoque (for healing, comfort &amp; peace)</i>	
Monday	19	Aug.			
Tuesday	20	Aug.	St. Bernard	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary &amp; Jack Loftus (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	21	Aug.	St. Pius X	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Peggy Hicks (RIP), Derek &amp; Family</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	22	Aug.	The Queenship of Mary	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>John &amp; Ann Gorman</i>	
Friday	23	Aug.	St. Rosa of Lima	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	24	Aug.	<b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW</b>	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>MPP</i> 13.00 Wedding Tina Donoghue & Phiip Woods	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Czeslawa Stopyra</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	25	Aug.	<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Holy Souls</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 10/11 Aug.		Sat. 17 Aug.	Sun. 18 Aug.	Sat. 24 Aug.	Sun. 25 Aug.
Loose	£394.01	<b>Reader</b> C.d’Espagnac	S.Ramsay	D.McCourts	P.Caffyn
Envelopes	£278.15	G.Gordelier	S.Salinger	T.Gearey	P.Caffyn
		<b>EMHC</b> B.Dempster	M.Buckland	M.Harwood	Joseph Kurian
		K.Dempster	J.Nichols	F.Fallon	Akhil Joseph
		J.Thomas	A.Caneda	M.Newland	M.Tanner

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) emergency mobile: **07475753040**

**Parish office: 01425 614968** Hall Booking via Parish Office

[lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Minister: Tony Harwood** Tel: **01425 511 952** or email [hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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