

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: 16th September 2023 - 24th September 2023

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY/CELEBRATION	INTENTION	P
SAT	16 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	24 th Sunday of the Year A	Canon A.G.McDonald RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	17 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	24 th Sunday of the Year A	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	17 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	24 th Sunday of the Year A	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	17 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	24 th Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA
MON	18 th	St Dominic	12 noon	Mass	at choice of the Community	as per celebrant	RS
TUE	19 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	of the 24 th Week of the Year	William & Mary Ann Bradford RIP & family	DMA
WED	20 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	St Andrew Kim Taegon et alia, Mem	For the people of N & S. Korea	DMA
THU	21 st	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	St Matthew, Feast	For the people of Morocco & Libya	DMA
FRI	22 nd	St Dominic	12 noon	Mass	at choice of the Community	as per celebrant	RS
SAT	23 rd	St Dominic	12 noon	Mass	St Pio of Pietelcina, Mem	as per celebrant	RS
SAT	23 rd	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	25 th Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	24 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	25 th Sunday of the Year A	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	24 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	25 th Sunday of the Year A	Thanksgiving (AH)	DMA
SUN	24 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	25 th Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA

THE SCANDAL OF FORGIVENESS

It is strange that the Good News is sometimes also disturbing news. But this disturbance is only the discomfort of moving from a small spiritual place to a much bigger spiritual place. Jesus is always connecting us to the mystery of God who is always greater, always fresh and new.

We have our own ideas about forgiveness, our own limits and conditions. The Scripture begins by softening us up somewhat. The reading from Ecclesiasticus takes the approach of reason. If we seek forgiveness from God how can we refuse forgiveness to another human being? What right have we to seek vengeance when that right belongs to God?

The Gospel takes things further. Peter wants to set a reasonable limit to forgiveness – seven times – surely that is enough? Jesus completely blows that one away. Not seven times but seventy-seven times – Jesus effectively says that there is no limit to forgiveness. The reason is clear from the parable. God's forgiveness is prodigal, lavish, unlimited. In fact it is scandalous and shocking. In the parable the servant owes the master a ridiculous amount of money – equivalent to millions of pounds at today's values. The master feels sorry for the servant and cancels all the debt. But this servant has lent a few pennies to another and he demands repayment. When this is not forthcoming he has the other servant put into prison.

The message of the parable is clear. Our debt to God is far greater than we could ever imagine. By comparison our debts to each other are almost insignificant. If God has forgiven us then we should forgive each other.

But the Gospel is more disturbing still. And this is the really worrying part. The master in the parable imprisons the ungrateful and pitiless servant who refused to forgive and hands *him over to the torturers*. Jesus says this is how his heavenly Father will deal with us unless we forgive from the heart. Now clearly Matthew cannot believe God has a band of torturers just waiting to inflict pain. Surely, Jesus cannot be saying his heavenly Father is a sadistic torturer?

No, of course not, rather Jesus is using strong language to wake us up to the damage that unforgiveness and resentment can do to our own hearts, souls and bodies! Refusing to forgive is like locking ourselves into a prison and torturing ourselves with our own pain. It is like holding thorns tightly to the breast afraid to let go. In effect we end up torturing ourselves. The only way out is to ask God for the grace to forgive. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Rosemary June Young (18th), Ellen Margaret Caffyn (21st), Rodney Michael King (23rd)

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

PRAYERS PLEASE: for Roger Maughan's 650 km cycle ride from Lusaka to Botswana, which begins this Sunday. He has raised more than £5000 for children in Zambia.

The Greatest Showman: Based on the film The Greatest Showman, Christians Together are holding an **Autumn Bible Study** to be held at the **Baptist Church** for five weeks from **Monday 25th September at 7.30pm** and at St Mary's Everton if there is sufficient demand from Friday 29th. There will be an opportunity to preview the film at the Baptist Church at 7.30pm on Monday 18th September. This should be an interesting event.

OAKHAVEN HOSPICE are having a fund-raising auction sale of donated artwork. Some abstracts by Martine Mercy are included. Paintings are on view in the Masonic Hall, Lymington and also online, where you can register your bids. <https://uk.givergy.com/artfullyoakhaven2023/?controller=lots&category=All%20Lots>

NEWCOMERS SUPPER: Every year we welcome newcomers to the village. As Christians Together, the four churches in the village organise the Newcomers supper. On **Saturday October 7th 2023** it is being held at All Saints Church. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together with our churches. All Saints church will host a large number of community organisations and societies giving them the chance attract new members. This will then be followed by supper at the Church Hall, where each church can welcome the newcomers and inform them of their services and activities. If anyone can help from St Francis please speak to Elizabeth Hall, our ecumenical rep.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Joseph Ambrose Coughlan, Florence May Thorne (18th), Michael Raoul Laloi (19th), Doreen Mary Thompson (20th), Aileen Deale (22nd)

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

NO TEA & COFFEE THIS SUNDAY: Unfortunately there has been a leak over the kitchen ceiling and it is not safe to use at the moment. We need to give time for things to dry out. Hopefully, tea & coffee will be back on next weekend (24th)

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM FATHER CHARLIE Father Charlie, a Montfort Mission Priest based in Malawi, said Mass last Sunday and offered the Mass for all the parishioners of St Anne's. He thanked the parish for all the support we have given him over many years and the individuals who regularly send him donations. He gave an update on the situation in his Parish in Malawi which has suffered the effects of a cyclone which destroyed the crops shortly before they were due to be harvested. He said the people remain resilient and joyful and trust in God. We had a collection to support Father Charlie's work and he said our generosity was wonderful: £426 in cash, £350 in cheques and a pledge for a monthly direct debit donation. He promised to send details of how the donations will be spent and said he will keep us all in his prayers.

WALK FOR CREATION: St Anne's Care for Creation team will once again be joining St Saviour's Eco Church team to celebrate the Season of Creation by holding an ecumenical prayer walk in the Forest on **Saturday, 23rd September** between 10am and 12 noon. This will be a two mile circular walk starting from Ober Corner car park close to Brockenhurst. **The invitation to join this walk is warmly extended to all three parishes.** See the poster for more details.

All Parishes

LATEST SCHOOL NEWS: - we had a very joyful Mass to begin the new school year, welcoming both new staff members and pupils in Yr R. The singing was amazing and the readers did very well. We reflected on our commitment to grow in both knowledge and wisdom. And we recognised the priority of love as expressed by those beautiful words from St Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth. Other school news will be emailed separately.

MASS FOR FILIPINO-CHINESE CATHOLICS celebrating St Lorenzo Ruiz. On Saturday, 23rd September, at 1.30pm in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. All are welcome.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Anne Elsie Mulhall (16th), Canon Archibald McDonald, Agnes (Nessie) Beggs, Diana Elizabeth Dent, Rita Wren (17th), Maureen Ellen Risbridger (19th), Muriel Mary Sanders (20th), Kenneth Ernest Eakins (21st)

Sick and Housebound: Frances Riches, Ron & Rita Barrett, Canon Peter Wilkie, John & Nicki Collins, Den Walker, Sean Dunn, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Simone Cluett.

CAFOD REP NEEDED: OLMSJ desperately needs a CAFOD Rep. Could you fulfil that role? If you'd like to know more contact the parish office.

RUMMIKUB/SCRABBLE CLUB meets on Monday 18th September from 2-4pm in Joseph's Place. Free admission with tea and cakes provided. Everyone welcome to have a go or just join us for a cuppa.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Total in bank as at: 15/09/23: £259,660.08 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.

OUR SECOND COLLECTION ON SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023 is for **Home Mission**. Evangelisation is an essential work of the Church. At all levels, and through every avenue we can utilize, we are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbours and within our local communities. The Home Mission Office helps the local Church to share the joy of the Gospel. If you would like to give a gift to this collection, you can donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-second-collection>. This collection opens on 11th September and closes on 26th September.

WALK FOR CREATION: St Anne's Care for Creation team will once again be joining St Saviour's Eco Church team to celebrate the Season of Creation by holding an ecumenical prayer walk in the Forest on **Saturday, 23rd September** between 10am and 12 noon. This will be a two mile circular walk starting from Ober Corner car park close to Brockenhurst. **The invitation to join this walk is warmly extended to all three parishes.** See the poster for more details.

USED ANDROID SMARTPHONE OR TABLET WANTED: While Fr Quarmby was in hospital his smartphone went missing. He used it especially for the daily Liturgy via the app "Universalis". If anyone has upgraded their device recently & has an Android smartphone or Tablet they are no longer using and are happy to donate it, please contact the parish office. Please ensure that the device has been factory reset & all personal data removed.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! Wednesday 4th October - the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, **4pm Blessing of the animals OLMSJ.** Bring your beautiful pets to the service for a blessing on this wonderful feast day.

Also: Wednesday 4th October, 7pm. OLMSJ A prayer service 'Unless we change....' This is another of Mary Dunn's thoughtful prayer services this time on Care for Creation & Global warming. The content certainly makes you sit up and reflect and it links beautifully into the Pope's cry for all of us to care for his creation - our beautiful planet.

PARISH READERS: The Liturgy Formation Team will host webinars on Teams specifically designed for parish readers, **BUT ALL PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

The sessions will run from on Wednesdays, 4th October to 1st November 7 to 8 pm via Microsoft Teams.

See attached for further details about each session and the booking link.

4th October Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures -Fr Jeremy Corley

11th October Liturgy - The theology of the Liturgy of the Word -Fr Anthony Fyk

18th October Youth Readers and Liturgy for Children- Dorina Bray

25th October Practicalities -How to proclaim the Word of God in church- Paul Inwood

1st November Introduction to *Lectio Divina* -Praying with the Sacred Scriptures- Fr Tom Kleinschmidt

DATE FOR THE DIARY: MGR PETER RYAN'S FAREWELL 22nd Oct: We would like to give Fr Peter a farewell gift. As he is currently downsizing and packing, a monetary offering is the most appropriate. Please hand in all contributions, cash or cheques (made payable to "CDP Lymington Our Lady") to the parish office in a clearly marked envelope. Thank you.

DATE FOR THE DIARY: - Sunday, 19th November, **ONLY ONE MASS FOR OUR THREE PARISHES THAT WEEKEND.** This will be a special celebration bringing together our three communities. Venue: Brockenhurst Village Hall, time: 11.00am.