

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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C"
22ND SEPTEMBER 2019

SHOULD I PRAY FOR EVERYONE ?

We have all been through difficult times and situations caused by people we have never met or offended; such as a careless road accident resulting in body mutilation or the death of a loved one or have been robbed of all our savings by a scammer, betrayal by a trusted friend, etc. etc.

Perhaps you spent many sleepless nights agonizing over the many terrorist attacks both in our Country and abroad and for the many new widows and fatherless and motherless. Those attacks were indeed tragic. Did you ever in such circumstances feel like praying for them? Over the years, various people in the church have used verses from the Bible to teach that we are not to pray for the world or the people of this kind. Several correct foundational beliefs have served to foster this conclusion.

Briefly, we are not of this world, and God's Kingdom—our Kingdom—is not of this world (John 18:36). We cannot and must not love this world, or else the love of the Father cannot be in us (I John 2:15-18). We are ambassadors for the Kingdom of God and our primary citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), not with any of the sinful nations of this world. Besides, God does not hear the prayers of sinners they say. They are wrong in the interpretation of Scriptures.

St. Paul: First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people 1 Timothy 2:1

Paul says that “requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people.” One of the things we can discern about prayer from this verse is that all people need prayer. There is not one person we know that doesn't need constant grace from God and, therefore, our prayers.

Jesus' Example: Most dramatic of all are the examples and admonitions of our Master and Teacher, Jesus Christ. For instance, as He walks up to Jerusalem, instead of thinking of His own impending suffering and death, He thinks of His countrymen: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!" (Luke 13:34). If we are supposed to pray only for converted brethren but not for our unconverted countrymen, how can we follow Jesus' many other examples and commands about this topic? For example, Matthew 5:44-45, 48:

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and *pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you*, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. . . . Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Praying for people outside the church is part of what defines us as children of our Father in heaven! Those who hate us and spitefully use us are certainly not fellow church members or converted believers, yet our Saviour commands us to pray for them. In fact, how many of those whom Jesus prayed for and healed were "in the church" or had God's Spirit? Probably none of them! How many were worldly sinners? Certainly most of them, maybe even all of them!

Later, while hanging on the cross, Jesus practices perfectly what He preaches, once more praying for his persecutors: "*Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do*" (Luke 23:34). *What clearer example could we have?*

Although Jesus did not participate at all in any of the world's evils, He lived His life among the people. As the son of a carpenter, He interacted with the public constantly. He never shied away from the people of the world. He enjoyed people, weddings, and parties enough to be accused—falsely, of course—of being "a glutton and a drunkard." He felt comfortable accepting an invitation to dinner at the house of a Pharisee—He was even bold enough to invite Himself to dinner at the home of Zacchaeus, an ill-reputed tax collector.

Praying Churches Pray for Everyone

First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people 1 Timothy 2:1

Paul says that "requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people." One of the things we can discern about prayer from this verse is that all people need prayer. There is not one person we know that doesn't need constant grace from God and, therefore, our prayers. Sadly, our prayers tend to only focus on our friends, family, and maybe our church. We commonly forget that we are part of a larger body of Christ and ultimately part of an entire world of people.

In his letter to the Ephesians 6:18, Paul said this about prayer: "*With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and requests for all the saints.*" Because the church is constantly under attack from the evil one (cf. Eph 6:10-17), we, as Christians, should constantly pray for local churches, the church in nations, and the universal church. People need our prayers, and the reality is because we are all part of Christ's body, they always affect us, as we affect them. The parts of the body are attached, and therefore dependent upon one another; this should encourage us to continually pray for other churches to grow in the grace of God.

1. We can pray for all people generally. Obviously, we don't know all people; however, we can pray generally for the salvation of the lost. God desires for all to be saved and prayer for the lost pleases him. We can pray for the church to be strengthened, encouraged, and protected and for it to influence nations as it walks in holiness and preaches the gospel. To pray for all people, we can simply pray generally.

2. We can pray for all people specifically. As we learn about the needs of individuals, groups of people, and churches, we then can pray specifically. We can begin by asking for their prayer requests so our prayers can be more informed. In addition, the News is a tremendous source of information about the world. We can be sure that God cares about every issue on our local/world news station. This would have been a tremendous challenge to the Christians living in Ephesus. At this time, Nero was ruling in Rome. He spear-headed a wave of persecution against Christians. He would light Christians on fire in order to brighten his garden. He would put slabs of meat on Christians in the amphitheatre and send the lions after them for sport.

However, Paul does not tell these Christians to rebel, protest, or fight for their rights. He calls them to pray for their authorities. Romans 13:1 says this about our authorities: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except by God's appointment, and the authorities that exist have been instituted by God." All authorities, even ungodly ones, are established by God. They are God's servants to reward the good and punish the bad (Rom 13:3-4). And because of this, Christians must constantly intercede for them, especially those who are evil. We must remember: Our God is sovereign: he can change the hearts of even the most ruthless rulers and hardened sinners.

Why should we pray for all authorities including government leaders? St. Paul says we should pray for everyone and specifically for authorities so "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. Such prayer for all is good and welcomed before God our Saviour" By praying for our leaders, it provides protection for Christians—allowing them to live holy and godly lives in society. Therefore, when the church is not praying for its leaders, it opens the door for

difficult circumstances in society and unrest in the hearts and minds of believers. These difficult circumstances, at times, lead to Christians being persecuted. In a sense, believers are praying to be left alone to quietly practice their faith. In addition, we should pray because it is morally good and pleasing to God. When believers lift up their leaders, God looks down upon them with pleasure. This should motivate believers to pray often for their leaders.

Prayer for Spiritual Leaders: As we consider Paul's call to pray for all authorities, we must remember to pray specifically for our pastors and other spiritual leaders. They need our prayers as they are the target of many assaults of satan. When we neglect praying for them, it affects not only them but the entire church community negatively. Furthermore, praying for our leaders delivers us from a critical spirit. We are less likely to throw stones at somebody we constantly pray for. Our leaders need this type of support.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLERGY RETREAT – Monday 30th September to Friday 4th 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 1st and Friday 4th October inclusive.***

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA Talk on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 at 7.00 p.m. On Wednesday 2nd October there is a CHEESE AND WINE EVENING at HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH, HIGHCLIFFE. Please see details and contact number on the Noticeboard at the back of Church.

CHURCH FLOWERS INTRODUCTORY SESSION - 30 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 2.30 P M IN THE HALL

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 4th October No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need to thrive. This Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to fast, pray and give, so we can extend the hand of friendship to the world's poorest people. Fabiano's village in rural Uganda has been devastated by drought. Every day, children would trek miles for water, risking their education – and safety. Donations from parishioners across England and Wales helped install a solar powered water pump in the village. Now Fabiano and his friends can collect water quickly and safely. On ***Family Fast Day***, CAFOD invites us to eat a simple meal for lunch or dinner and give the money we save to help children like Fabiano. Please collect a Fast Day envelope from church this week and give generously or you can donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/fastday

EXTRA ORDINARY MONTH OF MISSION OCTOBER 2019 :As you have already heard from our Bishop Philip, Holy Father Pope Francis declared October 2019 ,being the Extra Ordinary Month of Mission (EMM) to commemorate Pope Benedict XV's apostolic letter *Maximum illud* issued on 30 November 1919 and this has " the aim of fostering an increased awareness of the Missio ad Gentes and taking up again with renewed fervor the missionary transformation of the church's life and pastoral activity, and to help their communities grow in missionary and evangelizing zeal."As an act of Solidarity with whole Church, on **Mission Sunday, 20th October 2019**, 2pm Bishop Philip invites you to join him to celebrate Mission Sunday Mass at St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, followed by Refreshments in the Discovery Centre.

Further Contact : Fr.Innaiah Maddineni , Portsmouth Diocesan Director, Missio , Tel:023 9237 6151 , imaddineni@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

NB *At the back of Church there are copies of the October issue of Magnificat which, in addition to the regular features, includes a mission-themed meditation, a profile of a missionary saint and a prayer intention for the mission. Price £4.99.*

COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES FOR THE GROTTO If you would like to sponsor one of the 10 proposed benches, in memory of a loved one, please complete the order form available at the back of the church and submit it in an envelope to: 'The Secretary', Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Office, 15 Mount Avenue or come to the Office in person and speak to Lizzie. Orders will be taken on a first-come basis. The cost of a bench including commemorative plaque with inscription amounts to approximately £200.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 22ND SEPTEMBER 2019

Saturday	21	Sept.	Vigil Mass of the 25 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 25 th Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Thomas Merifield (Blessing & birthday wishes)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	22	Sept.	Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Vera Schwarb (RIP – First Anniversary)</i>	
Monday	23	Sept.	St. Pio of Pietrelcina		
Tuesday	24	Sept.	Our Lady of Walsingham	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	25	Sept.	Wednesday of the 25 th Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Eduardo & Maura Brion (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	26	Sept.	St. Cosmas & St.Damian	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Irena Oleksik (RIP)</i>	
Friday	27	Sept.	St. Vincent de Paul	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Living Rosary</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	28	Sept.	St. Wenceslaus	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Eric Robb (RIP)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - <i>Teresa Oliver (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	29	Sept.	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 Holy Mass. – Jan Oleksik (70 th Birthday)	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 14/15 Sept.		Sat. 21 Sep.	Sun.22 Sep.	Sat.28 Sep.	Sun.29 Sep.
Loose	£389.84	Reader J.Marriott	A.Veluthedathu	T.Gearey	S.Salinger
Envelopes	£171.00	G.Gordelier	Annicc Joseph	M.Newland	S.Ramsay
Thank you for your continued support		EMHC F.Fallon	J.Nichols	K.Dempster	A.Caneda
		M.Newland	S.Salinger	C.d’Espagnac	Joseph Kurian
		T.Gearey	M.Buckland	B.Dempster	M.Tanner

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: 07475753040

Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office

ololnewmilton@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 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