

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 0PT

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:** Dr Wanda Fojt (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: 7th October 2023 - 15th October 2023

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY/CELEBRATION	INTENTION	P
SAT	7 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	27 th Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	8 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	27 th Sunday of the Year A	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	8 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	27 th Sunday of the Year A	Anthea Hayward RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	8 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	27 th Sunday of the Year A	Canon John Hally RIP F/M	DMA
TUE	10 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	of the 27 th Week of the Year	Veronica Croker RIP	DMA
WED	11 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	St John XXIII, Mem	For Peace in Ukraine	DMA
THU	12 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	of the 27 th Week of the Year	For the Synod of Bishops	DMA
SAT	14 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	28 th Sunday of the Year A	Harry Newenham RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	15 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	28 th Sunday of the Year A	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	15 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	28 th Sunday of the Year A	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP	DMA
SUN	15 th	OLMSJ	12.30pm	Baptism	baby Sienna Lloyd	N/A	DMA
SUN	15 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	28 th Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA

IS THE KINGDOM BEING TAKEN FROM US?

In the Gospel this weekend Jesus says to the religious leaders: "The kingdom of God shall be taken away from you and given to those who will produce its fruit".

It is important that we regularly ask that question of the Lord in our prayer: Are we losing the kingdom, are we losing our souls? Another word for kingdom is relationship. It is not our kingdom/relationship or the Church's, it is God's. God is always calling us and everyone into relationship. Can we make our churches communities welcoming to all? Can we be recognisable pathways into the kingdom, into relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Our responsibility is not just to maintain the church as it is but to ensure that it is a life-giving community for people today. If the current form of the church is not allowing that to happen then it will wither away and God's Spirit will raise up the church in a new form that will what the world needs today.

Forget about heaven and hell for a moment. It is about what is happening now in our hearts, minds, emotions, bodies, relationships and lives. Seeing things only in terms of "when I die" can be a subtle way to avoid the here and now issues.

History gives us many examples of people, communities, regions, countries "losing it". Losing openness, tolerance, love, compassion, joy, variety, acceptance, values, meaning and whatever else makes the heart sing. A parish community can have its priests, its liturgies, its groups and still be cold and unwelcoming, judgemental and narrow-minded. It can have too little of the Spirit who comes from God and too much of the spirit of the world (fear, lethargy, discouragement, greed, factions, prejudices etc). The soul is a very delicate thing. It can expand out to the whole universe and in its appreciation and acceptance embrace everything, even the mystery of God. The soul thrives on love, truth, compassion and freedom.

It responds to beauty and to disfigurement, to joy and to pain. It relishes spontaneity, diversity and harmony. With faith it can flourish on challenge and overcome adversity. Above all the soul can be refreshed and renewed by another or by the Other.

But the soul can also shrink and wither. It can lose the joy. It can become locked into anxiety, bitterness, security and comfort. The soul can become fearful and self-preoccupied. Remember I am not talking so much about sin, although that may be part of the picture but about life, energy, creativity, appreciation, joy, openness or rather the lack of these experiences. We can be going to the sacraments but our souls can still be starving because we are not really letting Christ into the whole of our lives. One moment with the Lord will have little impact if we spend hours & hours consuming only the trivial and superficial.

Bad leadership can also stifle the soul. Rigid, authoritarian and regimental leadership negates confidence, creativity and God-given self-worth. And weak leadership which fails to call forth the best in us can encourage complacency. If we are living only in the expectations of others. We may not belong to ourselves. If they are the mirrors which reflect back to us our reality then we won't know who we really are. We won't realise that we are mirrored by Christ as children of God. We need to ask ourselves who am I when I am not a husband, wife, father, mother, wage earner, single person, etc? Do I know myself as one uniquely loved and called by the Other who is the real friend and life of our souls? (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Kathleen Parker (9th), Mary (Molly) Kathleen Woodford (11th), Ethelfrida Davies (13th), Marjorie Leila Brown (14th)

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

VERY MANY THANKS: to all those who helped to make last Sunday's cake and prosecco celebration such a happy one. The coffee team did a wonderful job and the atmosphere of warmth and friendship made it a very special occasion. Thank you. from Elisabeth.

CAFOD: the second collection this weekend is for CAFOD.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Winifred Foster (12th); Ruby Alice Clifford (13th)

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

CAFOD: the second collection this weekend is for CAFOD.

ST ANNE'S PPC MEETING: This will take place on Thursday, 12th Oct at 6.30pm via Microsoft Teams. Ian Holden will send the link.

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, Highwood Rd, Brockenhurst SO42 7RY** time: **11.00am.**

All Parishes

THANKS TO MARY DUNN for another informative and thought-provoking service of prayer and reflection on Care for Creation. Everyone found it very beneficial and inspiring. Also thank you to Liz and Wanda for the vegetables in the display. Most of the vegetables went to the Food Bank the next day. Thanks also to and to Wanda for the beautiful Dahlias. The colours are stunning.

MASS AT ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY: For the time being the Sisters at St Dominic's cannot be certain about the provision of daily Mass. This is why I have not included them in our weekly service schedule. If you go onto their website homepage you can scroll down to find the notification of daily Masses which will be celebrated at the Priory. <https://www.dominicansisters.net/>

ALL THE KNITTERS IN THE PARISH! URGENT APPEAL " from New Forest for Ukraine: knitted hats for babies and children. Now that darker evenings are drawing in, we have some very easy knitting patterns if anyone has the inclination, to knit a hat for babies or children in Ukraine. Please contact Judith 645521

FROM SR.VERONICA: Welcome to this Sunday's Gospel reflection Once again we visit the image of the Vineyard. We can see the consequences of our turning away from God. The world belongs to God not to us, we need to become faithful stewards to our planet. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeCX8MOTsl8&t=8s> God bless Sr Veronica OP

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

MGR PETER RYAN'S FAREWELL: Fr Peter will be preaching at the **10.30am Mass on Sunday, 22nd Oct. And there will be refreshments in Joseph's Place afterwards.** 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.

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Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Christina Beevers (7th), Catherine Conroy, Sandra Leary (8th), Paul Robert Duffy (9th), Josephine Catherine Patricia Liegeois (10th), Margaret Jones (11th), Sinead Maria Joyce (12th), William Leonard Green (13th)

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

ANNETTE MARY WELD RIP: We learnt this week that Annette passed away on 12th August 2020. She was an artist and had been living in Guatemala. Annette would attend OLMSJ whenever she visited. Her daughter Tanya, is currently visiting Lymington to deal with her estate. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUND-RAISERS: Really well done to Frances & the team for raising the sum of £190 cash plus £9 card payment last Saturday, (30th Sept). The market was quite slow with large stalls being absent, so it was hard work with a steady flow of customers. You also cleared everything up and left the rooms lovely and tidy. Thank you for that too. The total amount will be sent to CAFOD Ukraine on behalf of the people of our parish. Well done - you are absolute heroes!

UNSUNG HEROES: Have you noticed our weed free tidy carpark and entrance? This is all thanks to our unsung heroes: Olivia, Keith & Rini, Barbara & David, Cathryn and Marily who worked incredibly hard on Thursday morning to clear the weeds by hand while, they tell me, having great fun! Would you like to get in on the fun and lend a helping hand? Phase 1 of OLMSJ car park clean-up is now complete and over the next few weeks we are aiming to tidy up the raised flower beds before Winter sets in. Please come and lend a hand if you can next Thursday the 12th Oct at 10.00. The more helping hands the more we can achieve. Tea and biscuits provided! You will need to bring your gloves, secateurs, hand trowel and garden shears if you can. Many thanks!!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 4TH OCTOBER: Thank you to all those who attended the Blessing of the Animals service on Wednesday. Thanks especially to Louis and Emilia who read so beautifully and conducted themselves in a very mature manner. They were a credit to their families and to their school. We had a mixture of all our beloved pets from dogs to cats, Guinea pigs to beautiful birds. We also remembered our pets who had died recently and there were photographs of pets who couldn't be there in person. They all behaved beautifully. More importantly, they didn't eat one another! All left happily after having a personal blessing from Fr David. What a wonderful way to experience the joy and love of God's creation on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi.

THANK YOU: Fr David and Linda would like to thank everyone for their hugs and cards and emails of support after losing our lovely Olly- who was named 'The Parish Dog'. Some of you said tales of mischievous Olly kept you chuckling during lockdown! On Monday we received cards of condolence made by every child in Our Lady & St Joseph school most of which had met Olly and loved him. Thank you. Your support has meant a lot to both of us.

BULBS: Our Catholic Primary school, Our Lady & St Joseph, would like to thank Clare Bassett for donating the large box of bulbs for their grounds. If you are planting spring bulbs and have some left over our school would love to have them. The children really look after their environment that is why they were recently awarded the RHS Level 5 Gardening Award. This is the highest level of the RHS awards that can be achieved. The school has received £200 in National Gardening Gift vouchers as well as a waterproof plaque for their school gardens! This level of the award shows they have engaged well with our local community. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our school and to all those parishioners who regularly donate plants. The staff and children are always very appreciative.

ONE BIG MASS: In 6 weeks time, on Sunday 19th November at 11am, our 3 parishes will come together to celebrate Mass at Brockenhurst village hall. To answer your questions:
Will there be 6pm Mass at OLMSJ on Saturday 18th? **NO**
Will there be Mass at 9am at St Francis on the 19th? **NO**
Will there be Mass at 10.30am at OLMSJ on the 19th? **NO**
Will there be Mass at 6pm at St Anne's on the 19th? **NO**
THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE MASS THAT WEEKEND.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Total in bank as at: 06/10/23: £260,025.08 This includes GAYL contributions.