

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 OPT

Parish Contacts:

Parish Office: Maryhouse, 132 High Street, Lymington SO41 9AQ. **Telephone:** 01590 676696. **Parish Priest:** Rev David Adams;

Parish Administrator: Lisa Thurston. **Email:** office@lymbrockmil.org.uk. **Website:** www.nfwp.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. Our parishes are part of & belong to the: **Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Registered Charity No: 1199568. School:** Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. **Exec. Head:** Gerida Montague. **Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils:** Magdalen Chadborn, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Roger Maughan, Milford on Sea. **Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Vanessa Dugdale (Lym); Henrietta Reynolds (Brock); Liz Price (Mil). **PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator :** Linda Guilding; **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound:** Contact the parish office.

The Week: 15th July 2023 - 23rd July 2023

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY/CELEBRATION	INTENTION	P
SAT	15 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	15 th Sunday of the Year A	For Peace in Ukraine & the world	DMA
SUN	16 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	15 th Sunday of the Year A	Raymond Wendell Beachey RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	16 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	15 th Sunday of the Year A	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	16 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	15 th Sunday of the Year A	For seafarers & those in need	DMA
MON	17 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	St Bonaventure, Mem	as per celebrant	DQ
TUE	18 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	15 th week of the Year (1)	For engaged couples	DMA
WED	19 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	15 th week of the Year (1)	Margaret Bass RIP Anniv	DMA
THU	20 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	choice of celebrant	as per celebrant	DQ
THU	20 th	OLSJ School	2.00pm	Mass	Yr 6 Leavers Mass	For the OLSJ School community	DMA
FRI	21 st	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	choice of celebrant	as per celebrant	DQ
SAT	22 nd	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	St Mary Magdalene, Feast	as per celebrant	DQ
SAT	22 nd	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	16 th Sunday of the Year A	Peter Cooper RIP	DMA
SUN	23 rd	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	16 th Sunday of the Year A	Anthony James Boddington RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	23 rd	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	16 th Sunday of the Year A	Esther Margaret Walsh RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	23 rd	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	16 th Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA

THE ANSWER LIES IN THE SOIL!

In Matthew's Gospel, the parable of the sower is given an explanation – the different soil represents the different general responses of people to Christ's word. It is more likely an explanation given with the benefit of hindsight – describing how people actually responded. Matthew's community obviously liked to have things cut and dried and explained. However the parable, by its very nature can admit of many "explanations". It is important not to lose other perspectives.

We should also be asking ourselves what areas of our lives have been fruitful or barren. Where has ignorance, prejudice or other evil influences prevented the word taking root at all? Are we aware of blind spots in our attitudes and thinking? Have we asked God to reveal how selfishness, greed, pride, hatred etc are blinding us to what God is asking of us? In what areas have we received the word with joy and enthusiasm but then have become disillusioned because of the difficulties or because things didn't work out as we were expecting? Have we brought our sadness and disappointment to God in prayer? Have we asked to see things from God's perspective? What good intentions, relationships and personal qualities have been choked off by anxiety, concern about money and security, and addiction to personal pleasures? Have we prayed to be liberated from what is stifling deeper growth and joy? Where has there been growth in our lives and relationships – spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually? Have we thanked God for this and celebrated it?

Just as the parable can be applied to us individually, it can also be applied to our church community at all the different levels. What are the strengths and weaknesses of our parish? What do we concentrate on and what do we neglect? It may be helpful to look at other parishes and see what they are doing. It may be helpful to look at other Christian churches and other world faiths as well. Sometimes others are living the gospel far more generously than we are. We are sometimes strong on piety and weak on actually changing for the better.

As an institution the Catholic Church has its strengths and weaknesses. For example we have been very hot on orthodoxy (getting the right ideas & teaching) but less concerned about orthopraxy (getting the right behaviour). We have been good at telling people what to think and believe and do, but slow to listen to what the Holy Spirit has been teaching others. We have been heavy on ritual, law and morality and light on the Holy Spirit, faith and spirituality. We have emphasised conformity rather than community. We exaggerated the dependence of people upon the ordained ministry and neglected personal relationship with God in faith and other ministries and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We have emphasised the passive receiving of the Sacraments and neglected the active response to Christ's word. In our liturgy we celebrate the Eucharist so much that we have forgotten there are other forms of worship and prayer. In the liturgical prayers we often jump from communion to eternal life as if there is nothing in between. But of course eternal life begins now and can only be found in the now of the present moment. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Paul Timothy Melhuish, Joan Louisa Daisy Rowlands (16th), Brigadier George Taylor (17th), Harold Arthur Martin Aylard, Tatiana Elianore Beatrice Lucille Drake-Brockman (18th), Joan Irene Durrant (19th), Una Elsa Miles (21st)

Sick & Housebound: Gretchen Nagle, Helen Lister, Lorraine Muir, Barbara Mills, Kath Randle, Di Mussert, Rita Ford, Canon Peter Wilkie, June Gow, Norah Sweeney, Sarah Bell.

SONGS OF PRAISE: KEYHAVEN JETTY: Sunday 16th July: 5pm. This joyful celebration of music and praise will be held for Milford on Sea Christians Together with the Boscombe Salvation Army Band. Please do try to support this event and maybe bring a chair with you.

COFFEE MORNING THIS WEEK – Sunday, 16th July coffee morning at St Francis after Mass. All are welcome to stay and enjoy. Special thanks to our Coffee Morning team: Deborah, Connie, Linda Byrne, and Jude Doherty.

SUNDAY 23RD JULY 10.00AM: The organisers of the Milford Music Festival have asked that the Sunday should begin with a Christian service of prayer and worship. Please do try to support this on the village green on Sunday morning after the 9.00am Mass at St Francis.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE: Many sincere thanks for a wonderful response for Pot Noodles and energy bars! New Forest for Ukraine are also very grateful for the generous donation of an invaluable generator.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Hilda Martin, Mary Bridget Beighton (16th), Edith Gertrude Fox-Pitt, Winifred Mary Nicholas (20th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Paddy Lark, Canon Peter Wilkie, Susan McCabe.

WEEKDAY MASS: thanks to Fr David Quarmby Mass is celebrated each day at St Anne's at 10am. And every Wednesday there is Eucharistic Adoration at 9am, Rosary at 9.30 and Mass at 10 am.

THE HOUSE MASS on Thursday 10th August at 6pm, will be held at Yew Tree Cottage, Waters Green, Brockenhurst. The house is the last but one going towards Meerut Road. It is the third of the white cob cottages and has a Yew Tree in the front garden. Parking is limited on the Green. So please walk if you can, if not, try parking around the corner by the old Cloud Hotel or Butts Lawn.

All Parishes

VATICAN RELEASES LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN OCTOBER SYNOD: The General Secretariat of the Synod has unveiled the list of participants in the upcoming October synodal Assembly. For the first time, non-bishops are among the list of attendees. Many of the non-bishop participants (who are a minority, at around 21%), were proposed by bishops' conferences around the world, before being approved by Pope Francis. Others were appointed directly by the Pope. Prominent names from around the English-speaking world include Professor Anna Rowlands, a theologian at Durham University, and the US writer and commentator Fr James Martin, SJ. Speaking at a press conference in the Vatican, Cardinal Grech stressed that the delegates had been selected so as to produce a "mixture" from various parts of the Church. Most obviously, there will be an even mix of participants from six different continents, and the non-bishop members will be evenly divided by gender. Cardinal Grech also stressed, however, that there will be representatives from the various sui juris Eastern Catholic churches, and that an effort was made to include disabled Catholics too. The Cardinal also highlighted, finally, that the list of participants is not final – the lists of delegates from other Christian churches are still to arrive, and some names will likely be changed if members fall ill ahead of the assembly. The Synod's Undersecretary, Sr Nathalie Becquart, noted that one of the central points to emerge from the synodal consultations was the importance of involving young people in the process. For this reason, she said, Synod organisers would be present at the upcoming World Youth Day in Lisbon, where they will have a stand. Sr Becquart also stressed the importance of the interreligious dimension of the assembly. She highlighted in particular the ecumenical prayer vigil to be held in St Peter's Square, entitled "Together – Gathering of the People of God" and led by the Pope, together with the leaders of many other Christian churches.

GRANDPARENTS DAY COMING SOON: Aba Shields, Marriage and Family Life Project Co-ordinator writes... The MFL team would like to draw attention to this very important celebration of grandparents in homes, parishes and communities. We have also suggested a couple of activities but feel free to be creative and send us photos after the event to: marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

'His Mercy is from age to age' (Luke 1:50) is the banner the Holy Father is flying for World Youth Day and for **Grandparents' Day** this year which falls on **Sunday 23rd July**. In parishes the teenagers could bake something special for the grandparents in the parish and serve it to them. Some could abandon their phones after Mass and sit with their grandparent(s) to learn something about their rich lives. God bless all our grandparents all over the world. To enquire about the Grandparents' Rosary group please contact us on: marriagefamilylife@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Cyril Aloysius Conway (15th), Frederick Broomfield, Elizabeth Anne Rutter (16th), Mary Grant (19th)

Sick and Housebound: Canon Peter Wilkie, John & Nicki Collins, Den Walker, Sean Dunn, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Simone Cluett

RUMMIKUB/SCRABBLE CLUB meeting on Monday 17th July in Joseph's Place from 2-4pm. Free admission with tea and cakes on tap. Beginners and players welcome - or just come along for a cup of tea.

HELP REQUIRED: - The Warm Hub and Afternoon Meal programme started approx. 6 months ago and is run by Fiona Anderson and a team of church volunteers every Wednesday at 4 o'clock at Lymington Baptist church. In order to keep this important work going through the school holidays in August, Fiona is asking for more volunteers to help with a variety of jobs from helping prepare food to setting up tables to meeting and greeting and clearing up afterwards. There are two 'shifts' each Wednesday and a little help from a lots of helpers will give the current volunteers a break and ensure Fiona continues to provide this very essential support. For more information a PPC member will be at the back of the church after Mass.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Total in bank as at: 14/07/23: £256,802.58 This includes GAYL contributions.

All Parishes

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

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – 2 VACANCIES AT OLSJ SCHOOL: We are looking for one parent governor (appointed by the LEA) and two foundation governors (appointed by the Bishop) to join our great team at OLSJ school. Foundation governors will be keen to support the educational development of the pupils, the welfare both of pupils and staff and the Catholic ethos of the school. DBS safeguarding clearance will be required. Computer skills and access to the internet are also necessary.

FINANCE: On 26th and 27th July, members of our 3 parish Finance committees will be undertaking briefing sessions in Winchester or Basingstoke specifically tailored for Parish Priests and Finance Committees. The sessions will guide all those involved in parish finances through the requirements of the new audit standard and provide an opportunity to discuss different aspects of managing parish finances. Your Finance committee members are: **OLMSJ:** Gerry Heneghan (Chair), Frances Walker, Neil Jenkins, Nichola Kirby, Linda Guilding; **St Francis:** Peter Larke, Roger Maughan, Eva Gaskin, Phyl Salt; **St Anne's:** Paul Shearer (Chair), Bill Pignatelli, Cedric Lark, Henry Mellor, Linda Guilding; Fr David is present at all Finance and PPC committee meetings.

HOLIDAY FOODBANKS: Foodbanks usually see an increase in demand for emergency food for children during the summer holidays. Over a third of all food distributed by the foodbank network throughout the year goes to children, but there is extra financial pressure during the school holidays for families who rely on free school meals during term time, amounting to between £30 and £40 a week per child. **To do:** If you regularly donate to foodbanks, consider donating more in the school holidays. If you have never donated to a foodbank, now is a good time to start.

RETREATS 2023: The Retreats Handbook 2023 gives Information and programmes for over 150 Christian retreat centres in the UK and beyond. It contains details of courses, networks and associations that promote spirituality and spiritual direction. It also contains details of retreats with a theme, eg walking or painting. To find out more, or to buy online visit www.retreats.org.uk/retreatshandbook.

FROM SR VERONICA: Just finished our Retreat, a lovely time of quiet and peace reflecting on Mary and her role in the life of Jesus. Very Scriptural! Here is this week's reflection which helps us to understand how Jesus used parables to help us to grasp the mysteries of our faith. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnAle_jWnX8&t=12s. God Bless.