

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 –



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE YEAR "A" 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

In the Church's calendar, Christ the King is the parallel of the Super Bowl trophy or the Final Four in college basketball or the last game of the World Series. The Church's liturgical year concludes with this feast of Christ the King, instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to celebrate the Jubilee Year and the 16th centenary of the Council of Nicaea. Instituting this feast, Pope Pius XI proclaimed: "*Pax Christi in regno Christi*" ("The peace of Christ in the reign of Christ"). This feast was established and proclaimed by the Pope to reassert the sovereignty of Christ and the Church over all forms of government and to remind Christians of the fidelity and loyalty they owed to Christ, who by his Incarnation and sacrificial death on the cross had made them both adopted children of God and future citizens and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Feast was also a reminder to the totalitarian governments of Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin that Jesus Christ is the only Sovereign King. Christ is our spiritual King and Ruler who rules by truth and love. We declare our loyalty to him by the quality of our Christian commitment, expressed in our serving of others with sacrificial and forgiving love, and by our solidarity with the poor. Although emperors and kings with real ruling power exist today only in history books, we nevertheless honour Christ as the King of the Universe and the King of our hearts by allowing him to take control of our lives. In thousands of human hearts all over the world, Jesus still reigns as King. The Cross is his throne and the Sermon on the Mount, his rule of law. His citizens need obey only one major law: "*Love God with all your being, and love others as I have loved you.*" His love is selfless, compassionate, forgiving, and unconditional. He is a King with a saving and liberating mission: freeing us from all types of bondage, enabling us to live peacefully and happily on earth, and promising us an inheritance in the eternal life of heaven.

Christ has conquered, Christ now rules: In the middle of St Peter's square in Rome, there stands a great obelisk. It is about four and half thousand years old and it originally stood in the temple of the sun in the Egyptian city of Heliopolis. But it was bought to Rome by the dreadful Emperor Caligula and it was set right in the middle of the Circus of Nero, equally dreadful, that was on the Vatican hill. It was in that Circus that St Peter was martyred, and the obelisk may well have been the last thing on this Earth that Peter saw. On top of the obelisk there now stands a cross. In ancient times there was a gold ball representing, of course, the sun. Now there is a cross, however, the cross of Christ, and on the pedestal of the obelisk there are two inscriptions. The first of them in Latin, "*Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat*", which translated means, Christ has conquered, Christ now rules, Christ now reigns supreme. The other inscription, "The Lion of Judah has conquered". So here we have the language of victory. Christianity has triumphed by the power of the cross and triumphed over even the greatest power that the ancient world had known, the Roman Empire, and here in the middle of St Peter's square stands the obelisk bearing those triumphant inscriptions

The Biblical basis of the feast:

A) Old Testament texts: The title "Christ the King" has its roots both in Scripture and in the whole theology of the *Kingdom of God*. In most of the Messianic prophecies given in the Old Testament books of Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel, Christ the Messiah is represented as a King.

B) New Testament texts: a) In the Annunciation, recorded in Lk 13:2-33, we read: "*The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and He will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever and His Kingdom will never end.*" In fact, the *Kingdom of God* is the centre of Jesus' teaching and the phrase "*Kingdom of God*" occurs in the Gospels 122 times, of which 90 instances are used by Jesus. b) The Magi from the Far East came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt. 2:2) "*Where is the baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw his star... and we have come to worship him.*" c) During the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk 19:38) "*God bless the King, who comes in the name of the Lord.*" d) During the trial of Jesus described in today's Gospel, Pilate asked the question: (Jn 18:33): "*Are you the king of the Jews?*" Jesus

replied: "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into this world for this one purpose, to bear witness to the Truth." e) Today's Gospel tells us that the board hung over Jesus' head on the cross read: "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews," (Lk 23:36; see also, Mt 27:37; Mk 15:26; John 19:19-20), and that, to the repentant thief on the cross who made the request: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom," Jesus promised Paradise with Him that very day. (Luke 19:39-43). f) Before his Ascension into Heaven, Jesus declared: (Mt. 28:18): "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." g) Finally, in Matthew 25:31, we read that Christ the King will come in glory to judge us on the day of the Last Judgement.

What is the Kingdom of God? What is the Kingdom of Christ the King?

Here is a beautiful explanation given by Gerald Darring (St. Louis University: *Center for Liturgy*): The Kingdom of God is a space. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy. The Kingdom of God is a time. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come). The Kingdom of God is a condition. Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace. Jesus Christ is king! We pray today that God may free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love.

We need to assess our commitment to Christ the King today. As we celebrate the Kingship of Christ today, let us remember the truth that he is not our King if we do not listen to him, love him, serve him, and follow him. We belong to his Kingdom only when we try to walk with him, when we try to live our lives fully in the spirit of the Gospel and when that Gospel spirit penetrates every facet of our living. If Christ is really King of my life, he must be King of every part of my life, and I must let him reign in all parts of my life. We become Christ the King's subjects when we sincerely respond to his loving invitation: "**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart**" (Matthew 11:29). By cultivating in our lives the gentle and humble mind of Christ, we show others that Jesus Christ is in indeed our King and that he is in charge of our lives.

We need to give Jesus control over our lives. Today's Feast of Christ the King reminds us of the great truth that Christ must be in charge of our lives, that we must give him sovereign power over our bodies, our thoughts, our heart and our will. In every moral decision we face, there's a choice between Christ the King and Barabbas, and the one who seeks to live in Christ's Kingdom is the one who says, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*" Let us ask ourselves the question, "What does Jesus, my King, want me to do or say in this situation?" Are we praying each day that our King will give us the right words to say to the people we meet that day, words that will make us true ambassadors of Jesus? Does our home life as well as the way we conduct ourselves with our friends come under the Kingship of Jesus? Or do we try to please ourselves rather than him?

We need to follow Christ the King's lesson of humble service to the truth. Christ has come to serve and to be of service to others. Hence, we are called to his service - service to the truth. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus saying that the reason for his coming - the reason that he was born - was to "bear witness" to the truth. The truth to which Jesus bears witness by His Life and which he teaches us is that God, his Father, is also our loving and forgiving Father, so we are all His children, forming one body. Hence, whatever we do for His children, and our sisters and brothers, we do for Him. So we are called to be a people who reach out to embrace the enemy and the stranger, a people who are called to glory in diversity, a people who will endlessly forgive, a people who will reach out in compassion to the poor and to the marginalized sectors of our society, a people who will support one another in prayer, a people who will realize that we are called not to be served, but to serve. In other words, servant-leadership is the model that Christ the King has given us. "For the Christian, 'to reign is to serve him,' particularly when serving 'the poor and the suffering, in whom the Church recognizes the image of her poor and suffering founder'" (CCC #786).

We need to obey the law of love of Christ the King. Citizens of Christ's kingdom are expected to observe only one major law--the law of love. "*Love God with your whole heart and love your neighbour as yourself.*" "*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*" Jesus expects a higher degree of love from His followers: "**Love one another as I have loved you.**" On this great Feast of Christ, the King, let us resolve to give him the central place in our lives and promise to obey his commandment of love by sharing what we have with all his needy children.

Fr. George Ngwa

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.”

As you already know, Churches have been forced to close for all attended Masses and this includes our outdoor Mass at the Grotto. This legislation was generated by Government to try and stem the tide of Covid-19 nationwide to form a fire-break until 2nd 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 27th 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 21st November. However, we will also have our own diocesan Day of Prayer & Fasting on Friday 27th 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 Missio Calendars will be delivered to Red Box holders via post after the end of lockdown on 2nd 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?*

NEW FOREST DISABILITY – Do you or a family member have difficulty using your bath or find stairs and steps difficult? New Forest District Council offer grants and loans for adaptations to your home that could help make life easier. Please contact the Private Sector Housing Team at NFDC on 02380 285 151 for further details or collect a flyer from Lizzie in the Parish Office.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE YEAR "A" 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday Vigil	21	Nov.	Vigil Mass of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year A	6.00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>Tony Thorpe (for health & wellbeing)</i>	
Sunday	22	Nov.	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE Year A	10.00 Holy Mass – <i>Jane Nye (Birthday Blessings)</i>	
Monday	23	Nov.	St Clement 1		
Tuesday	24	Nov.	St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	18:00 Exposition, 18:30 Rosary, 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass–	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction and Holy Mass
Wednesday	25	Nov.	St. Catherine of Alexandria	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>God's Blessing for the continued good health & wellbeing of the Churcher Family</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	26	Nov.	Thursday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time Year A	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Don & Agnes Campbell (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Friday	27	Nov.	Friday of the 34 th Week in Ordinary Time Year A	10:00 Holy Mass- <i>The Hobbs & Hughes Families (for health & wellbeing)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	28	Nov.	Our Lady of Saturday	09:30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Bill Clarke (for the repose of his soul)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 1 st Sunday of Advent Year "B"	6:00 p.m. Holy Mass – <i>For Souls in Purgatory</i>	
Sunday	29	Nov.	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR "B"	10:00 - Holy Mass – <i>Mary Conway (RIP)</i>	

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

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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