

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

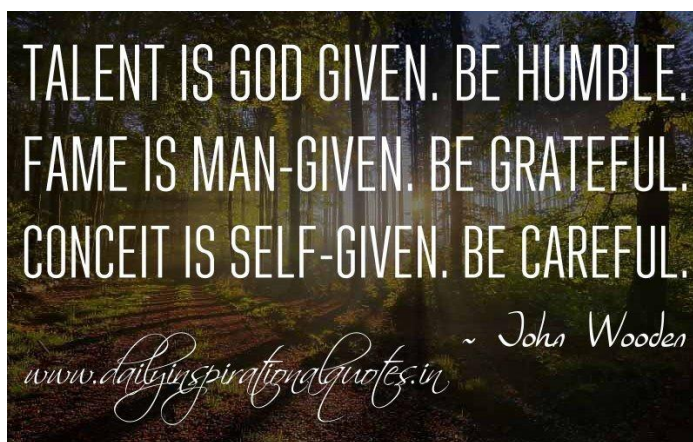
Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*

Church opening hours –



**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR "A" 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

## Do I use my talents for God or self ?



How I can be sure that I am using my talents for God? Is and should the question every Christian must daily meditate on.

We have not all been created with the same abilities, but we have been given the same opportunity to do the good. There are different ways that I can use the talent that I have been given. I can bless the others or I can indulge in selfishness, seeking praise and admiration. I need to search myself: What are my goals and intentions? What is in my heart?

Some have been given the talent to play incredible music. Some have a gift for speaking. Some have an eye for the needs of people around them. And others maybe feel like they haven't been given so many talents at all. *"Look at me! Look at what I can do!"* Maybe I don't say it aloud, but I probably find myself thinking it quite often. My eyes flick to the ones around me, watching for their reactions to see if they say, "Wow, you're really good at that." But do I acknowledge for myself the unrest and selfishness that is coming out of this? When I consider my own abilities to be sufficient for leading myself to a life where I am happy and content, then I have lost focus on the goal.

### Using my talents for God

Why has God entrusted me with the talents that I have? What does He want me to do with them? This is made clear in Philippians 2:3: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." Our talents can be used to serve God, and part of that is to serve others – to esteem others in lowliness of mind!

Lowliness of mind isn't very popular these days. The spirit of the times, teaches us from a young age to exalt ourselves. We learn this from celebrities and sports stars who like to make it known how talented they are. Do I allow this to influence me and make me expect, or maybe even demand praise from others when I have done something well? Basking in the admiration of others might seem like something worth

aspiring towards but, behind-the-scenes, a life lived only for receiving honour is superficial and its rewards are gone in a moment. *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”* Colossians 3:23-25.

There is no peace when I am seeking honour from others. Instead, I get bogged down in selfishness to the point where all my thoughts are about myself: how am I being perceived; what are the others saying about me? etc. This selfishness prevents me from really growing in love for God and for the others. But how can I be free from an endless obsession with myself that so often hinders me from showing a genuine love and care for others?

### **It has been given to me**

*“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think...”* Romans 12:3.

When my head begins to swell with pride, I need to remember that everything I have has been given to me. I also need to remember that my earthly talents are worth nothing in eternity. The value that comes forth from my talents isn't the talent itself. After all, do I really think I would have a better chance of getting into heaven if I was really good at public speaking, for example? What really matters is that I live a life for God, serving Him in simple faith and obedience. What really matters is the love that I show for others. The talents God has given me, whether great or small, can be used for this purpose.

If all my talents were taken away today, how would I react? If I injured my leg so badly that I couldn't play sports, or broke my hand and couldn't play my musical instrument, what sort of attitude would come out of me? Would others still feel a genuine warmth and love radiating out from my actions, or would they sense bitterness?  
What is motivating me?

*“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”* Colossians 3:2.

I need to be honest about why I am using my talents. More often than not, I can tell by how I find myself reacting. If I go around, waiting eagerly for people to compliment me, then I am focused on things of the earth – seeking my own honour and satisfaction. A bitter taste comes out of actions that are motivated out of egotism. However, if I genuinely use my talents as an opportunity to serve God and bless the others, then there can be a real, lasting value. It is important for me to be completely honest with myself here. My talents shouldn't be a stumbling block for myself.

What about if I feel like I haven't received such a generous portion of talent? I can quickly be tempted to envy when I see that some of my friends can do this or that effortlessly. I need to guard my heart against this. James 3:16 reads: *“For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”* Envy leads to strife. If I can't rejoice when I see someone else using their gifts to bless, then my pride and envy are standing in the way.

*“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* 1 Peter 4:10-11. God knew me long before He created the earth, and He intentionally made me exactly as I am, with a plan for my life. The intention is that I use my talents in a way that is pleasing to God rather than to myself. Used correctly, my talents can be an incredible tool in building friendships and in blessing and enriching the lives of others around me.

When my time comes to meet my Creator, my talents will fall away, but the results of living in obedience to His laws will stand as an eternal testimony. In the end, what matters is how I serve God and am well-pleasing to Him and, in serving God, what I do with what I have been given. May my life be a life lived to God's glory, a life full of heavenly content and blessing!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COVID-19 Pandemic**– The latest Government legislation dictates that “Places of Worship will be closed, unless they are being used for:

- Funerals
- To broadcast acts of worship
- Individual prayer

Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people, and it is advised that only close friends and family attend. Linked ceremonial events such as stone setting burial of ashes can also continue with up to 15 people in attendance. Anyone working is not included. Social distancing should be maintained between people who do not live together or share a support bubble.”

It is with sadness, therefore, that we are duty bound to close our Church once again for all Masses, including our outdoor Mass at the Grotto, with immediate effect. This is a Government decision generated by the ever-increasing cases of Covid-19 nationwide and this lockdown is due to run until 2<sup>nd</sup> December. In the meantime, Fr. George will be celebrating daily Masses and hour adoration which you can follow via Live Streaming at <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> and the Church will be open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Diocesan Day of Prayer & Fasting for an End to the Coronavirus Pandemic – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Cardinal Nichols has called for prayers to be said at 6.00 p.m. each day and also for a National Day of Prayer on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November. However, we will also have our own diocesan Day of Prayer & Fasting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. It will be an opportunity for us as a Diocese to pray for all our intentions here. A full programme for the Day at the Cathedral will be available on the Diocesan website and everyone can join in via live-streaming. Let us remember those encouraging words of the Psalmist in Ps. 26:- “Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart; hope in the Lord!”

**GIFT AID** This is a good way of giving to our Parish because, provided you are a Tax payer, your donation will attract an extra 25%. If you are interested in joining the scheme, please contact Lizzie in the Office. Also she has quite a few unclaimed boxes of G.A. envelopes in the Office. Please let her know if you need any more! For Office times, please see page 4 of the Newsletter.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT during the enforced Coronavirus Church Closure.** Particularly now, with yet another lockdown, whether or not you are a Gift Aider and you 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 the Office. Thank you! If you do decide to pay money directly into our Bank Account, it would be very helpful for our Treasurer if you could write what it is for in the Reference Box when paying on line, i.e. Church donation, Intention, Cafod etc.

**NEW FOREST FOOD BANK** - The Covid-19 Pandemic has caused immense hardship to many people and that is why local Food Banks are such an important way of helping desperate people. Please give generously to support this effort locally. Dry goods and tinned goods are particularly welcome but please ensure that the items are well in date and that no packets of rice, etc. have been opened or pierced in any way. During the current Church closure, all donations can be brought to Lizzie in the Parish Office or alternatively given direct to Fr. George. Thank you for your generosity and your kindness!

**THE MISSIO & MILL HILL MISSIONARIES, RED BOX APPEAL** – Sadly, due to the Covid Pandemic, this charity has suffered substantially this year. The 2020 annual return for OLOL totalled £160, for which of course we are extremely grateful, but this is such a deserving charity and we would like to encourage more members of our Church family to come on board. The Missio Calendars will be delivered to Red Box holders via post after the end of lockdown on 2<sup>nd</sup> December but if anyone else would like to have a Missio Red Box and a calendar, please let Lizzie know in the Parish Office. We are also keen to find volunteers to collect Red Boxes after the Pandemic is over. Is there anyone out there who could devote a bit of their free time to help?

## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR "A" 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday Vigil		14	Nov.	Vigil Mass of 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	6.00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>Stanislawa Milakowska (Intention)</i>	
Sunday		15	Nov.	33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jack Conway (RIP)</i>	
Monday		16	Nov.	ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON	19:00 Holy Mass -	
Tuesday		17	Nov.	St. Elizabeth of Hungary	18:00 Exposition, 18:30 Rosary, 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass– <i>Rosamma Joseph (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary & Benediction
Wednesday		18	Nov.	Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter & St. Paul, Rome	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday		19	Nov.	Thursday of the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Year A	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>David Watts (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Friday		20	Nov.	Friday of the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Ordinary Time Year A	10:00 Holy Mass- <i>God's Blessing for the continued good health &amp; wellbeing of the Churcher Family</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday		21	Nov.	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	09:30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Dempster &amp; Kallar Families (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil				Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	6:00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>Tony Thorpe (for health &amp; wellbeing)</i>	
Sunday		22	Nov.	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	10:00 - Holy Mass – <i>Jane Nye (Birthday Blessings)</i>	

**Your continued financial support during these very 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** [ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ololnewmilton@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**