

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 OF EASTER YEAR "B" 18th APRIL 2021

HIS RESURRECTION IS THE PATTERN OF OUR RESURRECTION – BODY AND SOUL

In the gospel, this weekend, the absolute truth of the **PHYSICAL** resurrection of Christ is again reinforced. Jesus even shares a meal with his disciples; and makes a point of eating what sounds like a delightful piece of grilled fish to show his disciples he is indeed flesh and blood.

It is quite a claim to suggest that Jesus has risen. The Disciples initially couldn't believe what they were hearing when reports started coming in that Jesus has risen again. If it were merely a made-up story, it would be easy to suggest that he was merely Spiritually risen, and was experienced by others in only a kind of spiritual way, but that is not what is being said and not what has ever been claimed. Jesus is **RISEN**, and he is truly risen indeed! His disciples saw him, touched him, ate with him, and spoke with him on many occasions after he rose from the dead.

The true genius of the Christian faith is our belief in the Resurrection and what it says about the relationship and connection between the **BODY** and the **SOUL**. For Christians, the body is not just some annoying outer shell that encases the pure spirit of a person and which would be better off being cast off so that the person can achieve perfection.

The Greek philosophy (which was very popular and influential in the time of Jesus, and has been very influential throughout history, tends to see a sharp divide between body and spirit. The Greek philosophy tends to see the "Spirit" as pure, and divine, and good, and the body (that is, physical matter) is corruptible, imperfect, temporary, sinful and bad.

Even in the Jewish faith, the spirit, (or the soul), was considered (by many) to indeed live on after death, but only some Jewish people believed in the resurrection of the body. The Jewish understanding tended to see the flesh as earthly and the soul/spirit as heavenly.

The Christian belief in the incarnation of Christ (God becoming flesh and dwelling among us as one of us), and that Jesus is truly God and truly human, shows a profound understanding of the human person which reveals the holiness and the dignity of the body and of the material world. We have been saved by Jesus – (God made flesh) - who took on our nature and never cast off.

We believe that Christ's human nature was never cast off.... He kept his glorified human body when he returned to the Father in Heaven -- This belief informs our teachings on justice and the dignity of the human person and of the sanctity of the human body and why suffering is not something to take lightly.

Jesus' Resurrection takes this a step further. The destiny of the human person is that they will one day live with God in Heaven (body and soul). The body is sacred and will be raised up and is not to be cast off in order to attain perfection. God will perfect us physically and spiritually. The earthly, the physical and the material **DO** matter in Christian spirituality, and cannot be ignored or put out of the picture.

The disciples, in today's gospel, are shown to be in fear and doubt when suddenly Jesus appears to them and reassures them, giving them literally a solid and tangible foundation for their belief (his physical resurrection), the truth of which will keep them going in good times and in bad,., in peacetime and in persecution,.....

Jesus opened the minds and hearts of his disciples.... Otherwise, they would have gone on sitting and hiding in the upper room, and they would still not have understood..... and they would not have had the courage to go out and preach the Gospel - It is essential that the disciples (and each one of us) are "OPEN" to Jesus' message.

Our discipleship and following of Christ (if it is to remain authentic) must always have a deeply practical element of action and right behaviour to it. Our faith must show itself in practical ways for our physical world and the physical body.

One of the readings today pointedly reminds us "anyone who says 'I know (God)'... but doesn't keep God's commandments is a liar." ... Anyone who says 'I know Jesus'... but does not live according to Jesus' actions, teachings, values and behaviours... /...anyone who does not show real respect for the world and the human person does NOT have the TRUTH in them.

The other important point from today's readings is that the Resurrection of Christ and his sacrifice on the cross, tells us a lot about sin and its forgiveness. We sin sadly, this is often what we humans do. But that is never where we leave things. We cannot ever make a concession to weakness and wallow in the lowest common denominator of our frailty. We can often do the wrong thing and sometimes it is knowingly, sometimes it is out of ignorance, and sometimes it is out of negligent failure to know what we ought. We, humans, are flawed! But nevertheless, we also are infinitely loved by God who created us.

God knows what we are like and loves us unconditionally as a parent loves their child. And, just like a parent's love for a child, - a parent does not condone or encourage bad behaviour or 'wilful refusal to change one's ways' because of the lame excuse that "we are all human and we all make mistakes." Just because we are human and prone to sin is no excuse to stay in our bad habits and remain in ignorance. We are called, as beloved children of God, to grow and change constantly. We are called to spend our whole lives on a journey of learning, openness, repentance, conversion and transformation, with God's grace.

So, a major victory achieved through Christ's death and resurrection must be seen as the forgiveness of human sin. "The scriptures point out that it is not easy for us to admit that we are sinners and that there is sin in the world. Today we speak of 'mistakes,' of 'faults,' of 'misunderstandings'—but sin is also there and not to be denied. Sin is a reality that is still a very unpopular topic, even though really, it is not being falsely humble to say... we are all sinners.

We are all invited to look into our hearts and to know that we need salvation. Jesus needed to die for each and every one of us. We do well to recognize that our own choices against God are part of the sins in our world. Can we accept that Jesus came to die for us and for our sins and that in Him we are redeemed (purchased back by God) – Body and soul? And we must now live in the light of this wonderful truth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Office Closure - The Office will be closed on Friday 23rd April. If you have any queries, please contact Lizzie in the Office on Wednesday between 12:00 and 3.00 p.m.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually

into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

CAFOD Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support. Jo Lewry, Community Participation Coordinator CAFOD Portsmouth

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: **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 – PRC DTR 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 your 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**

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**

CALLING ON A GOOD SAMARITAN Mrs Margaret Grant is a long-standing member of Our Lady of Lourdes but more recently she has been unable to drive and is now in a care home in Sway. She was very involved with the Church, both as a reader and helping transport members of the congregation to Mass. She would dearly like to attend 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Is there anyone who either lives towards Sway or who would be prepared to help this lady get to Mass on a Sunday? If so, would you be kind enough to contact Lizzie in the Parish Office.

From Bishop Philip - Fr Peter Bowe OSB is retiring shortly from being parish priest of the Douai Abbey parish, where he has ministered since 2012. I am grateful to him for his service over the years and we all wish him a well-earned retirement. Fr Gabriel Wilson OSB will take over as Parish Priest.

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "B" 18TH APRIL 2021

Sunday Vigil	17	2021 Apr.	Vigil Mass of 3 rd Sunday of Easter Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>Joek McQuillen (RIP) & 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 & Minnie Garbett (RIP)</i>	
Monday	19	Apr.	St. Alphege Year B		NO MASS
Tuesday	20	Apr.	Tuesday of the 3 rd Week of Easter Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass - Cecil Taylor (RIP)	
Wednesday	21	Apr.	St. Anselm Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>John Williams (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary & Benediction
Thursday	22	Apr.	Thursday of the 3 rd Week of Easter Year B	10:00 Holy Mass- <i>Julia Newman (health & wellbeing)</i>	
			VIGIL MASS – SOLEMNITY OF	18:00 Holy Mass <i>Bill Clarke (First Anniversary)</i>	Vigil Mass of Solemnity of St. George
Friday	23	Apr.	ST. GEORGE Patron Saint of England – SOLEMNITY Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Bernard Delair (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary & Benediction
Saturday	24	Apr.	Saturday of the 3 rd Week of Easter Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Douglas William Yon (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 4 th Sunday of Easter Year B	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>John Williams (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	25	Apr.	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B	08:00 - Holy Mass – <i>Edoardo Crisante (RIP)</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>Rosalynne Carter (for health & wellbeing)</i> 14:00 Baptism <i>Liliana Antoniak</i>	Baptism

Weekend of 24th/25th April – 2nd Collection (Obligatory) for Clergy Training Fund

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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Parish office: 01425 614968 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.nfwf.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