

# 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**



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR "A" 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2020

PASTORAL LETTER AND DECREE FROM THE BISHOP  
on 19th March 2020, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

### CORONAVIRUS

Dear Faithful and Clergy of the Diocese of Portsmouth,

*"I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you" (Luke 10: 18-19).*

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing much harm and concern to us all, both at home and abroad. We do not know why God in His providence has allowed this pandemic to occur. What we *do* know is that He has given us victory through the death and resurrection of His Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ and poured into human history the power of the Holy Spirit to guide all things in the right direction. This is why, in the words of St. Paul, we know that *nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. ... These are the trials by which we triumph by the power of Him who loved us.* Indeed, we can be certain that *neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power or height or depth, nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8: 35-36, 38-39).*

As Catholics, we must tackle this crisis with spiritual as well as human resources. Let us work for an end to this scourge. Let us keep our churches open for prayer and offer daily Mass for the Church and the world. Let us proclaim God's Word, administer the Sacraments and offer pastoral care to God's people in their need. Indeed, the ministry of prayer at this time is crucial. Let us pray for a speedy solution, for those who are sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for those in self-isolation, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the homeless and needy, for the well-being and financial security of all, for the NHS medical staff and all who care for the sick, and for the repose of those who have died.

In advance, I thank our clergy and parish ministers for their generosity and willingness to minister in new and different ways during this crisis. Let us be inspired by St. Camillus, St. Juliana Falconieri, Bl. Pier Giorgio and the many other saints from Church history - not least by the Lord Himself - who cared for the sick and infected, amidst great personal danger and difficulty.

I attach to this Pastoral Letter a Decree (*to be viewed at [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)*) with some new norms that now become particular law for this Diocese of Portsmouth. I add to these a few pastoral guidelines, some spiritual, others practical, to help us all over the days ahead. All these provisions come into place today, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, and will remain in place until further notification. Lent is a time of penance, prayer and charity: we will remember this Lent and Easter for many years ahead. So let us call on the efficacious prayers and help of St. Joseph. Just as he protected the Infant Jesus, Saviour of the World, and his spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary, may he help us now, during this time of emergency.

Assuring you of my prayers and best wishes. In Corde Iesu,

Bishop of Portsmouth

## **Mother's Day - The Importance of Mothers**

Mother's Day is here today, but shrouded by a chilly atmosphere of fear, isolation and “Virus”. Thus we must come to the defence of mothers and motherhood although without the atmosphere of proper celebration, this seems odd, given how valued mothers have been throughout human history. Mothers provide invaluable benefits to all, and their work is priceless. As Ann Crittenden wrote in 2001, *"The very definition of a mother is selfless service to another"*. She cites two old sayings in connection with motherhood: A Jewish adage says, *"God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers"*. And an Arabic proverb puts it this way, *"The mother is a school; if she is well reared, you are sure to build a nation"*.

Mother's Day—called Mothering Day in the U.K.—can be traced back to ancient pagan practices, but it has gone through a lot of changes and names to get to what we know today. The history of Mother's Day can be traced back to celebrations of ancient Greece in honour of Rhea, the mother of the gods. During the 1600s, the early Christians in England celebrated a day to honour Mary, the mother of Christ. By a religious order, the holiday was later expanded to include all mothers. Mother's Day occurs in the U.S. once a year on the second Sunday of May, while Mothering Day in the U.K. is celebrated the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditional ways to celebrate Mother's Day are to take mothers out to dinner and/or honour them with cards, flowers, or candy. Biblically, honouring mothers (and fathers) is commanded by God in both the Old and New Testaments (Deuteronomy 5:16: Ephesians 6:2).

As Christians, we should be fully convinced that we are doing what God wants us to do. If we choose to celebrate Mother's Day and we see nothing wrong with it, then we should celebrate with a clear conscience. If, however, celebrating is against one's conscience, then celebrating is not appropriate. On the other hand, if one does not celebrate Mother's Day or any other holiday for reasons of conscience, that is fine, as long as he/she does not become prideful, looking down on those who do celebrate. As with all issues not specifically addressed in Scripture, we have the freedom to celebrate or not celebrate Mother's Day, according to personal preference.

### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH NEW MILTON. MEASURES PUT IN PLACE FOR THE PARISH.**

#### **PLEASE, FIRST READ THE BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER AND DECREE.**

The Church is open during the day for private prayers and visits to the Blessed Sacrament. In church, all must take care to ensure 'social distancing,' maintaining a clear distance from others.

Public Sunday and weekday Masses are available only through our live streaming. We maintain the times for our morning devotions and Masses; and the exoneration of Mass intentions unless the family ask for a rescheduling. Please - the doors of the church will remain closed during the celebration of the Mass. This is just a preventing measure to emphasize that all Masses are suspended to the public.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is maintained and available by a phone call, following the recommendations of the Bishop.

Sacraments to the Sick/Housebound Anointing of the Sick is available on request and by arrangement.

We continue with our Charity and Community Welfare for the needy, the poor, the lonely and those dependent on food banks.

Support of the Church. The faithful are urged to continue generously supporting their parishes, which otherwise will lose vital income. Donations can be made through the parish and diocesan websites. It

is also possible easily to set up a Standing Order to your local parish by requesting a form from your parish or directly with your bank, giving them the parish banking details. For more on this, contact Parish office

**Fr. George Ngwa**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT during the enforced Coronavirus Church Closure.** If you are not a Gift Aider and would like to continue supporting your Church through this difficult time, you may wish to organise a Standing Order arrangement with your bank to pay your collection directly into our Church bank account. Details as follows:- Lloyds Bank - Sort Code 30-93-04, Account No: 00883116, Account Name – PRCDTR New Milton. Or you may prefer to give your donation directly to Fr. George. Thank you!

**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.

### HOW SHOULD CATHOLICS DEAL WITH THE CORONAVIRUS?

It has now been reported that public Masses will be suspended in England, Wales and Scotland. For Catholics, this adds to the already strange new world we are currently confronted with. Every day we hear more reports of people dying from this new virus and as the supermarkets get busier and the streets quieter, fear is beginning to seep in. It is understandably a very difficult time for us all.

Yet as Christians we know we have something greater than our worries. Even with public Masses suspended, during this difficult time we can see how God is pulling us closer to Him. In the fear, He calls us to trust. In the quiet, He calls us to turn our focus on Him.

**The Catholic Truth Society – CTS** – are launching a new series of blog posts on the Catholic approach to COVID-19, where it is hoped you will find inspiration to draw closer to God during this difficult time. Every Monday they will be posting a new blog on their website. In addition, CTS will be working closely together with **Hozana** – the social prayer platform, to help you stay close to God, when your normal routine is disrupted and particularly when you can't get to Mass.

**Don't Forget - BRITISH SUMMER TIME Begins next Sunday – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March!**

We reach out to everyone of you, urging you to take whatever measures are necessary to stay safe and to keep your community safe.

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR “A” 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2020**

Saturday	21	Mar.	Vigil Mass of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Year A	18.00 VIGIL Mass of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent – Year A – <i>Cathy &amp; Pete Farmer (health &amp; wellbeing)</i>
Sunday	22	Mar.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT -YEAR A	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Lewis &amp; Ange d’Espagnac (RIP)</i>
Monday	23	Mar.		
Tuesday	24	Mar.	Tuesday of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	19.00 Vigil Mass of the Annunciation of the Lord – <i>Protection against Cornoavirus Our Parish &amp; Worldwide)</i>
Wednesday	25	Mar.	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Mary Kellar Birthday Anniversary – RIP)</i>
Thursday	26	Mar.	Thursday of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent – Year A	09.25 – Way of the Cross, 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>For the Sick &amp; Housebound of the Parish</i>
Friday	27	Mar.	Friday of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent – Year A	09.25 - Way of the Cross, 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Lucia Ratcliffe (RIP)</i>
Saturday	28	Mar.	Saturday of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Lent – Year A	09.30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10.00 Holy Mass - <i>Ray &amp; Jean Carlisle( RIP)</i>
Saturday vigil Mass			Vigil Mass of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - Year A	18.00 - Vigil Mass of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year A - <i>Heather Williams (Health &amp; Wellbeing)</i>
Sunday	29	Mar.	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>The Living Rosary</i>

**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 put it through the letterbox at the Presbytery. 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 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Mar. 2020

Loose	Envelopes
£428.36	£148.00

**Your continued financial support during these challenging times would be very much appreciated**

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**  
 email: [gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) emergency mobile: **07475753040**  
**Parish office: 01425 614968** Hall Booking via Parish Office [lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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.nfwf.org.uk](http://www.nfwf.org.uk)  
**Safeguarding Minister: Tony Harwood** Tel: **01425 511 952** or email [hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk)

PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE – ( to be said at home during Church closure).

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