

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR "B" 24th JANUARY 2021

Need of Repentance and Prompt Response to God's Call

In our celebration of Holy Mass today, the first reading tells us how God had to deal with the disobedient, fleeing prophet Jonah to turn him around (convert him), so that, repenting, he would go to Nineveh to preach repentance there. The wicked people of Nineveh, however, accepted Jonah as God's prophet at once, and promptly responded to God's call for repentance as Jonah preached it.

In the second reading, Paul urges the Christian community in Corinth to lose no time in accepting the message of the Gospel and in renewing their lives with repentance because Jesus' *second coming* may occur at any moment.

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus came to Galilee and began preaching, challenging people to "*repent and believe in the Gospel.*" Just as John did, Jesus also called for *repentance*, meaning a change in one's mind or in the direction of one's life and setting new priorities. Repentance also means hating sin itself, not just being sorry for the consequences of one's sins. *Believing* in the Gospel demands from the hearers a resolution to take Jesus' words seriously, to translate them into action, and to put trust in Jesus' authority. Jesus preached the *Gospel*, or Good News, that God is a loving, forgiving, caring and merciful Father Who wants to liberate us and save us from our sins through His son Jesus.

By describing the call of Jesus' first disciples, Andrew, Peter, James, and John, today's Gospel also emphasizes how we, sinners, are to respond to God's call with total commitment by abandoning our accustomed style of sinful life. Jesus started his public ministry immediately after John the Baptist was arrested. According to Mark, Jesus selected four fishermen, Andrew and his brother Peter with James and his brother John, right from their fishing boats. Jesus wanted these ordinary, hard-working people as assistants for his ministry because they would be very responsive and generous instruments in the hands of God.

What Are the Steps to Truly Repent?

Repentance is powerful. It's a spiritual weapon against temptation. When the devil brings a temptation of something we've repented for, we can declare with conviction, "I've repented of that. "God healed me, and I won't go back to it."

How can one repent for something when there's no godly sorrow? Without godly sorrow, there won't be a changed mind, and we'll commit the same sin over and over again. Repentance is a serious business and should be entered into gravely, with a sincere heart. You should be seeking a renewed heart and mind.

The Holy Spirit strengthens us and helps us through the repentance process. But before we can repent, we must acknowledge we are wrong, that we are sinners. To repent, we must:

1. Have godly sorrow for our sin
2. Confess our sin
3. Turn from sin (with God's help)
4. Choose holiness every day

Sorrow - Before we can repent, 2 Corinthians 7 teaches we must have godly sorrow. Thus, step one to truly repenting is to experience godly sorrow, grief over our sin. Our sin must become a burden, a weight, we no longer desire to carry. We must see it's repugnant, a stench in God's nostrils. Godly sorrow leads to us viewing sin the way God does.

Confess - We must then confess our sin before God because he is "...faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Turn - When we have godly sorrow and confess our sin, we can then repent. Again, repentance is turning our backs on sin. Repentance is stopping whatever we're doing that isn't pleasing in God's sight. Repentance is choosing God's way instead of our flesh. Regardless of what sin(s) you've committed, you can repent right now, if you have godly sorrow for it. You don't have to wait until the next time you go to church to repent.

Holiness - The last step in repentance is choosing holiness every day. Just because we repent doesn't mean the temptation to sin won't arise again in our lives. Thus, we have to choose holiness and righteousness daily.

POINTS TO REMEMBER EVERYDAY

1) We need to appreciate our call to become Christ's disciples: Every one of us is called by God, both individually, and collectively as a parish community, to continue Jesus' mission of preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom and healing the sick.

2) We are called individually to a way of life or vocation: – a religious commitment (priest, deacon, missionary, religious Sister or Brother, marriage partner, or single person), plus a particular occupation rising from our talents (medicine, law, teaching, healing, writing, art, music, building and carpentry, homemaking, child-rearing). Our own unique vocation should enable us to become what God wants us to be. As St. Francis Sales puts it, we are expected to bloom where we are planted.

3) Our call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation. It is strengthened through the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and, for those so called, made manifest in the sacraments of Matrimony or Holy Orders. The amazing truth is that God is relentless in calling us back to Himself even when we stray away from Him.

4) Let us be thankful to God for His Divine grace of calling us to be members of the true Church. Let us remember that it is our vocation in life as Christians to transmit Christ's Light through our living, radiating Jesus' unconditional love, mercy, forgiveness, and humble service to all in our society.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY MASS BOOKING ON LINE DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

As the whole country is now in Lock Down it will still be necessary to restrict the number of parishioners in Church for each Mass to approximately 30, which means that you will need to book your place in advance. We now have an “on-line” booking system in place, which you can find by going onto our website at <https://www.nfwp.org.uk> - (scroll down left-hand column to CORONAVIRUS: Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton and click on CORONAVIRUS: How to book a seat for Mass). Alternatively the Links for next Sunday 31st January is as follows:- <https://forms.gle/QcroYz8wZERbBCKu7>

If anybody does not have the facility to book on line, would they please contact Lizzie in the Parish Office on either a Wednesday or Friday between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. Obviously, with the escalation of Covid cases nationally, things might change at any time, so we will try to keep you updated as soon as is possible!

2nd COLLECTION FOR THE CATHEDRAL (OBLIGATORY) – WEEKEND OF 23RD& 24TH JANUARY

This weekend we take the annual second collection in support of your Cathedral in Portsmouth. Appeal envelopes will be available at all masses for those who do not have gift aided planned giving envelopes for second collections. These can also be collected from the Parish Office. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family.

Due to the lockdown and restrictions being imposed on many people travelling, a ‘Give as you Live’ page has also been created to enable you to donate online at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal>

Understandably, we are aware that these are difficult times for us all, but please give generously to support your cathedral, gift aiding your donation wherever possible.

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.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT during the COVID PANDEMIC. 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 – PRC DTR 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.

2021 CHURCH DIARIES Now available. Please pick up your copy from the Parish Office.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY – Wednesday 27th January

The UK Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) will be streamed live for the first time at 7pm on Wednesday 27th January. If you wish to join the ceremony online, you need to register in advance. Details can be found on the Portsmouth Diocesan Website - Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 306.

After the ceremony, get ready to Light the Darkness with us. We are asking households across the UK to light a candle and put it in their window at 8pm (if you are able to do so safely) to:

- remember those who were murdered for who they were
- stand against prejudice and hatred today.

NEW FOREST BASICS BANK – Please keep your donations coming for this very worthwhile cause, which is particularly needed over this lock down period. Thank you!

LIVE-IN CARER/COMPANION - If you know of anyone who needs live-in care or companionship, please call Helen on 07867 978 558. Helen can offer excellent references, has DBS clearance & her own car.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 24TH JANUARY 2021

Sunday Vigil	23	2021 Jan.	Vigil Mass of the 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>Mrs Eileen Dean (Auntie Eileen) RIP</i>	
Sunday	24	Jan.	THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>Philomena Watts (thoughts & prayers for a speedy recovery)</i> 10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Marria Joseph (RIP)</i>	
Monday	25	Jan.	THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL Year B	10:00 Holy Mass	
Tuesday	26	Jan.	St. Timothy & St. Titus Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass – <i>Thomas Joseph (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	27	Jan.	St. Angela Merici Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Joseph Mathew (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	28	Jan.	St. Thomas Aquinas Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Joan Patricia Hamon (Birthday Anniversary RIP)</i>	
Friday	29	Jan.	Friday of the 3 rd Week in Ordinary Time Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Everett Jones (Blessings for a speedy recovery & thanks to the NHS Team)</i>	No Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	30	Jan.	Our Lady of Saturday Year B	10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Stephen Foley (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year “B”	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>For all the Dead Souls in Purgatory</i>	
Sunday	31	Jan.	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B	8:00 - Holy Mass – 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>Joan & Emile Hamon (Wedding Anniversary RIP)</i>	

This Weekend: 2nd Collection (obligatory) for the Cathedral

Next Weekend: 2nd Collection (optional) for Racial Justice

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

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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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