

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR "A" 8th MARCH 2020

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2020

“We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:20)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life. We must continually return to this mystery in mind and heart, for it will continue to grow within us in the measure that we are open to its spiritual power and respond with freedom and generosity.

1. The *paschal mystery as the basis of conversion*

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This *kerygma* sums up the mystery of a love “so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue” (*Christus Vivit*, 117). Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God our Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. *Jn* 10:10). If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the “father of lies” (*Jn* 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness.

In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian what I wrote to young people in the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: “Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew” (No. 123). Jesus’ Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

2. The *urgency of conversion*

It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God’s mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a “face to face” relationship with the crucified and risen Lord “who loved me and gave himself for me” (*Gal* 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God’s love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God’s eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will. In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. *Hos* 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse’s voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

3. God’s *passionate will to dialogue with his children*

The fact that the Lord once again offers us a favourable time for our conversion should never be taken for granted. This new opportunity ought to awaken in us a sense of gratitude and stir us from our sloth. Despite the sometimes tragic presence of evil in our lives, and in the life of the Church and the world, this opportunity to change our course expresses God's unwavering will not to interrupt his dialogue of salvation with us. In the crucified Jesus, who knew no sin, yet for our sake was made to be sin (cf. *2 Cor 5:21*), this saving will lead the Father to burden his Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, "turning God against himself" (*Deus Caritas Est*, 12). For God also loves his enemies (cf. *Mt 5:43-48*).

The dialogue that God wishes to establish with each of us through the paschal mystery of his Son has nothing to do with empty chatter, like that attributed to the ancient inhabitants of Athens, who "spent their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (*Acts 17:21*). Such chatter, determined by an empty and superficial curiosity, characterises worldliness in every age; in our own day, it can also result in improper use of the media.

4. *A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself*

Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth's goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church's magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, *Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students*, 18 December 1927). The same holds true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. *Mt 5:13-14*).

Francis

Rome, at Saint John Lateran, 7 October 2019

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

From Bishop Philip: You will be aware of the latest guidelines from the Bishop's Conference regarding the Coronavirus and I attach these guidelines again for your information. (Please see hand outs).

Following the Bishop's Council meeting, which took place yesterday, I have made the decision that we are currently entering stage two of the guidance.

Obviously, each parish has a unique environment and set of needs, therefore every parish priest will need to adapt the elements of the stage two guidance according to the personal needs and setting of their own parish. If, at any point, we move into stage three, this will be officially communicated by me.

Lastly, if any cases of Coronavirus are confirmed in your local areas or if anyone from your parishes is self-isolating or has been diagnosed with the virus, we would be grateful if you could keep Bishop's Office informed (via Kirsten McGuire, whose email address is: kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) so that we are able to keep an overview of the situation throughout the diocese. – Bishop

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish New Milton – Our Community and the Coronavirus - Steps taken for now

- ✓ We have suspended the distribution under both kinds (the host to be given on the hand only).
- ✓ When giving communion in the hand seek to ensure you place the host in the hand of the recipient in such a way that you do not touch their hands.

- ✓ We have suspended the physical hand shake sign of peace for gesture or wave of the hand.
- ✓ Sealed the holy water stoups to prevent usage for now.
- ✓ Public veneration of relic of St. Faustina and the Cross on Good Friday should NOT be by kissing or physically touching them.
- ✓ Ask everyone attending Mass to sanitise their hands as they come into church using sanitized gel dispensers.
- ✓ Ensure everyone maintains good hygiene especially at Mass and parish gatherings. The best way of protecting us from spread is still for everyone to use universal good hygiene, which will effectively disrupt spread of the virus.
 - i. Catch it - sneeze into a tissue
 - ii. Bin it - bin the tissue
 - iii. Kill it - wash your hands with soap and water
 - iv. Do not touch your face unless you've washed your hands
- ✓ Asking anyone with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from attending Liturgy, public events, nor attend the sacrament of reconciliation if symptomatic (They may have an ordinary cold but equally it is important to ensure a precautionary approach).
- ✓ Ensure regular cleaning of surfaces lots of people touch regularly (e.g. ideally clean door handles before and after every Mass).
- ✓ Ensure ministers of the Eucharist sanitise their hands before and after distributing communion.

N/B - Please Let the Parish Priest know if there is need for any other action or attention to be made here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISM MASS – Tuesday of Holy Week – 7th April at 11.00 a.m. at Portsmouth Cathedral. If you would like to attend this Mass, please contact Catherine d’Espagnac on 07565 505 608. Departure from OLOL car park at approximately 8.30 a.m.

LIVE STREAMING. We received an email this week from a lady who has been joining us via live streaming for all services at OLOL since November last year after having undergone major surgery. She writes “The Live Streaming has been the greatest gift in my recovery. Thank you for this wonderful service!” She continues to write – “Sunday’s most Holy Mass was reverent, spiritual, uplifting all because of your most holy, spiritual and reverent Priest; his powerful homilies ‘hit the spot’ all the time to encourage and inspire us.” I know Fr. George is too modest to tell you himself but she adds – “He is a treasure indeed. Please appreciate him as you are blessed to have him amongst you. One day he will have to leave with all the beautiful traditions of our faith that he brings to your celebrations. Many priests have forgotten about incensing the sacred vessels and the Precious Body and Blood of Christ at the altar and the holy Word of God. Not many churches have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary throughout the week and the Divine Chaplet on Saturdays. The interaction of Fr. George with his altar servers is a joy to behold!” Live Streaming is a lifeline for the sick and the disabled who are unable to physically attend Mass and it is so rewarding and encouraging to receive such positive feedback.

Live Streaming statistics for February 2020 – Total number of viewers 4,012. Number of unique viewers to OLOL New Milton 1,061. Live Streaming doesn’t only include the U.K., it reaches out to many countries worldwide. Last month we saw viewers from Ireland, U.S.A., Australia, Germany, Italy, Guernsey, Poland, Canada, Singapore, Romania, France, Spain, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Greece, New Zealand and Jersey.

MISSIO. Mission Today is the magazine for supporters of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Missio ignites God’s love by helping missionaries to work alongside communities globally that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Together with Missio’s supporters, they play a vital part in creating a vibrant Catholic Church for the future. The Red Missio Booklets have been placed at the back of the Church and money collected in the Red Boxes goes to over 1,000 missionary dioceses around the world, which are too young or poor to help themselves. A supporter is anyone who has a Red Mission Box in their home. Please claim your Red Box and support the vital work that is being carried out by Missio. For further information, please contact Missio on 0207 821 9755 or email to redbox@missio.org.uk.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR “A” 8TH MARCH 2020

Saturday	07	Mar.	Vigil Mass of the Second Sunday in Lent – Year A	18.00 VIGIL Mass of the Second Sunday in Lent – Year A – <i>Mary Davies (for health & wellbeing)</i>	
Sunday	08	Mar.	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT -YEAR A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Cole Family (for health & wellbeing)</i>	
Monday	09	Mar.			
Tuesday	10	Mar.	Tuesday of the 2 nd Week of Lent - Year A	18.25 - <i>Way of the cross, 19.00 Holy Mass - Holy Souls</i>	
Wednesday	11	Mar.	Wednesday of the 2 nd Week of Lent – Year A	09.25 - <i>Way of the Cross, 10.00 Holy Mass Anton Sobins (Birthday Mass)</i>	Confession after Mass
Thursday	12	Mar.	Thursday of the 2 nd Week of Lent - Year A	09.25 - <i>Way of the Cross, 10.00 Holy Mass - Fr. George (Happy Birthday blessing)</i>	
Friday	13	Mar.	Friday of the 2 nd Week of Lent – Year A	09.25 - <i>Way of the Cross, 10.00 Holy Mass - MPP</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	14	Mar.	Saturday of the 2 nd Week of Lent – Year A	09.30 <i>Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass –</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 3 rd Sunday of Lent - Year A	18.00 - <i>Vigil Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Lent – Year A - Agnes & Daniel O’Sullivan (RIP)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	15	Mar.	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Mary & Jack Conway (RIP)</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 7 th /8 th Mar. 2020	
Loose	£418.83
Envelopes	£238.50
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat. 07 Mar.	Sun.08 Mar.	Sat. 14 Mar.	Sun. 15 Mar.
Reader	M.Hobbs	P.Caffyn	C.d’Espagnac	S,Ramsay
	A.Nash	P.Caffyn	J.Marriott	S.Salinger
EMHC	T.Gearey	M.Buckland	B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian
	M.Harwood	Akhil Joseph	K.Dempster	S.Salinger
	M.Newland	J.Nichols	T.Gearey	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 FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE – (to be said at the end of all Masses).

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for the Catholic Faith, for Mission, Outreach and Service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church. May Mary Immaculate help us. May St. Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen

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