

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*



PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR "B" 23RD MAY 2021

THE HOLY SPIRIT - PENTECOST AND THE CHURCH

Both the Jews and the Christians now celebrate Pentecost. Along with the Feast of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, Pentecost was one of the major feasts of the Jews. During these three great Jewish festivals, every male Jew living within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to go to Jerusalem to participate in the feast. Pentecost literally means 50th. It is a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover feast by the Jews and a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus by the Christians. The Jewish Pentecost was originally a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, the Jews included in it the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah after the Deluge and with Moses at Mt. Sinai

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues. Pentecost, also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. (But years ago, This Rock Magazine reported that there are now 34,000 Protestant denominations which means that, on the average, more than sixty-nine new denominations had sprung up every year since the Reformation began in 1517. So whose birthday is it anyway? You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.

The event: On the day of Pentecost

- 1) The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary as fiery tongues.
- 2) The frightened apostles were transformed into fiery preachers and evangelizers and were given the gift of tongues by a special anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- 3) The listeners experienced the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit through the apostles' gift of tongues: they heard Peter speaking in their native languages.
- 4) The early Christians became powerful witnesses and brave martyrs for their Faith in Jesus.

The role of the Holy Spirit in Christian life:

- 1) As an indwelling God, He makes us His Living Temples (I Cor 3:16).
- 2) As a strengthening God, He strengthens us in our fight against temptations and in our mission of bearing witness to Christ by transparent Christian lives.
- 3) As a sanctifying God, He makes us holy through the Sacraments:
 - a) Through Baptism He makes us children of God and heirs of Heaven.
 - b) Through Confirmation, He makes us temples of God, warriors and defenders of the Faith.
 - c) Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, He enables us to be reconciled with God by pardoning our sins
 - d) Through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, He gives us spiritual nourishment by converting bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood through Epiclesis.
 - e) Through the Sacraments of the priesthood and matrimony, He makes the Church community holy.
- 4) As a teaching and guiding God, He clarifies and constantly reminds us of Christ's teachings and guides the Magisterium of the Church to present Christ's teachings correctly.
- 5) As a listening and talking God, He listens to our prayers and enables us to pray, and He speaks to us mainly through the Bible.
- 6) As a Giver of gifts, He pours out on us His gifts, fruits and charisms, thus enriching the Church.

The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-11), describes in detail the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Pentecost, thus fulfilling Jesus' promise to his apostles. Later, the Acts of the Apostles describes how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to bear witness to Christ by their sharing love and strong Faith. This "anointing by the Holy Spirit" also strengthened the early Christian martyrs during the period of brutal persecution that followed.

In the second reading (I Cor 12:3-7, 12-13), St. Paul explains how the sharing of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit enriches the Church. He refers to the varieties of gifts given to the Church as coming from the same Spirit Who activates all of them in Christians for the common good. They are described as the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Spirit. They may take different forms like prophecy, teaching, administration, acts of charity, healing and speaking in tongues, and they may reside in different persons like apostles, prophets, teachers, healers and so on. Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians "What the Spirit brings is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control" (5:22). He continues, "Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit" (5:25). Paul insists that these spiritual gifts are to be used in the present time for the benefit of others, for the common good and for the building up of the Body of Christ.

1) We need to permit the Holy Spirit to direct our lives:

- constantly remembering and appreciating His Holy Presence within us.
- by fortifying ourselves with the help of the Spirit against all types of temptations;
- by seeking the assistance of the Spirit in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and in the breaking of our evil habits;
- by listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us through the Bible and through the good counsel of others;
- by fervently praying for the gifts, fruits and charisms of the Holy Spirit;
- by renewing our lives through the anointing of the Holy Spirit; and
- by living our lives in the Holy Spirit as lives of commitment, of sacrifice, and of joy. As Saint Paul exhorts us, "Walk by the Spirit, live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16, 25).

2) We need to cultivate the spirit of forgiveness. The feast of the Pentecost offers us the chance to look at the role which forgiveness should play in our dealings with others. Thus, we are challenged to examine our sense of compassion, patience, tolerance and magnanimity. Learning to forgive is a lifelong task, but the Holy Spirit is with us to make us agents of forgiveness.

3) We need to observe Pentecost every day. "It will always be Pentecost in the church," affirmed Blessed Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, on Pentecost Sunday 1978.

St. Oscar Romero [Bishop and Martyr] reminds us; as does today's Gospel *"that Pentecost is not just one day, but every day. Without breath, there is no life. Without the Spirit, the Church is a field of dry, dead bones"*.

The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church, *"Even though we are God's chosen people, we often behave more like God's frozen people--frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our Faith."* [Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI in June, 2012.] Today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love.

Let us repeat Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman's favourite little prayer, "Come Holy Spirit:"

"Come Holy Spirit

Make our ears to hear

Make our eyes to see

Make our mouths to speak

Make our hearts to seek

Make our hands to reach out

And touch the world with your love. AMEN."

[Cardinal Newman was beatified September 19, 2010 by Pope St. John Paul II.]

4) We need to be Spirit-filled Christians: Spirit-filled people acknowledge their weaknesses, ask for the strengthening, anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul encourages us, "Pray on every occasion as the Spirit leads. Spirit-filled people speak words that heal, restore, make people happy and build people up instead of tearing them down. Spirit-filled people pass on the love of God to the people living around them by their acts of

kindness, mercy and charity. Hence, let us pray for a spirit of love instead of hate, a spirit of helpfulness instead of non-cooperation, a spirit of generosity instead of greed and a spirit of gentleness instead of ruthlessness.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID BOOKING REQUIREMENTS - Even though Covid restrictions are easing, 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 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 the final Sunday in May is as follows:

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.

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!

GROTTO CAMERA - We are delighted to announce that our new Camera has been installed, allowing us to live-stream masses and events held at the Grotto. We would particularly like to thank the Benefactor who made this possible. There have been some unexpected additional expenses and any contributions towards these additional costs would be very much appreciated. Thank you!

GIFT AID DECLARATION FORMS, DIRECT DEBIT & STANDING ORDER FORMS

Now that Covid restrictions are easing, we are able to relax some of the procedures that we put in place during the Pandemic. We are now starting to put literature back into Church and, should you require any of the above forms, these can be found at the back of the Church, near the Confessional.

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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR "B" 23RD MAY 2021

Sunday Vigil	22	2021 May	Vigil Mass of Pentecost Sunday Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>Brigid Horan (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	23	May	PENTECOST SUNDAY Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>For those who have passed away from our Congregation (RIP)</i> 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Lissamma & Joseph's Family (Thanksgiving)</i>	
Monday	24	May	The Blessed Virgin Mary – Mother of the Church Year B		
Tuesday	25	May	St. Bede the Venerable Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass - <i>For those who have died in Oledath & Vathallor Families (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	26	May	St. Philip Neri Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>For Unborn Babies</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Thursday	27	May	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, the ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass - <i>Terry Loftus (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Friday	28	May	Blessed Margaret Pole Year B	10:00 Holy Mass – <i>For those who have died in Padikara & Kulapurathe Families (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	29	May	Our Lady of Saturday Year B	10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Fr. Joe Perigallor (RIP)</i>	Divine Mercy Devotion 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of The Most Holy Trinity Year B	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>For those who have died from Kuzhikombil & Ettathotte Families (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	30	May	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY YEAR B	08:00 - Holy Mass – <i>David & Jean (pronounced Jon) (for wellbeing)</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass– <i>Alan Thankachens (Birthday thanksgiving)</i>	

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

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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.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