

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF LYMINGTON, BROCKENHURST & MILFORD-ON-SEA

Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph
132 High St, Lymington, SO41 9AQ

St Anne
Rhinefield Rd, Brockenhurst, SO42 7SR

St Francis of Assisi
Park Lane, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0PT

Parish Contacts:

Parish Office: Maryhouse, 132 High Street, Lymington SO41 9AQ. Telephone: 01590 676696.

Parish Priest: Rev David Adams; Parish Administrator: Lisa Thurston. Email: lymbrockmil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Website: www.nfwp.org.uk; Parish Blog: www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. Registered Charity No: 246871/2
 School: Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. Exec. Head: Gerida Montague
 Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Roger Maughan, Milford on Sea
 Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vanessa Dugdale (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Liz Price (Mil).
 PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator : Linda Guilding; Health & Safety Rep St Francis: John Parry.
 For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound: Contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

By appointment only - contact Fr David at the parish office.

The Week: 18th April 2021 - 25th April 2021

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME		LITURGY/CELEBRATION	INTENTION	P
SUN	18 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Easter (W)	Sam Randle RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	18 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Easter (W)	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	18 th	OLMSJ	12.30pm	Baptism	baby Lena Olivia Gradka	N/A	DMA
SUN	18 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Easter (W)	People of the Parishes	DMA
MON	19 th	N/A	N/A	Mass	3 rd Week of Easter (W)	as per celebrant	PWR
TUE	20 th	N/A	N/A	Mass	3 rd Week of Easter (W)	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
WED	21 st	N/A	N/A	Mass	3 rd Week of Easter (W)	Kathy England RIP Anniv	DMA
THU	22 nd	N/A	N/A	Mass	3 rd Week of Easter (W)	For those who are unwell	DMA
FRI	23 rd	N/A	N/A	Mass	St George, Sol, (R)	HRH Prince Philip RIP	DMA
SAT	24 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	4 th Sunday of Easter (W)	People of the Parishes	DMA

PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED FOR ALL MASSES

A TOUGH ADMISSION & UNDESERVED BLESSINGS:

We must have some sympathy with the religious authorities who had Jesus executed. They had been on the receiving end of the harshest words that Jesus ever spoke. They had been determined to do away with him. They had him arrested, tortured and cruelly put to death. Peter reminds them of all the grizzly details and of their responsibility, proverbially rubbing their noses in it! Yet amazingly Peter also describes some mitigating circumstances: *neither you, nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing*. Even more astonishing Peter calls them to accept forgiveness and promises that God will send them this Christ, whom they had just killed, as their Lord and Saviour! Peter is calling for the most radical, heart tearing, gut wrenching conversion that could possibly be imagined!

We can, perhaps, understand a little of how the people and leaders must have felt. Often in Lenten pious literature and prayers we are reminded that our sins made Jesus suffer. There is a sense in which that is true, but we must not take it in such a way as to negate the saving work that Jesus did on our behalf. The Father wants, and Jesus wants to save us from our sins, from fear, anxiety, guilt and discouragement. Our focus must be on the Lord and we should allow ourselves to feel gratitude, love and joy for the love Jesus revealed on the cross.

For these reasons I concluded long ago that one of the traditional expressions of contrition is not as helpful as it should be. *O my God, I am sorry and beg pardon for all my sins because they deserve Thy dreadful punishments, because they have crucified my loving Saviour, Jesus Christ, and most of all because they offend Thine infinite goodness etc.*

This presents a very severe portrait of God and one that Jesus himself did not offer. It concentrates on all the negative effects of sin and increases feelings of guilt and anxiety at a time when a person needs to be encouraged to have trust and confidence in God. It has all the hallmarks of the heresy of Jansenism, which had such a chilling impact on the Church of Northern Europe in the 18th-19th centuries. We are still living with the ghosts of Jansenism today and people's experience of God is still blighted by its chill.

The Gospel presents us with an altogether different picture of the Risen Jesus. Jesus is bursting full of joy and loving energy. He is the same Lord and Saviour who died on the cross, but he has a new body which is in complete harmony with the Spirit (*St Paul calls it a "spiritual body"; "The first man, Adam, became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit" 1 Cor 15:45*). It transcends space and time and is personally present to everyone in the universal presence of the Christ (cfr. Eph 1:23). It is not limited in the way our present bodies are. This universal presence of Christ is mysteriously manifest in creation, in you and me, in everyone & everything, in the sacrament that is the Church, and in the sacraments that celebrate the Divine life in us. Jesus' risen body is a sign that God's love triumphs over our sin and death and unites all the realms of existence. It shows that the Father can be trusted to the utmost as Jesus did when he accepted the Father's will in the Garden. In this Easter let us receive the blessing of Jesus, trust in his wonderful love and allow the Spirit more deeply into our lives. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: James Boyd Smith (18th), Patrick Joseph Lang (19th), A. Chamberlain (20th), Fr Leonard Shaw SJ, Phyllis Mary Meldon, John Adair Langford, Cecilia June Litton (21st)

Sick & Housebound: Sarah Bell, Louise Layne, Daphne Jones.

OUR THANKS: To Eva Gaskin, Parish Treasurer & Peter Larke, Chair of Finance & Roger Maughan, Gift Aid organiser, who have had to work extra hard to provide information for the independent financial auditors in these difficult circumstances of the pandemic

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Bernard Robert (Bob) Sparrow, Sheila Groombridge (18th), Jean Rixon, Susan Kathleen King (19th), Mary Emily Pinn (20th), Patrick Joseph Maher, Basil Francis Thatcher (22nd), Gary Michael Plumbly, Ellie Mary Tenestine Honniball (24th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Susan McCabe, Sarah McCann, Rosemary Sheldon, Sr Rosaleen, Sean Dunn, Linda Reardon.

OUR THANKS: To Bill Pignatelli, our Parish Treasurer & Gift Aid organiser, who has had to work extra hard to provide information for the independent financial auditors in these difficult circumstances of the pandemic.

COMMUNITY HUB: The Village Hall in Brockenhurst is demonstrating its commitment to caring for the environment and the community by supporting three new initiatives at its location: The Village Hall Charity Shop, full to the brim with bargains galore, Greener Brockenhurst Recycling Shed, collecting 12 different types of waste currently not collected by NFDC, and the Food Rescue Kitchen - Feed the Need, rescuing, redistributing and transforming surplus 'waste' food into simple meals to give to those struggling to put food on the table in these challenging times. Do visit or join one of the teams and keep in mind: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...to help care for our common home.

Any items for the newsletter to anna@boylemellor.co.uk to arrive EARLIER PLEASE - WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME

All Parishes

WEEKEND MASSES GOING FORWARD:

ST FRANCIS SUNDAY MASS: fortnightly at 9.00am on the following Sundays: 2nd May, 16th May, 30th May.

ST ANNE'S SUNDAY MASS: fortnightly at 6.00pm on the following Sundays: 2nd May, 16th May, 30th May.

OLMSJ SATURDAY EVENING MASS fortnightly at 6pm on the following Saturdays: 24th April, 8th May, 22nd May.

OLMSJ SUNDAY MASS: fortnightly at 10.30am on the following Sundays: 2nd May, 16th May, 30th May.

PRE-BOOKING IS REQUIRED. PLEASE BOOK JUST ONE MASS AT A TIME TO GIVE OTHERS A CHANCE.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHILIP FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HRH PRINCE PHILIP:

On behalf of the clergy and people of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, I wish to express to Her Majesty the Queen our heartfelt sympathy and the promise of our prayers upon the loss of the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, her dear husband and father of her children.

Personally, I have always admired the Prince's loyal and kindly support of the Queen in her public duties and his good-natured engagement with those whom he meets and serves in his role as her Consort.

I also express gratitude to him and to Her Majesty for their witness of over seventy years of marriage and family life, which in these turbulent times gives us all an outstanding example of fidelity and stability.

Now that his earthly labours are over, may the Lord show him mercy and take him to Himself in the happiness of heaven.

Bishop Philip Egan.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: James Kitching, (18th), Declan James Good, Brian Edward Griffiths (19th), Bridie Jarratt, Kathleen Josephine England (21st), Gerald Carroll, Daniel Broomfield, John McGuirk, Marjorie Fay Filbee (22nd), Susan Mary Holmes-Siedle (24th)

Sick and Housebound: Den Walker, Suzanna Wright, Eddie Hughes, Rita Barrett, Cate Healy, Beatrice Tucker, Sr Margarita, Gerry Heneghan, Anne Nyland, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Johnny Flood, Simone Cluett, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Len Harley, Marie Smith.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS PLEASE: Please continue to pray for Den Walker & Susie Wright.

Frances's husband, Dens' health remains fragile & he has been in & out of hospital since recovering from COVID. He is currently in Lymington Hospital. We keep Den, Frances and all the family in our prayers.

Norah Holder's daughter, Susie, has now had to have a second operation to rectify complications following the first operation to remove a non-malignant tumour. We keep Susie, Norah and all the family in our prayers.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Total in bank as at: 8/04/21: £64,119.21. This includes donations raised from Everyclick of £462.48

All Parishes

NEXT DIOCESAN COLLECTION: next weekend, 24th/25th April, for the Clergy Training Fund. Facilities for online donations on the Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan website

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.nfwp.org.uk for resources to support us in our faith and in our care of one another.

FOR ONLINE DONATIONS TO BASICS BANK: follow the link below: <https://localgiving.org/appeal/BasicsBankChristmas/>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: As you may appreciate, the sad death from COVID of our Lead Catechist, Cathy Pickles, and the effects of the pandemic itself, have severely disrupted the usual programme of preparation for First Holy Communion. But it also presents us with an opportunity to review the process. In the interim, I outline here how things will be done this year.

Parents eligible to contact Fr David: You (as a baptised Catholic) and your baptised child would normally participate in Sunday Mass with reasonable regularity. You intend to resume this practice once lockdown is fully lifted. You think your child is ready to receive Holy Communion with sufficient awareness and respect. (I am happy to be flexible on the age of your child). If your child has not been baptised please contact Fr David to arrange a Baptism.

Parental preparation over Zoom: When we have gathered the group of parents, preparation sessions for parents only will be set up over Zoom. Parents will then need to help their children appreciate and understand, according to their capacity, the meaning the Eucharistic celebration (i.e. Mass) and Holy Communion. The priority here will be on nurturing a trusting relationship with God who loves us all and shares God's life and love with us. The emphasis will be on "knowing" through shared experience and on faith acceptance of God-with-us.

First Holy Communion Celebrations: There will **not** be one, big group celebration. First Holy Communions will be arranged individually with Fr David. They may take place at any Sunday Mass through the year. The child and family will be prayed for and special provision will be made for the child and the family in receiving Holy Communion. It will be a celebration day for the child & family so smart clothing is appropriate and girls will **not** be expected to wear special white dresses.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: I am very grateful to Vicki Pent for taking the lead in the preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Vicki had been working closely with Cathy Pickles and our young candidates. Vicki has already begun gathering our candidates together in preparation for the celebration which will take place on Sunday, 23rd May at 3pm in OLMSJ, Lymington.

HAVE YOU NOT YET RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?: If you are a baptised adult but have not yet received this sacrament and wish to do so, please contact Fr David as soon as possible. Preparation can be arranged and you can be included in the celebration on May 23rd.