

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 –



28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR "A" 11TH OCTOBER 2020

REASONS SOME PEOPLE ARE NOT CHRISTIANS NOR INTERESTED EITHER

As we read and meditate on our Gospel reading today, we begin to ask the very necessary questions why the people who were invited to the marriage feast were not interested to attend the feast to which they had been invited.

We find the same trend or reaction to Christians who have been called into the life of grace into the Church but they are not interested. Others even ask the so called Church goers to pray for them. Virtually every church faces the issue of members who are perpetually uninvolved. They are the spectators even in the congregation. Many are faithful Church goers but never move beyond that to be actively involved in the church and mission of God. They go for the show, but not to serve.

Why is that? The immediate assumption by many is that they are simply lazy. They know they should serve and be active members but they just don't see the need or have the desire. This can be a dangerous attitude to have. Not everyone is inactive for the same reasons. There are reasons people stay comfortably seated in their "armchair critic position instead of serving". Once we know why, then we can go about helping them to move into service.

Some People Feel Useless - These individuals feel as if they do not have anything significant to offer. They may believe that they personally are not qualified to serve in a ministry capacity or they might think that only the "clergy" can truly be involved in God's work. What really needs to be corrected here is ignorance. Those who feel useless simply may not know that they have been called and gifted by God for ministry. They need to learn what Peter wrote in his first epistle that based on the gift they received, everyone should use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.

Those commonly referred to as "clergy" and "laity" are both called to ministry—the only question is the kind of ministry they do. My fear is that we have created a class system in the body of Christ comprised of the "called" and the "not so much called." Nothing could be further from the truth. All Christians are called to serve God and humanity in different roles or functions, but it's a common call. People are called to ministry at conversion, not at some subsequent event. It is the ordinary who are called to ministry, not the extraordinary. Those who feel useless have to be patiently taught that God has gifted them for service within the body. Once they grasp this as fact, they can become some of the best disciples and ministers in the congregation.

Some People Are Hurting - It is a simple fact that our church contains those who have been hurt and are still hurting. Some of them have even been hurt by church and church leaders. They simply have not been people with a good example for others to emulate. Because of their past, they are hesitant to get involved again. Healing and help should be our goal for these members.

For those who have been severely wronged, the first priority must be to love them. Our priority and Church leadership should be gracious and provide the help needed to bring that person into a place of healing. The time to serve will come, but they need to be served first.

For others, they may have experienced some of the frequent pains that come with service. Often times those who are hurting feel as if they are alone. They don't realize everyone who has served in church for any period of time has been hurt by someone or something. These people need encouragement to become involved again. We should come alongside them and motivate them to "love and good works,".

Some People Are Lazy - Let's be honest. Some people simply do not want to serve. They want others to do all the work, while they enjoy the benefits. People would rather be an object of the church's mission than a partner in it. Too many church members maintain this me-first attitude. This is part of human nature. It's easier to be a consumer than a collaborator. These set of Christians need to be challenged. The thing about laziness is that it's contagious. Serving is hard enough. No one wants to work while dozens of other people sit around and watch. It causes those who are working to reconsider actually working.

They won't overcome the social/cultural pressure. I am sure we have all seen examples of this. Those of us who grew up in Christian homes and churches felt pressure to become Christians and knew there would be social and cultural benefits to doing so. In fact, we sometimes even slow down or caution our kids to ensure their profession is true rather than just a means of pleasing parents and pastors. But for some people, the social and cultural pressure works in the opposite direction and they know there will be a heavy cost to their salvation. They may lose friends or be disowned by family. They hear the good news and consider it, but deem the cost too high.

They love their favourite sin too much. These tend to be sins we cling to tightly, even as they make us increasingly miserable. The call to obey Christ is a call to put aside such sins and to find a deeper satisfaction in Christ and in obedience to him. Some, and perhaps especially those who find their identity in their sin, will not turn from it. They may hear and weigh the benefits of the gospel, but in the end decide their favourite sin is too precious. They remain unsaved because they refuse to surrender a lesser pleasure they know for a greater one they've been promised.

Their friends or family nag them relentlessly. And then there is this one. There has to be a line between fervency and nagging in our evangelism. We must share the gospel with others, but we must also stop short of nagging and cajoling. Our pleas for their souls can eventually become so persistent and insistent that they probably reveal some deficiency in us, some lack of trust or confidence in the goodness and sovereignty of God. There is a time to plead, but also a time not to, a time to bear down and a time to ease up. Even as we grieve their hardness, we can have confidence in God's sovereign goodness and await a moment that is opportune rather than overbearing.

Moving Everyone Toward Involvement - All God's people are called to the ministry, all God's people are sent on mission. Every church has those who are not actively involved in the ministry of the local body, but not everyone is uninvolved for the same reason. It is up to the leadership of the church to determine who feels useless and needs encouragement, who is hurting and needs help, and who is lazy and needs correcting. Those who must overcome the social/cultural pressure, those who must repent of their favourite sins and who have to overcome nagging from very close circles.

All of these, and many more I'm sure, fall under the different kinds of seed and soil we read about in Matthew. All God's people are called to the ministry, all God's people are sent on mission. The only questions are "Where?" and "Among whom?" Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." The church has been commissioned by Jesus to make disciples. The only way you can accomplish that task beyond the walls of your church is by having engaged, involved and active disciples within the walls.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NHS Track and Trace System - In line with Government recommendations, we have created a venue specific poster for the Church, which will enable anyone who has downloaded the NHS Track & Trace App on their mobile phone to scan the barcode on the poster, eliminating the need to write their personal details each time they attend Mass. You will find a poster with the barcode details at both the main Church door and the door to the Sacristy. However, if you do not have a mobile phone with the NHS App, then you will be required to give your name & telephone number each time you attend Mass (see the Track & Trace form).

Outdoor Rules - *In the grounds of a place of worship More than 30 people can pray in a place of worship or its grounds. The law allows for multiple groups of 6 people to participate, provided that these groups do not mingle. A risk assessment must be conducted and COVID-19 Secure measures implemented. The number of people who are able to gather will therefore be dependent on the size of the space available.*

COVID – Safety Measures -With the escalation of Covid-19 cases nationwide, 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**. This is for *your* safety as much as for everyone else's!

BAPTISM - The government have now updated their guidance for Baptism to restrict the number to 6 people, unless the Baptism takes place during the Mass. If the Baptism takes place during the Mass, the limit should be decided on the basis of the capacity of the place of worship following a risk assessment. Anyone 'working,' including the celebrant, are not included as part of the limit on those attending. (There has been no change to rules regarding First Holy Communion, as this Sacrament takes place during the Mass, so the limit should be decided on the basis of the capacity of the place of worship reflecting your risk assessment.)

COMMUNION TO HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS: - It has been a while now since we have been able to take Holy Communion to our Housebound Parishioners due to the lockdown and safeguarding measures to control the coronavirus. I would like to ask those who wish to receive Holy Communion to inform me and we can do this in the garden of your home without Fr. George coming into the house. All this will be done under the strictest measures of Mask, hand sanitization, no contact (except in a situation where anointing with oil celebrating the sacrament of the sick is requested for) and as brief as possible.

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.

MISSIO World Mission Sunday – 18th October 2020 Every Catholic community, in every country, sends a powerful message of faith, hope and love on World Mission Sunday.

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!

28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR "A" 11TH OCTOBER 2020

Sunday Vigil	10	Oct	Vigil 28 th Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	6.00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>Rosamma Joseph RIP</i>	
Sunday	11	Oct	28 th Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	8:00 a.m. – <i>Eddy Kelleher RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jack & Mary Loftus RIP</i> 4:00 p.m. –	4.00 p.m Mass at Grotto – weather permitting
Monday	12	Oct			NO MASS AND BENEDICTION
Tuesday	13	Oct	St. Edward the Confessor	10:00 Holy Mass –	NO ROSARY AND BENEDICTION
Wednesday	14	Oct	St. Callistus I	10.00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Robert & Joyce Gowing & Catherine Hitchins RIP</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	15	Oct.	St. Teresa of Avila	10.00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>The Cole Family – Health & Happiness</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Friday	16	Oct.	St. Hedwig	10:00 a.m.- Holy Mass – <i>Len & Louisa Castle RIP</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	17	Oct.	St. Ignatius of Antioch	09:30 a.m. Divine Mercy Devotion 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Augustian & Helen RIP</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil 29 th Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	6.00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>John Williams – Health & Wellbeing</i>	
Sunday	18		29 th Sunday In Ordinary Time Year A	8:00 a.m. <i>Maisie Lane 32nd Anniversary RIP</i> 10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Isabella Maynard – Birthday blessing</i> 4:00 p.m. -	4.00 p.m Mass at Grotto – weather permitting

NB: This Weekend: Collection Obligatory for Foreign Missions

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

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

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 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