

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**



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR "A" 15TH MARCH 2020

The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are representations of the path Jesus bore on his way to the crucifixion. They involve Jesus enduring suffering, insults, moments of support, and relay the intense sacrifice that Christians believe Jesus undertook for human salvation. The Stations of the Cross provide a type of meditation or reflection about individuals and the configuration that governs human beings.

Scriptural significance

The Scriptural significance of the Stations of the Cross is to detail the path Jesus walked on his way to eventual redemption of humanity. This path was one that featured him bearing the weight of the cross, falling down three times due to the physical exhaustion he endured, meeting his mother, Simon the Cyrene, and a woman named Veronica along the way. The Stations of the Cross also include Jesus being nailed to the cross, his death, and eventual resurrection. The path to spiritual paradise lies in the Station of the Cross when individuals recognize what Jesus endured and enable it as a call to action in their own lives. Pope Pius XI argued that the Stations of the Cross were necessary so that Christians could understand the magnitude of what was endured, providing "some sort of compensation to be rendered for the injury." The path to spiritual paradise for Christians involve this aspect of "compensation." It is through the acknowledging that the Stations of the Cross provides a needed element in the path to spiritual paradise for Christians.

Why Pray the Stations of the Cross - 8 Reasons from Pope Francis

The Stations of the Cross are an ancient tradition in the Catholic Church going back to the fourth century when Christians went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Like many of our Catholic traditions, the Stations of the Cross can be rich, deep, and meaningful, but at the same time we can lose sight of their significance and how to relate them to our everyday lives.

1. ***They Allow Us to Place Our Trust in Him*** - "The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God; there we find his immeasurable mercy. This is a love in which we can place all our trust, in which we can believe.... let us entrust ourselves to Jesus, let us give ourselves over to him, because he never disappoints anyone! Only in Christ crucified and risen can we find salvation and redemption." —Address, World Youth Day, Way of the Cross, July 26, 2013

2. ***They Put Us into the Story*** - "And you, who do you want to be? Like Pilate? Like Simon? Like Mary? Jesus is looking at you now and is asking you: do you want to help me carry the Cross? Brothers and sisters, with all the strength of your youth, how will you respond to him?"

3. ***They Remind Us That Jesus Suffers with Us*** - "The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of mankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: 'Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life'.

4. ***They Compel Us to Action*** - "But the Cross of Christ invites us also to allow ourselves to be smitten by his love, teaching us always to look upon others with mercy and tenderness, especially those who suffer, who are in need of help, who need a word or a concrete action."

5. ***They Help Us Make a Decision for or Against Christ*** - “[The Cross] reveals a judgment, namely that God, in judging us, loves us. Let us remember this: God judges us by loving us. If I embrace his love then I am saved, if I refuse it, then I am condemned, not by him, but by my own self, because God never condemns, he only loves and saves.”

6. ***They Reveal God’s Response to Evil in the World*** - “The Cross is the word through which God has responded to evil in the world. Sometimes it may seem as though God does not react to evil, as if he is silent. And yet, God has spoken, he has replied, and his answer is the Cross of Christ: a word which is love, mercy, forgiveness.”

7. ***They Give Us the Certainty of God’s Love for Us*** - “What has the Cross given to those who have gazed upon it and to those who have touched it? What has the Cross left in each one of us? You see, it gives us a treasure that no one else can give: the certainty of the faithful love which God has for us.”

8. ***They Guide Us from the Cross to the Resurrection*** - “Our Jesus, guide us from the Cross to the resurrection and teach us that evil shall not have the last word, but love, mercy and forgiveness. O Christ, help us to exclaim again: “Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him, today I live with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him, today I am raised with Him”.

What Should I Do For Lent? Pope Francis’ 10 Tips

Every year Catholics try to answer the age-old question: What should I do for Lent? Here are 10 points from Pope Francis:-

Get rid of the lazy addiction to evil – “(Lent) is a ‘powerful’ season, a turning point that can foster change and conversion in each of us. We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us and thus we leave behind old habits and the lazy addiction to the evil that deceives and ensnares us.

Do something that hurts – “Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.”

Don’t remain indifferent – “Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation.”

Pray: Make our hearts like yours! – “During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord ‘*Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum*’ : *Make our hearts like yours*. In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference.”

Take part in the sacraments – “Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ.”

Prayer – “In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could harden our hearts, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of God’s boundless love, to taste his tenderness. Lent is a time of prayer, of more intense prayer, more prolonged, more assiduous, more able to take on the needs of the brethren; intercessory prayer, to intercede before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering”.

Fasting – “We must be careful not to practice a formal fast, or one which in truth ‘satisfies’ us because it makes us feel good about ourselves. Fasting makes sense if it questions our security and if it also leads to some benefit for others, if it helps us to cultivate the style of the Good Samaritan, who bends down to his brother in need and takes care of him.”

Almsgiving – “Today gratuitousness is often not part of daily life where everything is bought and sold. Everything is calculated and measured. Almsgiving helps us to experience giving freely, which leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing, from the fear of losing what we have, from the sadness of one who does not wish to share his wealth with others.”

Help the Poor – “In the poor and outcast we see Christ’s face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury and money become

idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity and sharing.”

Evangelize – “The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness.”

You probably won't be able to take huge steps forward in all of these areas. Instead, pick a couple that stand out to you and try to find practical ways to grow in your love of God and your love of your neighbour.

Which one of Pope Francis' tips sticks out to you the most?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS MARY'S DOWRY. With the support of the Bishop's Conference, every Catholic in England is being invited to participate in the public rededication of our country to the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mary's Dowry. This will be by a solemn act on **Sunday 29th March 2020**, the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Sunday nearest to the Solemnity of the Annunciation. In preparation for this, everyone is encouraged on each of the three days leading up to 29th March to recite once a day a special form of the Angelus, which will be handed out to you, together with the prescribed prayers for the Re-Dedication. A copy of the Decree authorising the Grant of a Plenary Indulgence on the occasion of The Re-Dedication of England to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary can be found on the noticeboard at the back of Church.

BIBLE IN ACTION – A NEW DIOCESAN SERIES FOR LENT Bible in Action, which has been provided for the Diocese by CAFOD and Caritas, is being introduced by the Diocese as part of the *Year of the Word*. This series features short podcasts to help us live this Lent in the light of Scripture and *Laudato Si'*, with practical suggestions. To tune in, visit :<http://www.godwhospeaks.org/media> and scroll down to Bible in Action. Each week during Lent, Jo Lewry from CAFOD Portsmouth, and Kevin Gallaher from Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth, will offer us a reflection on their work in the light of Scripture and Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, with concrete suggestions for us to live according to the **Word of God** in our personal, family and parish life.

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.

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.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. With the continuing fear of what has now turned into a Pandemic worldwide, we are asked to respect the requests for vigilance and regular hand-washing to slow down the possibility of contamination. It effects every aspect of our lives but most especially it effects the most vulnerable, the elderly and the very young. Please reach out to any vulnerable people you may know, who need your help at this very difficult time and if there is anything that we can do here at OLOL to assist, please don't hesitate to let us know. Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan is particularly poignant at this time!

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR “A” 15TH MARCH 2020

Saturday	14	Mar.	Vigil Mass of the Third Sunday in Lent – Year A	18.00 VIGIL Mass of the Third Sunday in Lent – Year A – <i>Daniel O’Sullivan (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	15	Mar.	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary & Jack Conway (RIP)</i>	
Monday	16	Mar.		10.00 Thomas Royle Funeral Mass	
Tuesday	17	Mar.	ST. PATRICK	18.25 - <i>Way of the cross,</i> 19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary & Roy Tanner (58th Wedding Anniversary)</i>	
Wednesday	18	Mar.	Vigil Mass of St. Joseph	19.00 Holy Mass - <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	No Morning Mass Priests’ Day of Prayer
Thursday	19	Mar.	ST. JOSEPH	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Bruno Barros</i>	
Friday	20	Mar.	Friday of the 3 rd Week of Lent – Year A	09.25 - <i>Way of the Cross,</i> 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary & Garry Harvey (Diamond Wedding Anniversary)</i>	Confession after Mass
Saturday	21	Mar.	Saturday of the 3 rd Week of Lent – Year A	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Marcelina Obdianela (5th Anniversary RIP)</i>	
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 4 th Sunday of Lent - Year A	18.00 - <i>Vigil Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent – Year A - Cathy & Pete Farmer (health & wellbeing)</i>	Confession 5.30 pm
Sunday	22	Mar.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Lewis & Ange d’Espagnac (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!

2nd Collection next weekend – 21st/22nd March for CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND

Collections 7th/8th Mar. 2020	
Loose	£360.09
Envelopes	£203.00
Thank you for your continued support	

	Sat. 14 Mar.	Sun. 15 Mar.	Sat. 21 Mar.	Sun. 22 Mar.
Reader	C.d’Espagnac	S,Ramsay	K.Dempster	Annice Joseph
	J.Marriott	S.Salinger	B.Dempster	A.Veluthedathu
EMHC	B.Dempster	Joseph Kurian	M.Newland	S.Salinger
	K.Dempster	S.Salinger	F.Fallon	J.Nichols
	T.Gearey	A.Caneda	M.Harwood	M.Buckland

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.nfwf.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