

# CATHOLIC PARISHES OF LYMINGTON, BROCKENHURST & MILFORD-ON-SEA

**Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph**  
132 High St, Lymington, SO41 9AQ

**St Anne**  
Rhinefield Rd, Brockenhurst, SO42 7SR

**St Francis of Assisi**  
Park Lane, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0PT

## Parish Contacts:

**Parish Office:** Maryhouse, 132 High Street, Lymington SO41 9AQ. **Telephone:** 01590 676696.

**Parish Priest:** Rev David Adams; **Parish Administrator:** Lisa Thurston. **Email:** lymbrockmil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk  
**Website:** www.nfw.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. **Registered Charity No:** 246871/2  
**School:** Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. Exec. Head: Gerida Montague  
**Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils:** Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea  
**Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Vanessa Dugdale (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Liz White (Mil).  
**PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator :** Linda Guilding; **Health & Safety Reps St Francis:** Colin Stack & John Parry . **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound:** Contact the parish office.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday morning  
10.00am - 10.30am  
or by arrangement.

## *The Week: 21<sup>st</sup> March - 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - ALL PUBLIC MASSES & SERVICES SUSPENDED*

DAY	DATE	SERVICE	LITURGY	INTENTION	P
SAT	21 <sup>st</sup>	Mass	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Yr A ( P )	Jimmy & Kathleen Swinden RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mass	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Yr A ( P )	People of the Parishes	DMA
MON	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mass	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent ( P )	as per celebrant	PWR
TUE	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mass	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent ( P )	For Health Care Workers	DMA
WED	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mass	Annunciation of the Lord, Sol, ( W )	For Government & Civil Servants	DMA
THU	26 <sup>th</sup>	Mass	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent ( P )	Florence Esme Morrison RIP F/M	DMA
FRI	27 <sup>th</sup>	Mass	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent ( P )	David Peter Stephenson (Ints)	DMA
SAT	28 <sup>th</sup>	Mass	of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent ( P )	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	29 <sup>th</sup>	Mass	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Yr A ( P )	People of the Parishes	DMA

### THE TWO CERTAINTIES OF LIFE: TAX & THE OTHER THING.

Among countless moments of fear or anxiety I've had two memorable experiences of blind panic in my life. One when I thought a blue ringed octopus had latched itself onto my thumb while surfing at Dee Why, a northern beach in Sydney. I ran gasping to one of the locals, blurting out my anxious fears. To which he replied in classic Aussie drawl "Na, mate, you'd be dead by now"! On the second occasion I was returning to Ushaw College from a cycle ride to the village of Esh. When I suddenly realised that the dark clouds on the horizon, which had seemed so far away, were now bearing down on me with haste. They were not just threatening rain but were spitting out bolts of lightning with alarming frequency. The storm and I seemed destined to meet on the exposed hilltop road to the college. Never have I breathed so fast or pedalled so hard. Blind panic had taken over. Obviously I survived to tell the tale!

So I'm going to reflect this week on our fear of death and the hope God gives us in Christ Jesus. In doing this I am trying to avoid a depressing morbidity and fatalism on the one hand and a careless or reckless indifference on the other (which is easier for youngsters than it is for us oldies!) When we are young the prospect of death lurks around the periphery of our consciousness most of the time, only breaking through in sudden bursts of terror split seconds after those near misses which we had hardly noticed. Most of the time, providing we've been spared a life-threatening illness, we manage to keep the thought and the fear sufficiently distant to enable us to experience ample measures of joy, happiness and pleasure. However this often leads us to cultivate the illusion of control, security and earthly immortality. Times of danger and serious illness smash through our protective shields and bring us face to face with a reality we know but find so difficult to accept. Then we're seriously afraid, anxious and easily panicked. Quite understandably we seek every which way to avoid it, evade it and defer it. In this present crisis us oldies now have a serious, worried look on our faces, accentuated by our enforced isolation and distancing. All of a sudden the sunset years we had been looking forward to are in the clear and present danger of being snatched away.

In our Christian worship and prayers we affirm frequently and confidently our faith that Christ has conquered and abolished death. This is easier to proclaim when vigour, optimism and security come easily to us. We just take it all for granted as another kind of insurance policy which we hope we'll never really need. Thinking, praying, reflecting and unearthing the riches of our faith are all good and necessary. They keep us facing in the right direction. But even having the right thoughts and convictions is no substitute for the personal journey that each of us must take. As Richard Rohr often says, it is only great love or great suffering that compels us to embrace this crucible of transformation. And as with Jesus, so with us, fear, tears and distress are inevitable.

"Jesus shared our flesh and blood so that he might free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death" (Heb 2:14-15). So what can help us towards that serenity and peace which St Francis experienced and which helped him express the words: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life" and "O thou most kind and gentle death, waiting to hush our latest breath, thou leadest home the child of God, and Christ the Lord the way hath trod". First of all there is our oneness with nature, with all that is. Everything, everyone experiences life, death and new life in many ways. "To die is to be human and anything human is mentionable. Anything mentionable is manageable.", said Fred Rogers (played by Tom Hanks in *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood*). There is oneness, solidarity with the whole of humanity, everyone dies. Some of our loved ones have died. We are not alone. We are all together in this.

Now let's take a look from the other side. We have come from Life, from God. We are about Life. Our life is, in fact, Christ (the Divine creative energy & Word). We exist through, in and for God. We are part of the Divine mystery, God's work of art, expressed in creation. All the dreams, all the possibilities, all the rich diversity, all the suffering and sin, everything that ever was or will be is enfolded in the ocean of Divine Being. And that Being is life-giving (& long suffering) love. Coming to know and trust more and more in the gentleness and beauty of that perfect love is what casts out fear. That perfect love takes away the sting of death which is sin. So the last enemy is defeated by love and thus is transformed into a "friend". The end becomes a new beginning, death becomes a new birth. The rain drop returns to the ocean. We live even in death and can boast about looking forward to sharing in God's glory. What no eye has seen nor ear has heard, things beyond human imagining. "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor 13:13).

And speaking of the consummation, when "God will be all in all" Mother Julian (14th cent. English contemplative) wrote: "*Our Lord God shewed that a deed shall be done, and Himself shall do it, and I shall do nothing but sin, and my sin shall not hinder His Goodness working. ... It behoved that there should be sin; but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.*" (Mother Julian of Norwich, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.). (DMA)

## St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

**Anniversaries this week:** James O'Hara (22nd), Anne Wilkins (23rd), Douglas Victory Hutchinson (26th), Kenneth Webdale (27th)

**Sick & Housebound:** Sr Rosaleen, Josie Warren, Richard Blacklock, Daphne Jones, Colin Stack, Joan Lloyd, Marjorie Horton, Sarah Bell, Alison Doubleday & Sean McVeigh.

**SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE & ISOLATED:** Please can we all try to keep in touch with one another, especially those who are on their own, using phone calls, texts & emails. Practical help & support, if needed should be offered by those who are not high risk to themselves or others but hygiene and social distancing must always be observed. Help should only be accepted from persons who are known to you or who have been authenticated by someone you know. Do not answer the door to strangers and let all phone calls go to answer machine or voice mail unless you know and trust the caller. If anyone needs help and support please ring or email the parish office 01590-676696.

## St Anne, Brockenhurst

**Anniversaries this week:** Violet Teresa Patience, Ronald George Aiano, Rosa Palmieri, William George Nicholas (25<sup>th</sup>), Florence Esme Morrison (26<sup>th</sup>), Mary (May) Gertrude Jackson, Jill Rosemary Laloi (28<sup>th</sup>)

**Sick and Housebound:** Please keep in your prayers: Sr Rosaleen, Helen Pignatelli, Edelweiss James, Sean Dunn, Linda Reardon and Mary Byrne.

**Coronavirus & St Anne's – Message from the Parish Pastoral Council:** As a church, we are committed to care for our community during the current Coronavirus outbreak - especially those who are elderly or vulnerable. We are working with **Brockcare**, a group run by the Anglican Church in Brockenhurst, which is coordinating help throughout the village. For parishioners who are living in Sway, a similar group has been set up, so we can ensure you get the help you need. If you have to self-isolate, we can arrange for shopping to be dropped off at your door, and/or for someone to keep in contact with you by telephone, in order to maintain a social link and to offer reassurance.

**Here are the relevant contact details:**

**St Anne's:** Ian and Aude – 623408; Madeleine and Paul - 622360

**Brockcare:** St Saviour's Church Office - 624584

(Open 10.00 - 12.00 Mon to Friday. At other times please leave a message and your phone number and someone will get back to you ASAP)  
Joyce Kolaczowski (Brockcare) - 623329

**Any items for the newsletter to [anna@boylemellor.co.uk](mailto:anna@boylemellor.co.uk) to arrive by Thursday lunch time.**

## All Parishes

**Dedication of England as Mary's Dowry:** The prayers for the dedication will be sent to all the newsletter recipients separately. They are also available online at: [www.behold2020.com](http://www.behold2020.com).

### MAKING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

A spiritual communion is not the actual physical reception of the Eucharistic Bread & Wine (the Body & Blood of the Lord) which we do so when we approach the sanctuary at Holy Mass.

A spiritual communion is a devotion that we can perform on our own whether we are at Mass and not receiving the Eucharist sacramentally or if we are anywhere else. We may make an Act of Spiritual Communion while watching a broadcast of the Mass on the Internet or even in our morning or evening prayers. As His Holiness Pope Pius XII wrote in *Mediator Dei*, we may make this pious devotion in any place and at any time so long as we do so with "renewed faith, reverence, humility and in complete trust in the goodness of the divine Redeemer," and so long as we are "united to Him in the spirit of the most ardent charity." As a result, through a spiritual communion, we embrace and receive the same Lord whom we receive sacramentally in the form of bread and wine.

**Spiritual communion is available to everyone including those who are not able to receive sacramental communion because of Church law.**

A suggested prayer we could use to make a spiritual communion:

Dear beloved Christ Jesus, Son of the eternal Father, all things were created in you and you hold all things together (Col 1:15ff). In your Divine presence we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). By your gracious love you made us parts of your Body (1 Cor 12:12), part even of your very self (2 Tim 2:13). As you offer yourself to us sacramentally in the consecrated Bread & Wine, your own Body & Blood, so now be pleased to graciously give yourself again spiritually to one who is unworthy to receive you. Lord, only say the word and my soul shall be healed and I will long for your Divine embrace and will be filled by your Spirit with life, love and mercy. Amen.

## Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

**Anniversaries this week:** Charles Desmond Waring (22<sup>nd</sup>), Archbishop John Henry King (23<sup>rd</sup>), Mary Scales, Alfreda Frances Collins, John Jenkins (24<sup>th</sup>), Herbert Cull, Pauline Dorothea Stevens, Rosemary Pepler (25<sup>th</sup>), Ethel Woodford (26<sup>th</sup>), Patrick Carroll, Antoinette Hacker (27<sup>th</sup>)

**Sick and Housebound:** Keith Stuttaford, Sr Rosaleen, Gerry Heneghan, Anne Nyland, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Johnny Flood, Simone Cluett, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Concetta Losanno, Mai Wilson, Den Walker, Brian Choules, Len Harley, Marie Smith, Patricia Mate.

**100 CLUB:** as we will be deprived of the wonderful excitement of the quarterly draw & as Sky Television has for some strange reason declined our offer to have it beamed worldwide by satellite, we will be forced to make the draw behind closed doors but also under the strictest scrutiny of impartial observers, both human & canine. Cheques will be sent to the lucky winners!!

**EASTER EGGS:** Alas! The Easter Eggs will not now be hatched for lucky winners on Palm Sunday. Keep your tickets safe (but we also need to sell more – not quite sure how that's going to happen!). Providing food shortages don't necessitate their premature consumption (in which event we promise not to allow ourselves excessive enjoyment, honest!) the Easter Eggs will be distributed to the lucky winners when the dark clouds have passed and the sun is shining once more, next November (??), but hopefully sooner, if they haven't all melted in the global warming!!

**FUND RAISING UPDATE:** We currently have 41 Pledges which will realise £88,000 after five years including Gift Aid. Building Fund Bank Account income latest figures:- Donations/Pledges - £7,175.89; Gift Aided Donations/Pledges - £18,324.70; Fundraising - £5,663.50; Living our Faith - £3,230.00; Bank Balance: £34,394.09.

**HERITAGE** - Stuck for something to do? Are you interested in helping to identify or share the heritage of the Church or the School in Lymington? Do you have any memories, photographs or items you could share with us as we build our story? In the first instance please contact Nichola Kirby on 07710 156087 or by email on [nicholakiby@outlook.com](mailto:nicholakiby@outlook.com)

## All Parishes

**SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE & ISOLATED:** Please can we all try to keep in touch with one another, especially those who are on their own, using phone calls, texts & emails. Practical help & support, if needed should be offered by those who are not high risk to themselves or others but hygiene and social distancing must always be observed. Help should only be accepted from persons who are known to you or who have been authenticated by someone you know. Do not answer the door to strangers and let all phone calls go to answer machine or voice mail unless you know and trust the caller. If anyone needs help and support please ring or email the parish office 01590-676696

### SUSPENSION OF MASSES & PUBLIC SERVICES

**ALL PUBLIC MASSES & SERVICES SUSPENDED.** Priests will continue to celebrate Mass privately behind closed doors & to pray for the people. Churches to remain open during the day where possible for personal prayer only, and strict hygiene & social distancing rules MUST be observed. Church members are no longer obliged to participate at Sunday Mass but are encouraged to pray the Liturgy using a missal or online resources (e.g. [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)), or viewing Masses that are, ideally, live streamed or, if not, then recorded. (see item below on internet Masses). Communion with Christ can be received spiritually, cfr the explanation & sample prayer opposite.

**ACCESS TO THE OTHER SACRAMENTS:** Pope Francis has said that these crisis conditions now permit Bishops to authorise General Absolution when it is needed. And he has also said, in effect, that if it is not possible or advisable to access a priest we should pray to God directly expressing our sorrow for sin and our desire for forgiveness and then trust confidently in God's mercy. Still, Fr David will continue to be available on Saturday mornings at Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington from 10am until 10.30am, or at other times by private arrangement (requests to be submitted by phone or email). He will also be on call to administer the Anointing of the Sick in urgent cases.

**FUNERALS:** These are to take place only at the graveside or the crematorium with only close family in attendance. A more appropriate Memorial Mass or Service can take place at a later date when conditions allow. (For further details on all of the above go to the parish website).

**MASSES ON THE INTERNET:** You can find many daily Masses from different Catholic parishes available on the internet. Go to [www.churchestv.com](http://www.churchestv.com); [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv); [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv)

**Also here: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online>. For Sunday Mass with Fr Denis McBride, Redemptorist scholar**