

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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C"
6TH OCTOBER 2019**

How Can I Grow My Faith Like A Mustard Seed ? And

'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS' - 2002 The Year Of The Word of God .

Whether you're a gardener or not, you've probably planted seeds at some point in your life. Maybe as a school project when you were a child or in your yard as an adult. It's fascinating to see the first tender sprouts poke through the soil and reach for the sun. The visible daily growth is magical to watch until, at last, the fruit is ready to be harvested or the flower blooms in brilliant colour. Jesus' parable of the mustard seed uses one of the most extreme examples of growth – the mustard seed. The smallest of seeds that becomes the largest of garden plants. Without proper care and attention, the seedling will fade away. But with proper care, the reward is a hearty, thriving plant that sustains life and becomes a beautiful paradise for wildlife. So too is the growth of our faith. It starts as a tiny idea, a concept we are taught as children, or maybe even in adulthood. It's an abstract theory. Nothing we can touch or feel or smell.

How do we nurture it? Are we able to impact its growth?

The seed needs care and attention. It needs water. It needs sunlight. It needs to be weeded and fed.

So how do we nurture our tiny seed of faith into a beautiful, life-sustaining plant that leads us to the Father?

Caring is a choice - We choose what friends will get a piece of our free time. We choose whether we try hard at our job. We choose all the priorities in our lives. Our walk with God is also a choice. It's a decision we make as to whether we care enough to make the effort it takes to get to know Him and nurture a relationship with Him. The choice is ours. No one can force or convince us if we don't care enough to take the first step, to put that seed in the soil. How much do you care to get to know God?

Commitment - A relationship can't grow without commitment – without dedicated time and effort.

How do we give God our attention, especially when our faith is still a seedling that hasn't reached the light of day yet? Make a choice to walk with God. That means treating Him as a friend, a mentor, a coach, a parent. Talk to Him often. Ask Him to help you. Thank Him. See His majesty in everyday life – in sunrises and sunsets, in daily miracles of birth and the stunning wonders in our oceans. See the beauty that surrounds us and thank Him for it. Giving God your daily mindfulness will help you get to know Him and your seedling will start reaching up to the sun.

Water - Water sustains life. *How do you water your faith?*

Listen.

Listen to God. He normally speaks very quietly and sometimes just gives a gentle nudge. Sometimes He sends messages through the actions of people, sometimes He will speak directly

to your heart with no words. It can be hard to discern God's messages, but one thing is certain. You have to listen closely. Pay attention and He will make Himself known to you.

Study and Learn.

Read the Bible. Go to Bible study. Read books by notable Christians. Learn about Christianity and its history. People think that having faith is only about "hope" but there is a *logical* foundation for Christianity that's based on near-fact (since it cannot be proven conclusively by scientists). My favourite books are those in which non-Christians set out to disprove Christianity and end up concluding that there is no other possibility than Christianity. Even though I have great faith, I find comforting satisfaction in these stories.

Sunshine

Oh, the beautiful warmth of sunlight! How do we add sunshine to our journey of faith? Sunlight represents the positive influences we choose. The like-minded Christians that we either know personally, or get to know in our Bible study, or meet in Church. Even social media can help us mingle within Christian groups. Hold tight to the positive influences you find. Their sunlight will strengthen your stem and deepen your roots.

Weed

Don't let your sprouting plant get choked out by weeds! Weeds are darkness, such as doubt and the negative influences in our life. When in doubt, seek out more sunshine. Find a mentor who can help you when you're struggling, a trusted friend, or your pastor. Weed out the negative influences, whether they are doubters who criticize you or fellow Christians who aren't walking the talk.

Weeds can be anywhere. Ask God to help you discern whether you are faced with a weed or not. The beautiful part of weeding is that one little tug will destroy the weed and you'll have nothing stopping your faith from growing again.

Feed - How do you feed your plant to sustain its growth?

Pray - Prayer is the Miracle that will make your faith to grow. Make praying a habit. Pray wholeheartedly and throughout the day. Plan at least one dedicated time each day for quiet reflection and a prayerful conversation with God. But even as you're rushing through your hectic day, you can also find many opportunities for an impromptu 'Thank you' for the countless blessings you will discover in your life, or to whisper short prayers for those who need it, such as for your sick co-worker or people struggling in a natural disaster. Maybe you'll find the easiest place to pray is in church. Maybe it's when you're lying quietly in bed. Make time for prayer and be sure it includes thanksgiving for the blessings you do have. Prayer will bring your heart closer to God. The more you know Him, the stronger your faith will become. Nurture your faith and the reward will be great, as Jesus promised. Before you know it, your tiny mustard seed will have flourished into a big beautiful bush, giving you a glimpse of the majesty and beauty that awaits us for all eternity.

'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS' - 2020 The Year Of The Word .

2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the publication of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation '*Verbum Domini*' (The Word of God). The document examined the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.

To mark the anniversary the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales have designated 2020 as a Year of the Word entitled "**The God Who Speaks**".

How does the Word of God (the Bible) affect your life?

As part of the preparations for our 2020 Initiative – *The God who Speaks: The Year of the Word*, the bishops are inviting Catholics in England & Wales to take part in a survey on how you use the Bible

in your life. The survey is completely anonymous and will be used to shape the initiative and the momentum beyond 2020.

At the end of 2020 the Bishops Conference will conduct an identical survey and compare the data.

Therefore, 2020 will be a year of **celebrating, living and sharing** God's word, through a range of events, activities and resources, available across the Dioceses of England and Wales.

We are invited to listen afresh to the word of God as did Our Blessed Lady at the Annunciation, to encounter anew the presence of that word, and to proclaim it afresh in the Church and the World. ***More on this topic subsequently.***

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXTRAORDINARY 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

LIVING ROSARY - Please Note:- The Living Rosary is on Monday 7th of October at 5.45 pm.

PRISONERS` SUNDAY – 13th October - An appeal has been received from His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, as President of the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT), who invites us to join with him in supporting this year`s Prisoners` Sunday on 13th October. Envelopes and literature can be found at the back of Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Please pray for all our First Holy Communion candidates. Please invoke the Holy Spirit to help them and especially their families. May they have His help to keep strong in the commitment, since Baptism, to care and foster the spiritual welfare of these children of God and use this as an opportunity to deepen their own faith.

COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES FOR THE GROTTA 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.

WANTED - MORE YOUNG CHOIR MEMBERS, BOYS AND GIRLS - bring your friends to join. There is only one Practice per month, to go through the month's hymns etc. This is on the first Friday after Mass.

If at school - come a little earlier for Sunday Mass.

Looking forward to seeing you - just come up the stairs, you are very welcome to help us increase the singing during Sunday Mass.**Jane Gow**

STATISTICS FOR MISSION – OCTOBER COUNT. Would Counters please ensure that all Mass counts are completed in October so that I can submit the total Mass figures for October, required for Statistics for Mission. Many thanks!
Lizzie

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 6TH OCTOBER 2019

Saturday	05	Oct.	Vigil Mass of the 27 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 27 th Week in Ordinary Time – Valerie Kelleher (80 th Birthday)	
Sunday	06	Oct.	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass – Ola Kaminska (Birthday)	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Monday	07	Oct.	Our Lady of the Rosary		
Tuesday	08	Oct.	Tuesday of the 27 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - Louis d’Espagnac (Birthday)	
Wednesday	09	Oct.	Blessed John Henry Newman	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – Katie Loftus & Jacob Holland (4 th Wedding Anniversary)	Confession after Mass
Thursday	10	Oct.	St. Paulinus of York	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – HOLY SOULS	
Friday	11	Oct.	St. John XXIII	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass - MPP	Confession after Mass
Saturday	12	Oct.	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Andy Smith (RIP)	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	13	Oct.	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 Holy Mass. – Claudia Ferrier (16 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 28/29 Sept.		Sat.05 Oct.	Sun.06 Oct.	Sat.12 Oct.	Sun.13 Oct.
Loose	£405.71	Reader M.Hobbs	C.Barrett	C.d’Espagnac	S.Ramsay
Envelopes	£202.11	A.Nash	C.Barrett	J.Marriott	S.Salinger
		EMHC J.Thomas	M.Buckland	B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian
		M.Harwood	Akhil Joseph	K.Dempster	M.Tanner
Thank you for your continued support		M.Newland	J.Nichols	T.Gearey	A.Caneda

Live Streaming Figures for September – No. of Viewers 7980 No. of Unique Viewers 1126

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