

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR "A" 26TH JANUARY 2020

"I am for Paul, I am for Apollos, I am for Cephas, I am for Christ".

Our first reading today brings out an issue of great concern for you and me. That is the issue of LACK OF UNITY IN DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLESHIP.

I am deeply concerned that some Christians in our churches today are being strongly encouraged to forsake its right priority of doctrine and truth for a wrong priority of some polarized form of "unity". True unity is an absolutely wonderful thing, as we see in the lives of the first Christians. However, if we unite the church to nothing but watered-down, conviction-less doctrine, what real good will we have accomplished in the end?

"What is the cause of DIVISION in the Church?"

Divisions that lead to church splits are a sad and all-too-common occurrence in the body of Christ. The effects of a church split, regardless of the cause, can be devastating. Church splits distress and dismay mature believers, disillusion new believers, cause havoc in the lives of Bishops, Priests and Pastors and their families, and bring reproach upon the name of Christ. But there is hope; churches that split can experience healing and restoration.

Churches are like hospitals, full of wounded and sick people, but in the church the sickness is sin and the wounds are those we inflict upon ourselves and one another because of sin. One sin that causes multiple problems is a lack of forgiveness. No Christian is perfect, and no priest or pastor or deacon is perfect. When all these imperfect people get together, disagreements, hurt feelings and misunderstandings are inevitable. If our expectations of others are too high, disappointment is inevitable and can cause further feelings of hurt and resentment. Our response to one another should be to forgive one another in kindness and compassion (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13) and in Christian love, which covers a multitude of sins, followed by an increased commitment to serve one another (1 Peter 4:8-11). Once we are committed to forgiving, loving and serving one another, we will see each other's differences in a new light. But if we react to differences of opinion, particularly those related to non-essential matters, by taking sides and gossiping, the split will widen, more harm will be done to the church members, and our message to the world will be further compromised.

A church split may happen when someone seeks to manipulate people and/or events for his own ends. It may be that there is pride in rule-keeping, and those who do not keep the same rules are ill-treated. It may be that one interpretation of a non-essential and obscure doctrine is emphasized and used as a measure for who is included and who is excluded. Or, it could be that someone wants to wrest leadership from the priest or pastor and rallies a group of people around himself to accomplish that end.

Sadly, difference of opinion regarding music, worship and administration is also a frequent cause of division in the church. The excuses for the conflict are numerous, but they all stem from the same root cause—**pride and selfishness**. James 4:1-3 says, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

Also to be considered is that not all who sit in church week after week are truly Christians. Not all who call the name of Christ belong to Him, a truth He made clear in Matthew 7:16-23. We can identify both the true and the false by the fruits they produce. True Christians show forth the fruit of the Spirit who indwells them (Galatians 5:22-23), while the weed among the wheat sow discord and dissension. We need to be on guard

for those the enemy places among us and exercise both wisdom and discernment, utilizing church discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15-20) and speaking the truth in love in all things (Matthew 10:16; Ephesians 4:15).

The causes of divisions in the church are many, but ultimately the main reason for a church split is that someone has taken his focus off of Jesus Christ and begun to use the church organization for his own ends. The church is to be more organism (living thing) than organization. The apostle Paul uses the analogy of the body to describe the church. In 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, he calls the church the body of Christ. We are to be the body which does the will of the Head, Jesus Christ. If everyone in the body is focused on doing the will of God and on worshipping Jesus Christ in love and humility, then there may be disagreement, but the disagreement will be worked out in a loving and appropriate manner.

Characteristics of a Divisive Person

How can I tell if a person is creating division according to the biblical use of the word?

- **They cause offenses (Rom. 16:17).** The Greek word "offenses" here means "a snare, stumbling-block, cause for error." It does *not* mean he/she "upset me" or "said/did something I disliked." In other words, the divisive person causes others to trip up (stumble) and sin in their walk with GOD.
- **They do not follow the teachings of the Church.** ("*the doctrine which you have learned*"—Rom. 16:17). This does *not* mean that the allegedly-divisive person believes 100% the same thing that I do about every topic. The NT shows us that Christians can disagree over non-essential matters. Paul and Barnabas disagreed contentiously (Acts 15:36-40). The entire chapter of Rom. 14 is devoted to "*disputable matters*" over which Christians disagreed (and still do). Instead, Rom. 16:17 is referring to an individual that is following and/or teaching a "*different gospel, which is not another*" (Gal. 1:6-9).
- **They do not serve the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 16:18).** Jesus said: "*Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.*" (Matt. 7:15-20)

What kind of life does the person lead? Are they known as an imitator of Jesus or do their works betray them as a hypocrite or an evildoer?

- **They serve their own belly (Rom. 16:18).** What does the person stand to gain from their actions? Do they appear to be motivated by greed or selfishness? Again, as Jesus said our fruit tells others what type of person we are.
- **They deceive simple-minded people with their speech (Rom. 16:18).** Look at the person's companions. Are they people you would consider to be simple-minded people, babies in Christ, milk-eating Christians unable to discern right and wrong? Or are they people who think for themselves and have a reputation for searching the scriptures diligently and studying the Word (Eph. 4:12-16)? This should tell us a lot.
- **They seek to have people obey states legislation and views of politicians rather than Jesus Christ; their other works can be seen easily in their way of life.** "*The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*" (Gal. 5:19-21)
- **They seek recognition among their brethren (1 Cor. 11:18-19).**
- **They don't care about other members of Jesus' body (1 Cor. 12:25).**
- **They are grumblers and complainers (Jude 16).**
- **They walk in their own lusts (Jude 16).**
- **They flatter people with their speech in order to gain an advantage (Jude 16)**
- **They are mockers (Jude 18).**
- **They are worldly-minded (Jude 19).**
- **They do not have the Spirit of GOD (Jude 19).**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL – PORTSMOUTH This weekend we take the annual collection in support of our Cathedral in Portsmouth. Envelopes are available at all masses for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes for second collections. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. Please give generously, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.

CHURCH CHOIR - Our monthly practice is this Thursday, January 30th, 10:30 after Mass. New members are always welcome to help us keep our group to a number we can call a choir. This helps us when members are away for various valid reasons. Any queries please contact Jane 01425 501 126.



CAFOD Update Meeting 8th Feb.

You are invited to a CAFOD update meeting on **Saturday 8th February** at St Anne's Church, Rhinefield Road Brockenhurst SO42 7SR from 10:30am to 12:30pm. At the meeting Sarah Burrows CAFOD's Emergency Programme Officer will talk about our emergency work, and I will give an update on how your generous donations are making a difference to people's lives. Everyone is welcome so please let me know if you are coming by emailing portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or call 01252 329385. Jo Lewry CPC CAFOD Portsmouth

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS ROTAS – We are still looking for volunteers to join the Eucharistic Ministers & Readers Team here at OLOL. 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. Your contribution can lessen the load of existing volunteers; Thank You!

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 Recognition. 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.**

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMATE TO LOURDES - 15th to 19th July 2020. Bishop Philip has sent out an invitation to join him in Lourdes this year. The Pilgrimage will take place from 15th to 19th July flying by charter aircraft direct to Lourdes from Bournemouth Airport, the cost of the Pilgrimage is £695 per person for a shared room. For further details and video please visit <https://vimeo.com/367708674>.

This also includes a **Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes** and the costs for Youth Pilgrims is £545. The Catenians are offering a small bursary to those who participate in pilgrimages to Lourdes and all Youth Pilgrims are encouraged to apply. It would be wonderful if a young person (aged 16-25) or two or more from our Parish could attend this year's Pilgrimage. For further information, a video can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/lourdesvid> or contact Fr. P.J. Smith at Portsmouth Diocese on 07780 221 686.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR “A” 26TH JANUARY 2020

Saturday	25	2020 Jan.	Vigil Mass of the 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	18.00 VIGIL MASS of the 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – <i>Mary McKeever & Family (Special Intention)</i>	
Sunday	26	Jan.	- THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -Year A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary & Jack Conway (RIP)</i>	Coffee & Tea in the Hall after Mass
Monday	27	Jan.			
Tuesday	28	Jan.	St. Thomas Aquinas	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>The Burgess Family (Special Intention)</i>	
Wednesday	29	Jan.	Wednesday of the 3 rd Week in Ordinary Time	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Concetta & Raffele Trombetta (Intention)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	30	Jan.	Thursday of the 3 rd Week in Ordinary Time	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Terry Loftus (God’s Blessing)</i>	
Friday	31	Jan.	St. John Bosco	09.00 Exposition, 09.30 Rosary, 09.50 Benediction, 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>The Living Rosary</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	01	Feb.	Our Lady on Saturday	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Paul & Bill Ratcliffe (Intention)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the Presentation of the Lord	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the Presentation of the Lord – <i>Emile & Joan Hamon (Wedding Anniversary - RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	02	Feb.	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Rosetta & Fred Vietro (Intention)</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 St. John’s Cathedral

Collections 18/19 Jan. 2020		Sat. 25 Jan.	Sun. 26 Jan.	Sat. 01 Feb.	Sun. 02 Feb.
Loose	£429.17	Reader T.Gearey	P.Caffyn	B.Dempster	S.Salinger
Envelopes	£168.00	D.McCourts	P.Caffyn	K.Dempster	S.Ramsay
		EMHC M.Newland	M.Tanner	F.Fallon	Akhil Joseph
		C.d’Espagnac	Joseph Kurian	J.Thomas	M.Tanner
Thank you for your continued support		M.Harwood	M.Buckland	T.Gearey	S.Salinger

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