

# 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 –



**26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR "A" 27TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

## Obedience to God

Our Gospel reading today presents two sons struggling with the act of obedience to the father. This is a very common issue we face every day especially with our children. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible has a lot to say about obedience. In the story of the Ten Commandments, we see just how important the concept of obedience is to God. Deuteronomy 11:26-28 sums it up like this: "Obey and you will be blessed. Disobey and you will be cursed." In the New Testament, we learn through the example of Jesus Christ that we are called to a life of obedience.

The general concept of obedience both in the Old and New Testament relates to hearing or hearkening to a higher authority. Thus, biblical obedience to God means to hear, trust, submit and surrender to God and his Word.

### Why Obedience to God Is Important

**1. Jesus Calls Us to Obey** - In Jesus Christ, we find the perfect model of obedience. As his disciples, we follow Christ's example as well as his commands. Our motivation for obedience is love: If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15 )

**2. Obedience is reverential and humbling act to God.** True Christian obedience flows from a heart of gratitude for the grace we have received from the Lord. Like Abraham willing to sacrifice his only son to God, we must give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. (Romans 12:1, )

**3. God Rewards Obedience** - Over and over again we read in the Bible that God blesses and rewards obedience: "And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me." (Genesis 22:18,) Jesus replied, "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice." (Luke 11:28, )

**4. Obedience to God Proves Our Love** - The books of 1 and 2 John clearly explain that obedience to God demonstrates love for God. Loving God implies following his commands: By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. (1 John 5:2–3, ESV)

**5. Obedience to God Demonstrates Faith** - When we obey God, we show our trust and faith in him. And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. (1 John 2:3–6, )

**6. Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice** - The phrase "obedience is better than sacrifice," has often perplexed Christians. It can only be understood from an Old Testament perspective. The law required the Israelite people to offer sacrifices to God, but those sacrifices and offerings were never intended to take the place of obedience. But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing

to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." (1 Samuel 15:22–23, NLT)

**7. Disobedience Leads to Sin and Death** - The disobedience of Adam brought sin and death into the world. This is the basis of the term "original sin." But Christ's perfect obedience restores fellowship with God for everyone who believes in him: For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22, ESV)

**8. Through Obedience, We Experience the Blessings of Holy Living** - Only Jesus Christ is perfect, therefore, only he could walk in sinless, perfect obedience. But as we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us from within, we grow in holiness. This is the process of sanctification, which can also be described as spiritual growth. The more we read God's Word, spend time with Jesus, and allow the Holy Spirit to change us from within, the more we grow in obedience and holiness as Christians.

Fr. George Ngwa

## CATHOLIC NEWS

### **President Trump praised for his Pro-life Support 'Born Alive' executive order for abortion survivors**

President Donald Trump on Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020, announced an executive order that would require medical care be given to infants who are born alive after failed abortion attempts. *"Today I am announcing that I will be signing the Born-Alive Executive Order to ensure that all precious babies born alive, no matter their circumstances, receive the medical care that they deserve. This is our sacrosanct moral duty,"* Trump also announced that his administration would be "increasing federal funding for neonatal research, to ensure that every child has the very best chance to thrive and to grow." September is Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Awareness month.

The president was also proud to say; *"I grew up next to a Catholic church in Queens, New York and I saw how much incredible work the Catholic Church did for our community. These are amazing people. These are great, great people, .... Catholics of all backgrounds share the love of Christ with the most vulnerable, as they care for the elderly, the homeless, and neighbours in need. Our nation is strong because of Catholics and all people of faith,"*

Leonard Leo, co-chairman of the Federalist Society and board president of the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, introduced Trump. Leo praised the Trump administration's efforts to protect religious schools and religious liberty. Leo also praised Trump's commitment to life issues. The president has taken an active and vocal stance in opposition to abortion; he became the first sitting president to address the March for Life earlier this year, has prohibited domestic abortion providers from receiving some federal funds, and has announced plans to expand the Mexico City policy that prohibits federal foreign aid from being given to organizations that promote or perform abortions.

The president's administration has garnered praise from the U.S. bishops' conference for those efforts, while facing criticism from them for ending a moratorium on the federal death penalty, and authorizing the executions of several inmates in recent months.

### **St John Paul II relic stolen amid church robberies in Italy**

This week a relic of St Pope John Paul II was stolen from a cathedral in central Italy, while a church in Sicily was also robbed and the Eucharist desecrated.

A gold reliquary with a relic of the blood of St John Paul II was discovered to be missing from a chapel of the Cathedral Basilica of Spoleto on the evening of September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020.

The relic was a gift from the archbishop of Kraków to the Archdiocese of Spoleto-Norcia in 2016. The archdiocese planned to move the relic to a new church in honour of the Polish saint on October 22. ***This year the Church is marking the 100th anniversary of St. John Paul II's birth.*** The relic was, in the meantime, being displayed for veneration in the chapel of the crucifix, which is enclosed by a gate.

In the early morning hours of September 22, the Church of Sant'Agata al Collegio in Caltanissetta, Sicily, was also broken into and robbed. Statues were damaged and the tabernacle was opened and Eucharistic hosts thrown on the ground. Police intercepted and arrested two men;

20- and 25-year-old locals as they fled the church around 2am on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and are looking for another man and woman, in connection with the crime. While searching the men, police found a gold brooch, a case with consecrated Eucharistic hosts, a bottle of holy oil, and coins from the library's vending machines.

Inside the church, the candlesticks from the altar were found hidden behind a door and the glass encasing a figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary's dormition was shattered and the figure's arm broken. This is the second time the Church of Sant'Agata al Collegio has been broken into since August.

At the time of the August 23 break-in, Fr Sergio Kalizah, the church's pastor, said that the thieves had "damaged everything" inside the church, but gratefully had not touched the tabernacle. ***"I ask you, dear brothers, to support us with your prayers," the priest said.***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please keep to all the social and Church norms governing our safety during this period of Covid-19. As a government regulation wear your masks and fill in your details for track and trace. It is mandatory for us to take names and contact details for every person attending Mass, in case the information is required by **the Track and Trace policy put in place.**

**First Holy Communion** Classes will start at the end of October on Monday evenings from 5 till 6.15 pm. You have a month to register your child if eligible. Proof of a valid Baptism is required and your child should be 7 or over. Please phone or email the office to give your contact details.

Candidates from last year who were unable to complete the course and make their First Holy Communion will have to join in with this year's new candidates. We will discuss with each family which classes they need to attend. Please can you also contact the office with your contact details and let us know if there is any change in your situation. Thank you and God bless.

**Confirmation Classes** will also start at the end of October on a day to be agreed upon with parents. You have a month to register with our Parish office. Proof of a valid Baptism and first Holy Communion document is required. Please phone or email the office to give your contact details.

**CAFOD** This week our parish is having a collection for **CAFOD** to help people facing the worst of the Coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease - let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Give today and save lives at [www.cafod.org.uk/give](http://www.cafod.org.uk/give) or text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. With thanks for your generosity.

**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 – PRC DTR New Milton. Or you may prefer to give your donation directly to Fr. George. Thank you!

**AUTUMN FAST DAY** – Please note that the Autumn Fast Day is on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR "A" 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

Sunday Vigil	26	Sept	Vigil 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	6.00 p.m. Holy Mass – For Fr. Shijo RIP	
Sunday	27	Sept	26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	8:00 a.m. – <i>Padre Pio – for prayers answered</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Living Rosary</i> 4:00 p.m. –	4.00 p.m Mass at Grotto – weather permitting
Monday	28	Sept	St. Wenceslaus		<b>NO MASS AND BENEDICTION</b>
Tuesday	29	Sept	THE HOLY ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL	18.00 Exposition, 18.30 Rosary, 18.50 Benediction 19.00 Holy Mass – <i>Colette Germain-Georges for God's loving care</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Wednesday	30	Sept	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Week - Year A - St. Jerome	10.00 a.m. Holy Mass - <i>Anne Marie Nixon well-being &amp; return to good health</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	01	Oct.	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Week Year A – St. Teresa of the Child Jesus	10.00 a.m. Holy Mass –	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Friday AUTUMN FAST DAY	02	Oct.	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Week - Year A The Holy Guardian Angels	10:00 a.m.- Holy Mass –	<b>NO ROSARY AND BENEDICTION</b>
Saturday	03	Oct.	Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Week - Year A -  Our Lady of Saturday	09:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Devotion 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass –	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil 27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	6.00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>Gehane Therese Gordelier – Birthday blessings</i>	
Sunday	04		26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	8:00 a.m. <i>BieAssoignol RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Mavis Harris Intention</i> 4:00 p.m. -	4.00 p.m Mass at Grotto – weather permitting

**NB: This Weekend - Optional Collection for CAFOD**

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

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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

Hall Bookings suspended during the Pandemic.

**Secretary: Lizzie Davies**– Office Hours 12.00h to 15.00h Wednesday & 10.00h to 13.00h Friday

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**