

# 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



**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C" 8TH SEPTEMBER  
2019**

## 'God Loves You; Rest in His Embrace'

During his first full day in Maputo - Mozambique, Pope Francis presiding over an interreligious meeting attended by Christians, Muslims, Hindus and thousands of young people at the Maxaquene Pavillion; *Warns Against Resignation & Anxiety, Calling Them 'Great Enemies of Life'*. These people performed before him songs and dances on the theme of reconciliation, especially, and with much enthusiasm. Below is the Holy Fathers speech on the occasion.

Thank you very much for your words of welcome. I thank all of you for your fine artistic performances.

You thanked me for having taken time to be with you. But what could be more important than for a shepherd than to be with his flock? What is more important for us pastors than to meet with our young people? You are important! You need to know this. You need to believe it. You are important! Because not only are you the future of Mozambique, or of the Church and of humanity. You are their present! In everything that you are and do, you are even now contributing to this present by offering the best of yourselves today. Without your enthusiasm, your songs, your *joie de vivre*, what would this land be like? Watching you sing, laugh and dance amid all your difficulties is – as you were just telling us – the best sign that you, young people, are the joy of this land, the joy of our time.

This *joie de vivre* is what distinguishes you. We can see it here here! A shared and celebrated joy that reconciles is the best antidote to all those who want to create dissension, division and conflict. How much that *joie de vivre* of yours is needed in some parts of our world!

I thank the members of different religious confessions who have joined us, and those who do not belong to any particular religious tradition. Thank you for encouraging one another to live and celebrate today the challenge of peace as the family that we are. You are experiencing that all of us are necessary: with our differences, we are all necessary. Together, you are the beating heart of this people and all of you have a fundamental role to play in one great creative project: to write a new page of history, a page full of hope, peace and reconciliation. Do you want to write this page?

You asked me two questions, which in my mind are related. One of them was: "How do we make young people's dreams come true?" The other was: "How do we get young people involved in the problems that plague the country?" Today you yourselves showed us the way. You gave us the answer to these questions.

You expressed yourselves with art and music, and all the cultural treasures that you displayed with such pride. You expressed some of your dreams and realities. In all of this, we see a variety of ways to bring the world together and to look to the horizon: with eyes ever full of hope, full of the future, full of dreams. Like adults, young people walk on two feet. But unlike adults, who keep their feet parallel, you always have one foot in front of the other, ready to set out, to take off. You have great strength and you are able to look ahead with immense hope. You are a promise of life, and you have a tenacity (cf. *Christus Vivit*, 139) that you must never lose or let anyone steal from you.

How do you make your dreams come true? How do you help to solve your country's problems? My words to you are these. Do not let yourselves be robbed of joy. Keep singing and expressing yourselves in fidelity to all the goodness that you have learned from your traditions. Let no one rob you of your joy! I told you that there are many ways to look at the horizon, our world, the present and the future. But be on guard against two attitudes that kill dreams and hope. The attitudes of resignation and anxiety. These are great enemies of life, because they usually propel us along an easy but self-defeating path, and the toll they take is high indeed... We pay with our happiness and even with our lives. How many empty promises of happiness end up ruining lives! Surely you know friends or acquaintances – or have even experienced it yourselves – that in difficult and painful times, when everything seems to be falling apart, it is easy to give up. You have to be very careful, because this attitude “makes you take the wrong road. When everything seems to be standing still and stagnant, when our personal issues trouble us, and social problems do not meet with the right responses, it does no good to give up” (ibid., 141).

I know most of you are enthused about football. I remember a great player from these lands who learned not to give up: Eusébio da Silva, the Black Panther. He began his athletic career in this city. The severe economic hardships of his family and the premature death of his father did not prevent him from dreaming; his passion for football made him persevere, keep dreaming and moving forward. He managed to score seventy-seven goals for Maxaquene! Despite having plenty of reasons to give up...

His dream and his desire to play kept him going, but equally important was finding someone to play with. You know that in a team not everyone is the same; they don't all do the same things or think the same way. Each player has his own gifts. We can see and appreciate this even in this meeting of ours. We come from different traditions and we may even speak different languages, but this has not stopped us from being here together as a group.

Much suffering has been and still is caused because some people feel entitled to determine who can “play” and who should sit “on the bench”. Such people spend their lives dividing and separating. Today, young friends, you are giving an example and a witness to how we should act. You asked me: “How can we do something for our country?” By doing just as you are doing now, by staying together despite everything that can divide you, by always looking for a chance to realize your dreams for a better country. But always together. It is essential never to forget that “social enmity... is destructive. Families are destroyed by enmity. Countries are destroyed by enmity. The world is destroyed by enmity. And the greatest enmity of all is war. Today we see that the world is destroying itself by war... So find ways of building social friendship. It is not easy; it always means having to give something up and to negotiate, but if we do it for the sake of helping others, we can have the magnificent experience of setting our differences aside and working together for something greater. If, as a result of our own simple and at times costly efforts, we can find points of agreement amid conflict, build bridges and make peace for the benefit of all, then we will experience the miracle of the culture of encounter” (ibid., 169).

An old proverb says: “If you want to get somewhere in a hurry, walk alone; if you want to go far, walk with others”. We need always to dream together, as you are doing today. Dream with others, never against others. Keep dreaming the way you dreamed and prepared for this meeting: all together and without barriers. This is part of Mozambique's “new page of history”.

Playing as a team makes us see that the enemy of dreams and commitment is not just giving up but also anxiety. This “anxiety can work against us by making us give up whenever we do not see instant results. Our best dreams are only attained through hope, patience and commitment, and not in haste. At the same time, we should not be hesitant, afraid to take chances or make mistakes” (ibid., 142). The most beautiful things take shape over time, and if something doesn't work out at first, don't be afraid to keep trying. Don't be afraid to make mistakes! We can make a thousand mistakes, but we

must never fall into the trap of giving up because things did not go well at first. The worst mistake would be to let worrying make you abandon your dreams of a better country.

For example, you have before your eyes that beautiful testimony given by Maria Mutola, who learned to persevere, to keep trying, even though she did not attain the goal of a gold medal in her first three Olympic Games. Then, on her fourth attempt, this 800-metre athlete won the gold medal at the Sydney Olympics. Her efforts did not make her self-absorbed; her nine world titles did not let her forget her people, her roots: she continued to look out for the needy children of Mozambique. We see how sport teaches us to persevere in our dreams! ..... (*To be continued*)

**Fr. George Ngwa**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ROSARY IN THE GROTTA** will be said at 10.30 a.m. on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**, weather permitting (otherwise in Church). There is a Group from the Parish leaving at 11.00 a.m. to go on a Pilgrimage to Italy.

**PALS - MONTHLY OUTING Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September.** Anyone in our Parish living alone, or if commitments

**CLERGY RETREAT – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019.** Fr. George will be attending a Clergy Retreat in Douai Abbey in Upper Woolhampton and unfortunately, therefore, there will be no Masses held between Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October inclusive.

**EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH – OCTOBER 2019** Pope Francis has called the whole Church to observe an Extraordinary Month of Mission (EMM) this October. It is, in the Holy Father's words "a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon and recommit ourselves to Missio ad Gentes; that most important element of mission that focuses on bringing the Gospel to those who have not yet heard it".

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020** A reminder that Enrolment is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 p.m. in the Hall. Please can all parents attend and bring their child's Baptism Certificate. Thank You!

**SAFEGUARDING – A message from our Safeguarding Minister – Tony Harwood.** Volunteers who visit the sick and housebound must have a current DBS and have attended a Vulnerable Adult Course arranged by the Diocese. If asked to take Holy Communion to a new person, please inform Fr. George, who will carry out the first visit. Volunteers who have contact with children and run courses or outings must have a current DBS and have attended a Child Protection course. Additionally, strict guidelines exist on the number of adults to children regarding any Liturgy Instruction/First Holy Communion/Confirmation classes. Ideally a parent will accompany the child, otherwise a named person must be present. Providing the Leader of the Group has the appropriate documentation, additional help can be sought from a known parishioner, who will act under the supervision of the Leader. For more information please contact Tony on 01425 511 952. (Copies of the Training Calendar for September and October 2019 can be found at the back of Church.)

**LOST PROPERTY** There are various receptacles in the Hall, left from parties, still awaiting collection. In Church, the box on the bookcase at the back, is overflowing. Please have a look and take away anything belonging to you. Thank you!

**VOLUNTEER COUNTERS URGENTLY NEEDED .** The Parish urgently needs new volunteer counters to replace those no longer able, to help count the weekly collections. This takes about an hour or so, usually on Mondays in the Presbytery, starting at 10.00hrs. There is a rota which should mean counters are only required to once every four weeks. Counters sort and count notes and coins received, and record takings for all the different collections. Somebody from each counting group will be asked to deposit the takings into the bank deposit point. For further information speak to Susie Ramsay or Andy Thomas, both usually available after Mass in the hall on Sundays. If you can help please let one of us know, or leave your details (name and contact phone) with Lizzie in the office and someone will call you to discuss. Many thanks.

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

Saturday	07	Aug.	Vigil Mass of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Roy Fittsell (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	08	Sept.	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Ray &amp; Philpa Tiller (RIP)</i>	
Monday	09	Sept.		11.30 Requiem Mass for <b>John Stewart McPhee</b>	
Tuesday	10	Sept.	Tuesday of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>MPP</i>	
Wednesday	11	Sept.	Wednesday of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Harry Ferrier - Thanksgiving</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	12	Sept.	The Most Holy Name of Mary	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Pierrot d’Espagnac (RIP)</i>	
Friday	13	Sept.	St. John Chrysostom	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Neal Gillie (Health &amp; Healing)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	14	Sept.	<b>THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Kees Keyzer (RIP)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Johanna Mountevans (for recovery)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	15	Sept.	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 Holy Mass. – <i>Muriel Thomas (Birthday Anniversary – 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 30 Aug/1 Sept.		Sat. 07 Sept.	Sun.8 Sep.	Sat.14 Sep.	Sun.15 Sep.
Loose	£387.50	<b>Reader</b> A,Nash	C.Barrett	B.Dempster	P.Caffyn
Envelopes	£169.80	C.d’Espagnac	S.Ramsay	K.Dempster	P.Caffyn
		<b>EMHC</b> T.Gearey	A.Caneda	M.Harwood	M.Tanner
		B.Dempster	J. Kurian	J.Thomas	AkhilJoseph
		K.Dempster	M.Tanner	C.d’Espagnac	J.Nichols

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September –2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Catholic Education Service**  
**Live Streaming Stats. for August – No. of Viewers 8652 No. of Unique Viewers 1334**

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**  
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**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 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