

**-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 - *CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE***



**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR "A" 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

**ASCENSION THURSDAY**

**Why is the Ascension of Jesus so Important to Christians?**



On Good Friday, there was the Crucifixion. On Easter Sunday, Resurrection and now, forty days later, the Ascension.

For many Christians and churches, Easter is the end of the celebrating. We tend to forget or just skim over the essential part of the story where Jesus ascended into heaven. We might even hear that this Thursday is Ascension Day and think, “why does that matter for me at all?” or wonder what this day even means.

It is plain from Scripture that Jesus’ ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven. He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ’s return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" (Acts 1:11).

We find the ascension story told in the first chapter of Acts, following the Gospels. Acts 1:9 tells us “He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight,” and verse 11 adds, “This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

We must in any case understand objectively the statement that Jesus Christ was taken up from earth into heaven before the eyes of the disciples. So now that we know the story, we can dive deeper into its importance and relevance for our lives and our faith.

The ascension is a vital part of the redemption story and If we simply collapse the ascension into the resurrection, we miss stunning benefits tied directly to Jesus being taken into heaven.” It’s not enough to celebrate the Risen Lord on one Easter Sunday and then forget about what comes next. The ascension is crucial, and it is life-changing and eternity-changing for us as believers.

### **The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons:**

- 1) It signalled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.
- 2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.
- 3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus’ glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).
- 4) It symbolized His exaltation by the Father (Ephesians 1:20-23). The One with whom the Father is well pleased (Matthew 17:5) was received up in honour and given a name above all names (Philippians 2:9).
- 5) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).
- 6) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16) and Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
- 7) It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7).

Currently, the Lord Jesus is in heaven. The Scriptures frequently picture Him at the right hand of the Father—a position of honour and authority (Psalm 110:1; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 8:1). Christ is the Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18), the giver of spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:7-8), and the One who fills all in all (Ephesians 4:9-10).

### **Some reasons the ascension of Jesus benefits us**

1. It establishes Jesus as the reigning king over all powers in all ages. Ephesians 1:20-21 says “God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.” Ephesians 2:6-7 brings us into the picture, saying “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”
2. It gives us access to God’s throne for mercy and grace. In Jesus we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens (Heb. 4:14). Passed through the heavens is the ascension language; Jesus passed through the heavens to be seated at the Father’s right hand (Heb. 1:3). This means that we can now “draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).
3. It provides an Advocate on earth whose presence is limitless. His empowering presence is available to all Jesus’ followers everywhere at the same time.”

4. It gives us the gifts of Christ's victory over sin and death In Ephesians 4:7–12, Paul connects the grace we have received with the ascension which we call spiritual gifts.
5. It keeps us longing for his return. Once you've gotten close to someone and spent significant time in their presence, their absence feels like a massive void. It is the same with Jesus for us as Christians, and especially for his first disciples. He isn't here in the flesh with us now, but He one day will be, and our hearts yearn for that day. We know he will set all things right and bring us close to Him for all eternity. The ascension creates a longing for Jesus' return, It reminds us his reign is already but not yet. When Jesus descends in the way he ascended, the bad times will be over for good, the darkness will lift, and everything sad will at last come untrue."

On this Ascension Thursday, may we reflect on how the crucifixion, the resurrection, and the ascension of our Saviour Jesus Christ changed the whole course of our lives and changed our world forever. May we celebrate that our Lord is reigning from heaven as the one true King, and may we rejoice that we have the Holy Spirit as our ever-present advocate. May we eagerly await Jesus' return and fervently share the Gospel until He does come.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DAILY PROGRAMME FOR MASSES, ROSARY AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

#### **MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

- 9:25 a.m. - Stations of the Cross
- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Mass ( Priest alone )
- 6 :00 p.m. - Exposition of Blessed Sacrament ( Priest alone )
- 6:30 p.m. - Holy Rosary
- 6:50 p.m. - Benediction

#### **SATURDAY**

- 9:30 a.m. - Divine Mercy Chaplet  
( Priest alone )
- 9:50 a.m. - Veneration of the Relic of St. Faustina
- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Mass ( Priest alone )
- 6:00 p.m. - Vigil Mass for Sunday

#### **SUNDAY**

- 10:00 a.m. - Holy Mass (Priest alone )

**For daily Masses and Devotions Please Join Parish Live Streaming:**

**<http://churchservices.tv/newmilton>**

**PARISH OFFICE COVER.** Lizzie, our Parish Secretary, will be self-isolating at home for the next few weeks. If you need to contact her, she is available on 07484 110 940 or via email on lizziedavies@yahoo.com. Alternatively you can contact Fr. George direct. If you wish to have an intention for a Mass to be celebrated for you, or your loved one(s), please call the Parish office, or leave a voice mail – or better still drop your written intention through the Presbytery letterbox.

**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!

## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR "A" 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>May</b>	VIGIL SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A	6:00 p.m. For John Williams – health and well being	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>May</b>	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass Thanksgiving and well being for the Joseph Kurian family	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>May</b>	MONDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> WEEK OF EASTER - Year A	10.00 a.m. For the Souls in Purgatory	<b>6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>May</b>	TUESDAY DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN, PORTSMOUTH - FEAST	10.00 a.m. For Susan Harries RIP – First Anniversary	<b>6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>May</b>	WEDNESDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> week of Easter - Year A OUR LADY OF FATIMA	10.00 a.m. For Marymol and Elizabeth	<b>6:00 p.m. – Vigil Mass of the Ascension.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>May</b>	THURSDAY ASCENSION OF OUR LORD - Year A	10.00 a.m. Holy Mass – For Boniface George Ngwa and Theresia Beyeh	<b>6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>May</b>	FRIDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> week of Easter - Year A	10:00 a.m. <i>Holy Mass</i> – For the repose of the souls of Paul and Teresa	<b>6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>May</b>	SATURDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> week of Easter - Year A	09:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Devotion 10:00 a.m. Mona and Didi Aazar and family – health and well being	
<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>May</b>	VIGIL SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year A	6:00 p.m. For Paul and Gehane (God's blessing Wedding Anniversary)	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>May</b>	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Year A	10.00 Holy Mass Nadia Lakah and Family – health and well being	

**IMPORTANT – MASS OFFERINGS/INTENTIONS. See notice above.**

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

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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emergency mobile: **07475753040**

**Parish office: 01425 614968** [lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Hall Bookings suspended during the Pandemic.

**Secretary: Lizzie Davies** See Contact Details above.

Our Parish Live streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> Website: [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.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 even with 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

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel - 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.