

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR "B" 07TH FEBRUARY 2021

ANOTHER LOOK AT MY OBLIGATION TO SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD ! A MUST FOR ALL CHRISTIANS

Christians from all walks of life are called to prioritize their important task of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. St. Paul says in our second reading today that

"I do not boast of preaching the Gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I do not preach it!" (cf. 1 Cor.9:16)

- ✓ All Christians must diligently propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone and make disciples of all nations.
- ✓ Each Christian must understand that God is counting on him (or her) to preach the gospel.
- ✓ We must all meet God's mandate to propagate his kingdom by preaching to people of all languages, nations, and tribes.
- ✓ We must reach out to all races for the sake of winning them for Christ, to give other people an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour
- ✓ No Christian should assume that the task of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ belongs to someone else. Therefore, every Christian must consider this important task as his primary assignment.

St. Paul tells Timothy that; "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

SOME REASONS FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL

The task of preaching the Gospel is a must (and not a choice) for all Christians! - Any Christian who avoids the task of sharing his faith with others is already disappointing God. Jesus requires all of us Christians to preach the gospel. We read in Matthew 28:19 And Jesus said to them "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, know that I am with you always, even till the end of the world.

Preaching the Gospel must be carried out without sentiment. - Each Christian must preach without prejudice. He/she must preach to people of different languages. We must reach out to people of different nations and tribes. A Christian who does selective evangelisation is not making a wise decision. Christ requires us to go and make disciples of all nations. Christian must preach the gospel of Jesus without reservations. We must preach to people of different nations, tribes, and tongues. We Christians must not allow tradition and/or culture to limit the spread of the Gospel effort.

Gospel evangelization must not be preached with convenience. - A Christian who preaches with convenience is not pleasing to God. We are charged to "*preach the gospel in season and out of season*"

(2 Timothy 4). That is, we must preach when convenient and when not convenient. Therefore we must preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at all times.

Gospel evangelization does not require a qualification - A Christian who believes he needs a religious qualification to preach the gospel is not convinced of his/her mission! Every Christian is qualified to preach the gospel. No theology required! No religious title required! God is well and able to convert any sinner with our simple message of the cross. (Christ died for sinners; whoever believes him shall be saved – John 3:16). A Christian must remain active for God whether he carries a religious title or not. As a Christian, you must preach the Word of God whether you are a lay church member, a pastor, a teacher, a deacon, an evangelist, a priest or a bishop. Every Christian is commissioned to preaching the Word of God at all costs!

Preaching the Word of God is not bound with church denominations - A person who relies on church affiliation as his basic need to preach the gospel has missed the mark. Church denomination can provide support to aid the process of spreading the gospel, however, it is not a requirement.

In fact, Christians who understand the doctrine of other Churches and their evangelistic efforts with multiple church denominations may record more success for God, especially in efforts for the unity of the churches.

Some obstacles that as Christians we must overcome to Preach the Gospel

SELF - A Christian must focus on God rather than focusing on himself in order to receive the strength needed to preach the gospel. *“You are what you are by the grace of God.”* Therefore you must consider it a priority to preach while you still have the breath of life in you. In actuality, the day you stop preaching the gospel should be the day you die!

PERSECUTION - Christians would face resistance for the sake of the gospel. Every Christian must understand the mandate placed on him to keep preaching the gospel while he fights his odds. Don't wait till you can overcome all your problems before sharing your faith with others.

LACK OF RESOURCES - *Human wants are insatiable.* No matter what you have, you will always need more! Therefore, it is wise for every Christian to manage his limited resources and preach the gospel effectively.

A good Christian will keep performing his religious exercise while he is still trusting God for more needed provisions.

As a Christian,

- Education must not be your barrier!
- Money must not be your barrier!
- Time must not be your barrier!
- Racial or tribal prejudices should not be your barrier
- Any other resources must not be your barrier!

LACK OF FOCUS - A Christian who forgets he would be rewarded by God for effectively preaching the gospel may be tempted to slow down his efforts. God has promised tremendous rewards for people who prioritize gospel propagation to populate his kingdom. No Christian should forget that God will reward him in heaven for his good services. You will have more honour in heaven if you can effectively preach the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Conclusion

Every Christians must understand he has the mandate to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ at all times.

All Christians are God's workers, and we must with a positive mind always think of winning heaven as our goal at all costs! We must make sizable efforts to meet God's demand for gospel evangelization. God expects each one of us to prioritize evangelism above his aspiration and personal needs and he will reward faithful Christians with an imperishable crown of glory in heaven. Remember that Jesus says that anyone who is ashamed of him in the presence of men, he too will be ashamed of them in the presence of God.

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 45, 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 Sundays in February are:-

14th February 2021 - <https://forms.gle/wsmPDFJxnfrvN3z8>

21st February 2021- <https://forms.gle/yStw6efsp8VpXdLh9>

28th February 2021 - <https://forms.gle/JAENMABixsHhEcpZ8>

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!

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.

This Lent, **CAFOD** invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the Big Walk for Water [Join the Big Walk for Water! | CAFOD](#) virtual event on Saturday 20th February. We are asking everyone to walk in solidarity with those who have to walk to collect water each day like Abdella from Ethiopia. You can walk 5 miles or just around your garden but please walk so that we can make this an event to create awareness of water poverty and to raise funds for those living in poverty around the world.

If you are a keen walker could you Walk for Water as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days to raise funds for CAFOD’s Lent appeal. Find out more at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water> Please contact Jo for more information portsmouth@cafod.org.uk 30 seconds walk for water promotion [Walk for Water: Sign up, get fit, change someone’s life | CAFOD on Vimeo](#)

LIVE STREAMING – Live Streaming of our Masses here at Our Lady of Lourdes has been a God-send to so many people who have been self-isolating during this very long Pandemic and it is very rewarding to have received so many messages of thanks and appreciation. Many of those messages mention Fr. George’s up-lifting and encouraging words of hope and many ask him to continue his waive at the end of Mass! During January we had over 4,000 unique viewers, which makes it so worthwhile.

MRS MAUREEN WIXLEY – Some of you may remember Maureen Wixley, who died last year and who was a regular, enthusiastic and active member of our Church for many years, until she was no longer able to attend in person. Mrs Wixley’s niece is trying to trace Malcolm Wixley, Mrs Wixley’s son, who’s last known address was in France but he has now moved. Are there any parishioners who may know Malcolm and have an address for him? If so, could you please let us know as soon as possible – Thank you!

CATHY PICKLES - Sadly Cathy left us after her brief fight with Covid-19. Those who ever met her will testify to her tremendous faith in God. Hence our fervent prayers for the repose of her gentle soul. Equally needed is our prayers for her 99 years old mother and her husband Tony who are both fighting the virus. Cathy was well known to many in this Parish and especially to the members of the Living Rosary Group. So if anyone would like to email his /her condolences and maybe a memory of Cathy they are most welcome to. They can send these to Linda Guilding lguilding@btinternet.com or the parish office lymbrockmil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 07TH FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday Vigil	06	2021 Feb.	Vigil Mass of the 5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B	18:00 Holy Mass -
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Sunday	07	Feb.	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>Fr. G. Vervenne (Birthday Intention)</i> 10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Living Rosary</i>	
Monday	08	Feb.	St. Jerome Emiliani Year B		
Tuesday	09	Feb.	Tuesday of the 5 th Week in Ordinary Time Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass – <i>Fiona Moore (Blessing & prayers in your fight against cancer)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	10	Feb.	St. Scholastica Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Boggumita&JozefStarzynski (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	11	Feb.	Our Lady of Lourdes Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Charles & Minnie Garbett (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Friday	12	Feb.	Friday of the 5 th Week in Ordinary Time Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Rev. Fr. Chris Savage (health & wellbeing)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	13	Feb.	Our Lady on Saturday Year B	10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Peggy Tolliday (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year “B”	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>Captain Sir Tom Moore (Thank You! RIP)</i>	
Sunday	14	Feb.	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B	8:00 - Holy Mass – <i>(Repose of the Soul of Julia Shanaghy)</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>For Fr George Ngwa (God’s blessing & protection against Covid)</i>	

Next Wednesday – 17th February -Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent

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

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

email: gngwa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Emergency mobile: 07475753040

Parish office: 01425 614968 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.nfwf.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