

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 **07.30am – 4.00pm**



THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "C" 24TH NOVEMBER 2019

WHO ARE THE HOLY SOULS ...CONT/D

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY.

In last week's Newsletter, I gave you 12 keys to help rescue the Holy Souls in purgatory, today I give you the remainder:-

13. Visit a cemetery: Pray over the graves of your departed loved ones, or visit a random graveyard and pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. Simply doing this gains a partial indulgence for those in purgatory.* While you're there, sprinkle holy water on the graves. If you make this visit during the first eight days of the month dedicated to the Holy Souls (November 1-8) you can gain a plenary indulgence applicable to the souls in purgatory.

14. Eucharistic Adoration: visit the Blessed Sacrament to make acts of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on behalf of those in purgatory.

15. Sacrifices: practice small acts of self-denial throughout your day and offer these penances up for the poor souls.

16. Pray the Office of the Dead.

17. Ask for the intercession of saints who were known to be great friends of the Holy Souls during their lifetime to join you in prayer for the faithful departed: St. Nicholas of Tolentino, St. Gertrude the Great, St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Padre Pio, St. Philip Neri, St. John Macías, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Joseph, Our Lady, and others.

18. Special prayers: Throughout your day, offer up short and spontaneous prayers (ejaculatory prayers) for the holy souls. Consider buying purgatory books with more prayers and special devotions for the Holy Souls.

19. Repent of your offenses against God and go to confession: Confessing your own sins makes your prayers for souls of others more effective.

20. Spread devotion to the Holy Souls: Make others aware of the great need these suffering souls have for our prayers.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING.

On the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar, today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, more commonly known as the Feast of Christ the King.

The last Sunday of the liturgical year (next week is Advent!), this feast reminds us that whatever earth powers may do or ask of us, Christ is the true king that should reign in our hearts.

Pope Pius XI, and the rest of the Christian world, witnessed the rise of non-Christian (or nominally Christian) dictatorships throughout Europe, and saw Catholics being persuaded by these earthly leaders. These dictators also often attempted to assert authority over the Church. Just as the Feast of *Corpus Christi* was instituted when devotion to the Eucharist was at a low point, *the Feast of Christ the King* was instituted during a time when respect for Christ and the Church was waning, when the feast was needed most.

Pope Pius XI, hoped the institution of the feast would have various effects. They were:

1. That nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, and immunity from the state (*Quas Primas*, 31).

2. *That leaders and nations would see that they are bound to give respect to Christ (Quas Primas, 32).*
3. *That the faithful would gain strength and courage from the celebration of the feast, as we are reminded that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills, and bodies (Quas Primas, 33).*

Today, the same distrust of authority exists, although the problem has gotten worse. Individualism has been embraced to such an extreme, that for many, the only authority is the individual self. The idea of Christ as ruler is rejected in such a strongly individualistic system. Also, many balk at the idea of kings and queens, believing them to be antiquated and possibly oppressive. Some even reject the titles of "lord" and "king" for Christ because they believe that such titles are borrowed from oppressive systems of government. However true these statements might be (some kings have been oppressive), these individuals miss the point: Christ's kingship is one of *humility and service*. Jesus said:

You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:42-45). And

Pilate said to Jesus, "*Are you the King of the Jews?*"... *Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth (John 18:33b, 36-37).*

Thus, Jesus knew the oppressive nature of secular kings, and in contrast to them, he connected his role as king to humble service, and commanded his followers to be servants as well. In other passages of Scripture, his kingdom is tied to his suffering and death. While Christ is coming to judge the nations, his teachings spell out a kingdom of justice and judgment balanced with radical love, mercy, peace, and forgiveness. When we celebrate Christ as King, we are not celebrating an oppressive ruler, but one willing to die for humanity and whose "loving-kindness endures forever." Christ is the king that gives us true freedom, freedom in Him. ***Thus we must never forget that Christ radically redefined and transformed the concept of kingship.***

Christ the King Sunday used to be celebrated on the last Sunday of October, but since the calendar reforms of 1969, the feast falls on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time, which is the Sunday before Advent. It is fitting that the feast celebrating Christ's kingship is observed right before Advent, when we liturgically wait for the promised Messiah (King).

The earliest Christians identified Jesus with the predicted Messiah of the Jews. The Jewish word "Messiah," and the Greek word "Christ," both mean "anointed one," and came to refer to the expected king who would deliver Israel from the hands of the Romans. Christians believe that Jesus is this expected Messiah. Unlike the messiah most Jews expected, Jesus came to free all people, Jew and Gentile, and he did not come to free them from the Romans, but from sin and death. Thus the king of the Jews, and of the cosmos, does not rule over a kingdom of this world.

Christians have long celebrated Jesus as Christ, and his reign as King is celebrated to some degree in Advent (when Christians wait for his second coming in glory), Christmas (when "born this day is the King of the Jews"), Holy Week (when Christ is the Crucified King), Easter (when Jesus is resurrected in power and glory), and the Ascension (when Jesus returns to the glory he had with the Father before the world was created). However, Pope Pius XI wanted to specifically commemorate Christ as king, and instituted the feast in the Western calendar in 1925.

In the 21st century many Western Christians, Catholic and Protestant, celebrate Christ the King Sunday, including Anglicans and Lutherans. Unfortunately, in some mainline Protestant churches, "king" language is not popular, and the feast is downplayed. However, in a chaotic and unjust world that seems to scorn any kind of authority, many Christians proudly celebrate Christ the King Sunday, where the loving and merciful - and just - king of the universe is praised and glorified.

Here are certain things about this awesome feast we have to remember.

1) *It was instituted less than 100 years ago in 1925* - In the aftermath of the First World War, in the midst of the rise of Communism in Russia, and during the 16th centenary of the Council of Nicaea (325), Pope

Pius XI instituted the feast in his 1925 encyclical *Quas Primas*, though its first celebration took place in 1926.

2) It was first celebrated on Halloween in 1926 - It was originally supposed to be the last Sunday of October, just before the Feast of All Saints – which, in 1926, just happened to be October 31st.

3) In 1969, Pope Paul VI revised the feast, giving it its current name and date - Pope Paul VI gave the feast its current full title (the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe) and moved it to the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

4) The feast was a response to the rise of secularization, atheism, and communism - While the world was increasingly telling Christians that they must compartmentalize their religion and give their highest allegiance to the government, Pope Pius XI wrote regarding the feast:

If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. (Quas Primas, 33)

5) Despite its recent Catholic origins, the feast is celebrated by many Protestants - Even though it was created by a pope less than a hundred years ago, some Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and Presbyterians celebrate the feast.

6) In the protestant Church of Sweden, this Sunday is called “the Sunday of Doom” - Its official name is “the Return of Christ,” but its colloquial name comes from the fact that they give a particular focus on the Last Judgement at Christ’s Second Coming.

7) Some Anglicans refer to this Sunday as “Stir-up Sunday” for two reasons:

First, the Anglican collect for the day begins with the words, “Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people...” Second, some old pudding recipes require the pudding to sit for several weeks before being cooked. This Sunday became a day that people would traditionally begin preparing pudding for Christians, which includes “stirring it up.”

These two things came together in people’s minds, as Wikipedia explains: “Supposedly, cooks, wives and their servants would go to church, hear the words ‘Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord...’, and be reminded, by association of ideas, that it was about time to start stirring up the puddings for Christmas.”

8) The “Christ the King” statue in Poland is the largest statue of Jesus in the world - At 33 meters tall (one meter for each year of Jesus’ earthly life), the Christ the King statue is 3 meters taller than the Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OPENING TIMES – With the early, dark evenings at this time of year, it has been decided to close the Church at 4.00 p.m. Therefore, until further notice, the Church will open at 7.30 a.m. and close at 4.00 p.m. on a daily basis.

CHOIR - Hymn Practice for all December hymns inc. Christmas - last Thursday of this month = Thursday 28th, 10:30 after morning Mass.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS – *There will be a special Mass on Friday 29th November at 3.00 p.m.*

VOCATION SEEKER EVENING – **Friday 6th December, 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.** at The Sacred Heart Church, 41-43 Portland Street, Fareham, PO16 0NF (easy access via road, train & bus). The Diocesan Vocation Seeker Group meets monthly, on the First Friday of the month, for food, prayer, reflection & friendship. For info/invitation please contact Fr. John Cooke 01329 318 869, or email to vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, website www.portsmouthvocations.org.uk

THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “C” 24TH NOVEMBER 2019

Saturday	23	Nov.	Vigil Mass of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 33 rd Week in Ordinary Time – <i>Elza (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Sunday	24	Nov.	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Jane Gow & family (Thanksgiving to God for Blessings received)</i>	
Monday	25	Nov.	St Catherine of Alexandria		
Tuesday	26	Nov.	Tuesday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Don & Agnes Campbell (RIP)</i>	
Wednesday	27	Nov.	Wednesday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Sister Mary Corr</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	28	Nov.	Thursday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jane Gow</i>	
Friday	29	Nov.	Friday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time Special Mass	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Eduardo Brion (RIP)</i> 15.00 Special Mass for Holy Souls	Confession after Mass
Saturday	30	Nov.	ST ANDREW	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hasitta & Tiana (God's Blessing for Birthday Anniversaries)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 1 st Sunday of Advent	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 1 st Sunday in Advent - <i>John Hamon (well-being & return to good health)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	01	Dec.	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jane Gow</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 16/17 Nov. 2019		Sat.23 Nov.	Sun.24 Nov.	Sat.30 Nov.	Sun.01 Dec.
Loose	£400.95	J.Marriott	P.Caffyn	T.Gearey	S.Ramsay
Envelopes	£243.80	M.Newland	P.Caffyn	G.Gordelier	S.Salinger
		EMHC	T.Gearey	A.Caneda	M.Newland
			K.Dempster	Akhil Joseph	C.d'Espagnac
			B.Dempster	M.Buckland	M.Harwood
Thank you for your continued support				M.Harwood	M.Tanner

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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

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