

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



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR "A" 12TH JANUARY 2020

JESUS IS BAPTISED.

IS THERE MORE TO BAPTISM—OR IS IT JUST ABOUT THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS?

When we recall that from our catechism we learnt that Baptism is the Sacrament that takes away the Original sin of our fore Parents Adam and Eve; and other sins from our souls. It gives us God's life and love and makes us children of God and members of his Holy Church. The obvious question to ask as we celebrate this feast of the Baptism of the Lord is? Why did John baptize Jesus? He was not a sinner. He had no cause for repentance. He had no need to undergo the baptism of John. Yet he did. **The celebration of this feast gives us the opportunity to study again the reasons for the Baptism of Jesus.**

- 1. IDENTIFICATION:** John the Baptist had been preaching very hard and there was a huge movement to him. People were identifying themselves with the God of the Prophet who came to prepare the way for the messiah. Jesus had to identify himself with this movement of the people in this great search back to God. So he came to John as an approval determined to identify himself.
- 2. DECISION:** Jesus had spent 30 years preparing for his mission. With this great movement of the people back to God, he had to be sure that the time for him to begin his ministry had come. So when John the Baptist emerged Jesus knew that the moment of decision had come. Nazareth was peaceful and home was sweet, but he needed an approval.
- 3. APPROVAL:** Having decided that it was time to leave home and begin his messianic mission for the redemption of the world, he had to be very sure that his decision was right. Jesus had decided on his course of action, and now he was looking for the seal of the approval of God. St Mark tells us that no sooner had Jesus come out of the Waters than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Holy Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." The Father was speaking and giving his approval directly to his Son Jesus. This affirmation is different from the one said at the Transfiguration, "This is my Son, the beloved; with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him!" This was directed to the Apostles Peter, James and John. So at his Baptism Jesus received the approval from the Father to leave home and begin his public ministry
- 4. GRADUATION AND EQUIPMENT:** Having prepared himself he is very ready now for the ministry ahead. The Spirit like a Dove descended as a true dove bird might descend. The dove is the symbol of gentleness. Both Matthew and Luke tell us of the preaching of John. John's was a message of the axe laid to the root of the tree, of the terrible consuming fire. It was a message of doom and not of good news. But from the very beginning the picture of the Spirit likened to a dove is a picture of gentleness. He will conquer, but the conquest will be the conquest of love. Jesus was thus fully equipped for his Ministry.

5. **THE REVELATION OF THE TRINITY:** The Baptism of Jesus reveals the Trinity in our lives. At the beginning of his public life was the baptism, an act of loving obedience to the Father and a revelation of the Trinity. Just before Jesus goes up to Jerusalem to suffer the Passion, another act of loving obedience to the Father is presented, the Trinity is again revealed to the disciples at the TRANSFIGURATION. At these two crucial moments in the public life of Jesus his unity with the Father and the Spirit is revealed. At the baptism, he descends to the lowest depths of the earth; at the Transfiguration he ascends the mountain of the Lord, showing us the depth and height of God's love which fills all things.

Today we are reminded by the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan that when we are baptized, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, we are given a share in Jesus' own ministry and so we must learn to follow him on the Way of the Cross, since it is when we share Jesus' self-giving love that we most truly appear to the world as God's children.

In Baptism, and again in Confirmation, the Holy Spirit sealed us: he claimed us as the Father's; he christened us, that is, he conformed us to Christ; and he forged in us a love which can keep us loyal to our Father, and empower us to minister his loyalty to those he gives us to care for.

When we accepted the invitation to be Baptized, we went into the waters with Jesus, and the Father's voice said to each of us, "You are my child, my beloved." We were given a share in Jesus' victory over the world, that is, the Holy Spirit empowered us to resist "the world, the flesh and the devil".

We ourselves are drawn into this life of the Trinity by our own baptism. Jesus told his disciples; *All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the age (Matt 28:18-20).* So Christ's own baptism inaugurates in us the great work of preaching the Gospel to all the nations.

Should you be baptized? - If you have made a lifetime commitment to follow Jesus, obey the Word of God and live a new life you are a candidate to be baptized. You are repentant and want to be free from

sin. This was the case with the Jews who had crucified Jesus when they heard Peter speak in Acts 2:37-38 "*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'*" It was such people that Peter exhorted to be baptized.

As with the Jews mentioned above, there are many people today who are sorry for their past sins and have purposed to live a life pleasing to God. Though it is evident that a certain maturity is needed to make such decisions, the proper attitude of heart is the main criterion for deciding to be baptized at any age. Jesus' own words to His disciples confirm the need for such people to be baptized.

What does baptism mean for your life? - Though Christianity consists of a hidden life with God, Christian baptism is an outward act in which we affirm our desire to follow Jesus on this inner way. St. Paul explains how we are to live this new life being baptized into his death. Romans 6:3-4. This "*death*" that Paul mentions is a death to your old life, where you choose to stop living according to your sinful human nature and tendencies. You can then begin to walk in "*newness of life*" by obeying God's commandments. This new life will result in you reaping the blessings of God rather than the consequences of sin.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Notice – I apologise that the Newsletter this week is only in black and white, due to the fact that there is a major fault with our photocopy machine. It has served us well for several years but is now getting old and tired. The time is approaching when we will need to invest in a new photocopying machine but this would be in excess of £2,000 and would be a strain on our Church resources. However, a new machine would be more cost effective as far as running costs are concerned because currently we are charged 3.4p per coloured page and 0.36p per black and white page, whereas with a new machine a coloured page would cost 2.0p per page and black and white 0.2p. which would mean payback in approximately 1 year. Our Newsletters are a major means of communication for the Parish and we are praying for a solution to our dilemma. Thank you for your forbearance! Lizzie

PALS - Our January lunch is 12:00 a.m. this Thursday, 16th. Please meet in our church car park for transport to venue 11:45a.m. - Any queries, please phone Jane on 01425 501 126.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS –

The Parish is in dire need of Eucharistic Ministers. If you would be interested in taking on this role from February 2020, please speak to Fr. George who will let you know what is involved.

SPUC – WHITE FLOWER APPEAL – This weekend – There will be an appeal for this Charity on the weekend of the 11th & 12th January, as agreed with Fr. George.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL – This is a reminder that the Closing Date for primary applications and religious documents is only just over a week away it is **15th January 2020**. It is very important that all supporting documents are provided to the school by the closing date otherwise it may not be possible to consider a child within the Catholic Category. We require two documents and these must be originals not copies or emailed copies unless it is a verified copy from the Church. These are a Catholic Baptism Certificate (or equivalent evidence of membership of the Catholic Faith or enrolment on the Sacramental Programme) and a signed Supplementary Information Form confirming level of attendance at Mass on a Saturday Evening or Sunday Morning. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Buchanan, Admissions Officer, on 01202 421141 x 2298 or can also deliver any documents to the Primary School in Holdenhurst Road, Iford during the school day 8am to 4pm.

READERS' DAY WORKSHOPS – 7th & 14th March 2020 at St. Dominic's, Sway - To mark the Year of the Word the diocese of Portsmouth is launching Readers' Training Workshops. Our Pastoral area has been booked in for the workshops at St. Dominic's Priory, Shirley Holms Road, Lymington SO41. The course is over 2 days – 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and Readers have to attend both sessions. The course finishes with commissioning and an award of a Diocesan Recognitio. There are limited places, so to make sure you get a place, please email Chris Peacock: readers@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk as soon as possible. **All Readers – please find your personal envelope in the post box at the back of the Church. If anyone would like me to put their name down with Chris Peacock, please pop into the Office during Office hours. Lizzie.**

THINKING ABOUT SEPARATION OR DIVORCE? –where couples of all faiths or no faith background... ..Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Do you know how to save that marriage? Or do you feel helpless? The **Retrouvaille** Programme is for **Married** Couples Facing Difficult Challenges in their Relationship A **Marriage** program that helps couples **restore** their **marriage** and rebuild a loving relationship. A **Christian marriage** program, Catholic in origin. It is designed to help troubled marriages regain their health. It helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The programme is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced. There is no group therapy or group work , For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille', or to register for the programme commencing with a residential weekend on **...28th.29th Feb & 1st March 2020** Call or text 0788 7296983 0797 3380443 or Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR “A” 12TH JANUARY 2020

Saturday	11	2020 Jan.	Vigil Mass of the Baptism of the Lord	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the Baptism of the Lord – <i>John & Jeanette Patching & the Hollyoak Family</i>	
Sunday	12	Jan.	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>John & Jeanette Patching</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Monday	13	Jan.	St. Hilary		
Tuesday	14	Jan.	Tuesday of the 1 st Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 Holy Mass - <i>MPP</i>	
Wednesday	15	Jan.	Wednesday of the 1 st Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Fr. Marcin</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	16	Jan.	Thursday of the 1 st Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Rose John (RIP)</i>	
Friday	17	Jan.	St. Anthony of Egypt	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Hannah & Stephen Geary (RIP)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	18	Jan.	Our Lady of Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Holy Souls</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 2 nd Week in Ordinary Time	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the Baptism of the Lord – <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	19	Jan.	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Helen Taylor (RIP) & Thanksgiving for continued good health of the Churcher Family</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!

2nd Collection for SPUC White Flower Appeal this weekend

Collections 04/05 Jan. 2020		Sat.11 Jan.	Sun.12 Jan.	Sat. 18 Jan.	Sun. 19 Jan
Loose	£379.09	Reader A.Nash	S.Ramsay	G.Gordelier	Annice Joseph
Envelopes	£189.00	M.Hobbs	S.Salinger	C.d’Espagnac	A.Veluthedathu
		EMHC J.Thomas	A.Caneda	T.Gearey	J.Nichols
		M.Harwood	M.Tanner	B.Dempster	M.Buckland
		F.Fallon	M.Buckland	K.Dempster	A.Caneda

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa
 email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk emergency mobile: **07475753040**
Parish office: 01425 614968 Hall Booking via Parish Office
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