

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*



**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY / 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "B" 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### In Defence of the Divine Mercy Devotion.

*There have been many critics of the Divine Mercy Devotion even from within the Church circles.*

*People who forget what the Church is and stand for, come forward to propagate a personal self aggravated error and want people to believe them. Below is just one of them and a correction of their culpable ignorance.*

Recently, a reader submitted to the Lepanto Institute an article written by Msgr. Patrick Perez regarding the devotion to the Divine Mercy. In the article, Msgr. Perez indicates a number of reasons for which he is deeply concerned about St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy devotion initiated by her and the writings in her diary. ( Research shows that Msgr. Patrick Perez is a dissident cleric and is not in good standing with the Catholic Church ).

There are several errors and misstatements in Msgr. Perez's article on the Divine Mercy devotion. Msgr. Perez focuses on what he called "condemnations" of the Divine Mercy devotion, and gives no attention to the rescinding of these "condemnations." For the sake of clarity, it must be stated here that neither St. Faustina's diary nor the devotion to the Divine Mercy were ever "condemned". However, Msgr. Perez asserts that:

**"Pius XII put the writings of Sr. Faustina on the *Index of Prohibited Books*. That meant that he considered that their content would lead Catholics astray or in the wrong direction. Next, came other prohibitions made by Pope John XXIII. Twice in his pontificate, the Holy Office issued condemnations of the Divine Mercy writings."**

However, this is not exactly what happened. Cardinal Octavian, then head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, attempted to persuade Pope Pius XII to sign a letter condemning the Divine Mercy devotion as written by Sr. Faustina. Instead, the diary was placed on the Index of Prohibited Books. This is not the same thing as a condemnation. This same pope, incidentally, blessed an Image of the Divine Mercy in Rome on 24 June 1956. Not exactly the action of one preparing to condemn this devotion.

Furthermore, Pope John XXIII did not "condemn" the diary or the devotion either. However, the Holy Office under his direction forbade circulation of "images and writings that promote devotion to Divine Mercy *in the forms proposed by Sister Faustina*." Suppression of the devotion is not the same thing as condemnation. More to the point, the reasons behind the suppression were the result of poor translations of the diary. Also, it cannot be considered mere coincidence that St. Faustina accurately predicted this suppression and the lifting of the suppression in 1935. She said in her diary:

**"There will come a time when this work, which God is demanding so very much, will be as though utterly undone. And then God will act with great power, which will give evidence of its authenticity. It will be a new splendour for the Church, although it has been dormant in it from long ago. That God is infinitely merciful, no one can deny. He desires everyone to know this before He comes again as Judge. He wants souls to come to know Him first as King of Mercy. When this triumph comes, we shall already have entered the new life in which there is no suffering. But before this, your soul [referring to Fr. Sopocko] will be surfeited with bitterness at the sight of the destruction of your efforts.** However, this will only appear to be so, because what God has once decided upon, He does not

change. But although this destruction will be such only in outward appearance, the suffering will be real. When will this happen? I do not know. How long will it last? I do not know. But God has promised a great grace especially to you and to all those... “who will proclaim My great mercy. I shall protect them Myself at the hour of death as my own glory.” (1738)

Of note here is that St. Faustina told her spiritual director, Fr. Sopocko, that she and he would both die before the suppression of this devotion was lifted. Fr. Sopocko died in 1975, three years before the suppression was lifted in 1978.

Cardinal Ottaviani, as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was responsible for the suppression of the Divine Mercy devotion. Given the information he had at the time, his suppression was well founded. As Msgr. Perez points out, the Holy Office declared that “**There is no evidence of the supernatural origin of these revelations.**” The caveat “at this time” should have been added to this statement. The lifting of the suppression of the Divine Mercy Devotion by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith says:

**“This Sacred Congregation, having now in possession the many original documents unknown in 1959, and having taken into account the profoundly changed circumstances, and having taken into account the opinion of many Polish Ordinaries, declares no longer binding the prohibitions contained in the Notification [of 1959].”**

While Cdl. Ottaviani was the one responsible for the suppression of the Divine Mercy devotion, he is ALSO the same individual who appointed Archbishop Karol Wojtyła of Kraków to begin the informative process on Faustina’s life and virtues in 1965. It was through this process that the translation error was discovered, interviews with St. Faustina’s spiritual director and sister nuns were conducted, and the suppression subsequently reversed. Were the Divine Mercy devotion and St. Faustina’s diary actually condemned, this appointment and informative process would never have taken place, and certainly would not have been initiated by Cardinal Ottaviani.

With regard to the claims of papal condemnations of the Divine Mercy devotion, it is intellectually dishonest for Msgr. Perez to equivocate suppression with condemnation and then focus exclusively on the suppression of the Divine Mercy devotion while ignoring the Church’s lifting of the suppression and institution of Divine Mercy Sunday. Either the Church through Her Pope has the power to bind and loose or she does not. By focusing on the suppression and falsely claiming it as a condemnation, and then ignoring the lifting of the suppression and institution of Divine Mercy Sunday, Msgr. Perez is mischaracterizing the nature of the actions taken by the Church and denies Her authority in these matters when they disagree with his limited understanding of the matter.

Making another point, Msgr. Perez says, “**The central error of the Divine Mercy is that it promises lots of spiritual rewards with no requirement of penance, no mention of reparation, no mention of any condition.**” The claim that there is no condition is simply untrue. In entry 699, Our Lord said to St. Faustina regarding the “Feast of Mercy” (which we now call Divine Mercy Sunday), “**The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.**” As for the concern about “spiritual rewards with no requirement of penance and no mention of reparation,” it must be noted that the conditions of Confession and Holy Communion for the remittance of punishment due to sin are no different than the conditions required for the reception of a plenary indulgence. It is difficult to see how Msgr. Perez can take issue with the “spiritual rewards” of Divine Mercy Sunday without also denying the spiritual rewards that accompany a plenary indulgence.

In the last portion of his article, Msgr. Perez expresses concern over the intimate language Our Lord uses when speaking to St. Faustina. I will only say this ... if Msgr. Perez is disturbed by the intimate language in the diary of St. Faustina, then he should avoid reading any of the other mystics who have had similar experiences. To this, I will only quote St. Catherine of Siena’s “Dialogue” as dictated by her while in a state of ecstasy:

There is one last point to be made with regard to the concerns of some traditionalists about the devotion to the Divine Mercy as written by St. Faustina. Cardinal Burke, when he was Archbishop of St. Louis, wrote a beautiful

article about St. Faustina and the Divine Mercy. I highly recommend his article, and suggest that if Cardinal Burke is pleased with this devotion, then we ought to be at peace with it as well.

*Fr. George Ngwa*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Parish Office Closure** - Please note that the Parish Office will be closed next Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> April. Any queries, please speak to Lizzie on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April.

### **HOLY MASS BOOKING ON LINE DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

It is still necessary to continue restricting the number of parishioners in Church for each Mass to approximately 45 + (depending on bubbles), 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 Masses for Sundays in April are as follows:-18th April - <https://forms.gle/aDDFd95MDpFXNos29>  
25th April - <https://forms.gle/2WN63S6oAYL3DVzf7>

**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 – PRCDTR New Milton Our Lady. 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.

**Gift Aid Boxes.** Gift Aid boxes for F.Y. 2021/2022 have been distributed to most registered Gift Aid donors. Any other Gift Aid donors who need a box please give you name and a contact phone number to the office (preferably by email). If you are a taxpayer and wish to join the Gift Aid scheme, a Gift Aid declaration is required before a Gift Aid box can be provided. Gift Aiding donations increase the value of donations to the Parish by 25%. Thank you to all who gift aid their donations which has enabled the Parish to reclaim around £5000 a year from income tax payments.**Andy Thomas/Treasurer**

**CAFOD** CAFOD head office has received £240 from our Parish for the lent Fast Day collection and they send a big “Thank You “ to all who contributed. I would also like to thank all who sponsored my “Walk for Water” raising £510 for CAFOD.CAFOD’s next campaign is **RECLAIM OUR COMMON HOME.2021** is such an important year with the UK hosting the G7 meeting of world leaders and the climate talks COP26. It is vital for politicians to put the poorest communities at the heart of the decisions they make as we rebuild from the pandemic. CAFOD has an online petition to the Prime Minister, urging him to put people hardest hit at the heart of COP26 climate talks. If you would like to sign such a petition it is available from the following link:  
<https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/73304/petition/1>To find out more about the campaign please click on this link:<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home>With many thanks to all who support CAFOD.Jill Parsons

**NEW FOREST BASIC BANK (NFBB)**I have just learned that there is an additional facility for ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY to shop at Fairshare’s Mobile Larder. They have two locations ONE at the Ashley Hub New Milton, Ashley Baptist Church, 3 Lower Ashley Road BH25 5AA which opens from 9.30-11.30 Every Tuesday. The SECOND is at St Mark’s Community Hall, The Square Pennington SO41 8EJ which opens every Thursday from 1.00 pm-2.30 pm.Membership is required to use this facility. The cost is £2.50 for 10 products per week for a single person household up to £5.00 per week for 25 products for a four person household.To take advantage of this facility you just turn up on the day(s) which may be of interest to you.Further information can be obtained from the NFBB or myself.**Katherine Dempster**

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

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY/ 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "B" 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

Sunday Vigil	10	2021 Apr.	VIGIL DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY / 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>Eddy Kelleher (Anniversary RIP)</i>	
Sunday	11	Apr.	DIVINE MERCY / 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>Irena Oleksik (RIP)</i> 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Mary &amp; Jack Conway (RIP)</i>	
Monday	12	Apr.	Monday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter Year B		
Tuesday	13	Apr.	Tuesday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass - <i>Lucy &amp; Ann Taylor (Continued Blessings)</i>	
Wednesday	14	Apr.	Wednesday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – – <i>Weronika Oleksik (Birthday Blessings)</i>	
Thursday	15	Apr.	Thursday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter Year B	10:00 Holy Mass- <i>Peggy Tolliday (RIP)</i>	
Friday	16	Apr.	Friday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Joshua &amp; Joseph O’Leary (Thanks to God for 2 little miracles)</i>	
Saturday	17	Apr.	Saturday of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>David Watts (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year B	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>Joek McQuillen (RIP) &amp; his grieving family</i>	
Sunday	18	Apr.	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B	08:00 - Holy Mass – <i>Joe Cutajar (RIP)</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>Charles &amp; Minnie Garbett (RIP)</i>  14:00 Baptism <i>Liliana Antoniak</i>	

Next Weekend – 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Obligatory) for Clergy Training Fund

**Parish priest: Father George Ngwa**

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Parish office: 01425 614968 [lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lolnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Hall Bookings suspended during the Pandemic.

**Secretary: Lizzie Davies**– Office Hours 12.00h to 15.00h Wednesdays & Fridays

Our Parish Live Streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> Website: [www.nfwp.org.uk](http://www.nfwp.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Minister: *There is a vacancy for this position. If you are interested please tell Fr. George!***

**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