

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR "B" 2ND MAY 2021

Suspicion a big barrier and a hindrance to evangelization

Saul who was once a fierce persecutor of the Church, became a convert and a follower of the mission he tried to stop. But there was a problem as the others did not think his conversion from Saul to Paul was genuine. Since they feared him, their **suspicion** of him grew and so was their every attempt to distance themselves from him. Well, let's start with the biblical teaching that this kind of doubting or suspicion as a habit is unloving and therefore wrong. St. Paul in 1Cor. 13:7 says "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." And *the very least* that Paul means when he says love believes all things and hopes all things, *the very least* that he means is that we should not be unduly suspicious about other people's motives. Love hopes for the best from people, not the worst. Love does to others what we would have done to us. And we don't like people to second-guess our motives. You don't like it when people impute to you motives that are not there, so you shouldn't do that to others either.

Free from the Stronghold of Suspicion

It's hard to avoid being suspicious because of all the variations of right and wrong today. Suspicion creates a looming darkness and expectation of evil where we would prefer goodness. It seems the world is no longer in the hands of Christians who want to do God's will, but in the hands of the latest whim of people who are only concerned with political correctness.

Protecting the innocent is good. But who are the innocent today? Protecting the innocent and convicting criminals used to be the focus of every aspect of the law because every aspect of the law was conformed to God's law and the ten commandments. To love, honour and respect God and parents, to love our neighbour, to not steal, commit adultery, murder, lie or falsely accuse, and to aid the helpless was a natural bi-product of following the commandments. Anyone performing outside these boundaries was rightly suspect.

Today we must know and follow what we believe and believe what we know written in the confines of Biblical teaching. Otherwise confusion sets in and without warrant, the innocent are suspect and the guilty are protected.

Suspicion becomes a stronghold in our lives when we refuse to put God first, give our lives to Him, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, and God to protect us. When suspicion becomes a stronghold it can debilitate us and prevent us from seeing the good, the light, the blessings, and the potential.

There's only one way to avoid being suspicious today and still be safe. Love. Love covers a multitude of sin. When we walk in love, we are above suspicion. We no longer suspect or allow this stronghold to control our thinking. That does not mean we neglect discernment, allow evil to triumph, or stop praying. It means we no longer allow suspicion to control us.

If we find ourselves having (feeling) these sinful suspicions when someone complements or praises us, I can think of at least four simple things:

1) This is a kind of anxiety they need, the anxiety that people's praise is not real praise, but manipulation. They don't really think we are as good as they just said we are. So Jesus's words about anxiety in the Gospel of St Matt 6:27 apply here. He says, "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?" In other words, Jesus really did think that it would make a difference if we remind ourselves that this anxious suspicion of others' motives does no good. It doesn't help us. It doesn't add anything to our life. It only makes relationships harder and not better. Jesus thought that thinking that would help. So I think, thinking it helps too, and I commend it. Don't do it because it is useless.

2) Search your own heart. Could it be that your suspicion of their ulterior motives of others is owing largely to the fact that you yourself are so prone to operate this way when you praise, and you are reading your own motives into theirs? So increase your own habit of praising others whenever there is real reason to praise them just because you enjoy spilling over with admiration that you feel. And let thankfulness overflow to God when somebody does something good in your presence. Speak it out. And maybe the more you form the habit of praising others this way, the less you will automatically assume others would do anything differently for you.

3) Resolve that when someone praises you, you will return genuine thanks, but will not even think of some kind of payback that they could get from you. You won't give them any payback. And if they are after something, maybe your authentic gladness in receiving the praise minus any payback will dry up the ulterior motives because they don't work. Meanwhile, you get the pleasure of their praise without worrying about their motives.

4) And the last thing would be to cover all of this with prayer. Pray and ask God to fill you with love and to take away the bent towards suspicion.

Has the world gone too far in the wrong direction? Is it possible to avoid suspicion? Some Biblical tips on avoiding suspicion:

1. *Be ready to believe the best of every person.* There is good somewhere in the worst of us. Look for that good and pray about the rest while you are protecting your rights, loved ones, and home. (1 Corinthians 13:7) Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything.

2. *Follow God's law.* Allow the fruit of the spirit to live within you. Ephesians 5:9-12. For the fruit of the Light or the Spirit consists in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life. Learn what is pleasing to the Lord and let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him.

3. *Never take the law of God into your own hands.* God himself will repay. Romans 12:19 Never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay each man according to his deeds, says the Lord.

Hebrews 10:30 For we know Him Who said, Vengeance is Mine [retribution and the meting out of full justice rest with Me]; I will repay, I will exact the compensation, says the Lord. And again, The Lord will judge and determine and solve and settle the cause and the cases of His people.

4. *Never give in to an occasion of sin or lawlessness.* Following God's guidance from his word will justify all your actions as long as you put the first and greatest commandment above all others. 2 Timothy 2:15 Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved and be a workman who has no cause to be ashamed; correctly analysing and accurately teaching the Word of Truth.

5. *Forgive each other.* Resolve any problem and warn a fellow believer before suspicion takes over. Warn others. Hate evil, avoid evil doers, love your enemy. Follow God's law without judging it. James 4:11 [My] brethren, do not speak evil about or accuse one another. He that maligns a brother or judges his brother is maligning and criticizing God's Law found in the Bible and judging the Law. But if you

judge the Law, you are no longer practicing it but judging it. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-16 Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH RE-OPENING With a significant drop in Covid cases in the U.K. and with the easing of restrictions, it is with joy that we can announce that the Church will be open for all Masses as from 1st May. However, It will still be 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 for Sunday Masses only at the moment. 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 May are as follows:

Sunday- <https://forms.gle/5TedCepYmhTMaChi8>

Sunday 16th May 2021 - <https://forms.gle/Vauz5PVSsmyPX296>

Sunday 23rd May 2021 - <https://forms.gle/iSYL4GtcADVpw7rB8>

Sunday 30th May 2021 - <https://forms.gle/AR5d3oL3iS2Pq1hV8>

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.

LIVING ROSARY – The Living Rosary Group will meet through our live-streaming tomorrow – Monday 3rd May at 5:00 p.m. Please remember to give your petitions to Fr. George for the Living Rosary during May.

INTENTIONS – If you would like a Mass Intention said in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion, please complete a Mass Intention Envelope and hand it to Lizzie in the Parish Office or post through the Presbytery letterbox. Please ensure that you write clearly your name and the name of whom the intention is for; we will try to accommodate your preferred date! Your intentions can be paid for by cash, by cheque made payable to PRCDTR New Milton or via internet banking at Lloyds Bank – Sort Code 30-93-04 Account Number 00883116. Please make sure, if using internet banking or cheque, that the name and date of the intention are clearly marked as a reference. Payment at time of booking a Mass would be much appreciated – thank you!

SAFEGUARDING MINISTER It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Jill Parsons has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Safeguarding Minister, taking over from Tony Harwood. This is an extremely important role and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking Tony for all his dedication during his time as Safeguarding Minister and welcoming Jill to her new role. It is hoped that we will all give her as much support as possible whilst she is training up into the job. Thank you Jill!

NEW FOREST BASIC BANK - Please remember those less fortunate than yourselves and continue supporting this very worthy cause. Tins and dried foods such as rice, pasta, couscous etc. are always very welcome. Thank you!

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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 2ND MAY 2021

Sunday Vigil	01	2021 May	Vigil Mass of the 5 th Sunday of Easter Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>Prince Philip (for the repose of his soul)</i>	
Sunday	02	May	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>Irine Neh & Jute Ngwa (RIP)</i> 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Mary & Jack Conway (RIP)</i>	
Monday	03	May	Ss PHILIP & JAMES Year B	10.00 Holy Mass - <i>MPP</i>	Living Rosary Group Meeting 5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	04	May	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass – <i>MPP</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	05	May	Wednesday of the 5 th Week of Easter Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Peter & Anne Christmas (health & wellbeing)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	06	May	Thursday of the 5 th Week of Easter Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass - <i>Catherine d’Espagnac (for a speedy recovery)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Friday	07	May	Friday of the 5 th Week of Easter Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>For All Souls in Purgatory (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	08	May	Saturday of the 5 th Week of Easter Year B	10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Lisette & Jo Scarkovski (RIP)</i>	Divine Mercy Devotion 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 6 th Sunday of Easter Year B	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>John Williams (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	09	May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B	08:00 - Holy Mass – <i>Paul Gordelier & Family (for health & wellbeing)</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass– <i>John Hamon (Birthday blessings)</i>	

Weekend of 15th/16th May – 2nd Collection (Obligatory) for Catholic Communications Network

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

Parish priest: Father George Ngwa

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Parish office: 01425 614968 ololnewmilton@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

Safeguarding Minister: Jill Parsons to be appointed

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