

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.nfwf.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 (safeguarding@lymbrockmil.org.uk); Henrietta Reynolds (safeguarding@brock.org.uk); Liz Price (safeguarding@sfmil.org.uk). **PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Dean & Health & Safety Co ordinator:** Linda Guilding; **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound; & for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Contact the parish office.

The Week: 28th October 2023 - 5th November 2023

SAT	28 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	30 th Sunday of the Year A	Catenian Intentions	DMA
SUN	29 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	30 th Sunday of the Year A	Joan Lloyd RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	29 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	30 th Sunday of the Year A	Mrs Ellen Emmett RIP Anniv F/M	DMA
SUN	29 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	30 th Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA
TUE	31 st	OLMSJ		No Service	of the 30 th Week of the Year	N/A	DMA
WED	1 st	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	All Saints - Holyday	For Peace in Ukraine & Palestine	DMA
WED	1 st	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	All Saints - Holyday	as per celebrant	DQ
WED	1 st	OLMSJ	12 noon	Mass	All Saints - Holyday	For Peace in Ukraine & Palestine	DMA
WED	1 st	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	All Saints - Holyday	The Baker Family F/M	DMA
THU	2 nd	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	All Souls	For all the departed	DMA
FRI	3 rd	OLMSJ	2.00pm		Wedding Rehearsal	N/A	DMA
SAT	4 th	OLMSJ	1.00pm	Wedding	Jodie Hoey & Declan Rose	N/A	DMA
SAT	4 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	31 st Sunday of the Year A	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	5 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	31 st Sunday of the Year A	For those who are unwell	DMA
SUN	5 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	31 st Sunday of the Year A	Tom Tunney RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	5 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	31 st Sunday of the Year A	People of the Parishes	DMA

THERE IS ONLY ONE LOVE

The Pharisees (literally “separated ones”) were a group that began with the hasidim (God’s loyal ones) in the 2nd century before Jesus. They concentrated on control of religious rather than political affairs. Their supreme concern and delight was to keep the law, including the traditions of the elders (Torah) in every exact detail. Most scribes belonged to the Pharisee group. They were model Jews by their own standards. They tended to keep themselves apart from others whom they considered either unclean or sinful in some way. While there were exceptions (e.g. Nicodemus) they were generally arrogant, judgemental and disdainful of others. This arrogance, combined with a dry legalism which put exact ritual observance before love and mercy led them into conflict with Jesus.

It is not clear why they thought the question “Which is the greatest commandment of the Law?” could cause potential embarrassment for Jesus. Perhaps there is a clue in Jesus’ answer. Jesus did not give them the answer they wanted because he mentions two commandments: Love God and love your neighbour as yourself. So perhaps we can infer that the Pharisees wanted to drive a wedge between these two commandments & to show that Jesus, by loving people as he did, was somehow infringing the first and greatest commandment.

The greatest temptation of religious people of any time or place is to hate others for the love of God. We can so easily delude ourselves into thinking that our own fears, greed, & hatreds can be justified by appealing to religious duty. Very conveniently, and probably for the most part unconsciously, we excuse ourselves and blame God: “Well don’t blame me for trying to kill you, I am only obeying God’s commandment. It is a holy duty! I have got to do it!” The cross of Jesus directly addressed this sin of the world. God is always with the victim, always on both sides of any divide.

Jesus’ teaching was not dramatically new as our extract from Exodus indicates. However the fundamental shift is that for Exodus “neighbour” meant primarily anyone of your own race – foreigners & pagans were not included. Jesus universalises this commandment & brings it, from a relatively obscure position, to be the second greatest commandment. He then says that all the writings of the Law (1st five books of the Hebrew bible) and the prophets hang or rest upon these two. This is an antidote to fundamentalism and legalism because everything has to be referred back to love, love is the greatest law.

God accepts and loves us, so we can love ourselves and others in the same way. Of course there is a deeper truth here. There is a deep unity of all things in God. When you love your neighbour you are, in fact, loving your greater Self. This unity is based first of all at the level of being: All things came into being through him (i.e the Word), John 1:3; in him all things hold together, Colossians 1:17. There is union finally at the level of love – God’s embrace of love for everything & everyone. (DMA).

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Joan Vera Lloyd (31st), Reginald David Freemantle, Francis Edgar Pearson, Douglas Parker (1st), Kathleen Monaghan, Patrick d'Amore Lister (2nd), Edward (Ted) John Mercy (3rd), Hilda Musson (4th)

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

Today, we're remembering and giving thanks for Joan Lloyd at the time of her anniversary. We are also celebrating Peter Larke's 80th birthday. We wish Peter and Maeve and the family every blessing and happiness.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY: 4th/5th Nov for the Diocese of Bamenda in the Cameroon. See the item in "All Parishes" for more detail.

THANKS TO RITA: who is able to help the parishioner who needed assistance with shopping.

BATHROOMS DON'T CLEAN THEMSELVES – HELP NEEDED: As you know, we now have two bright shiny new bathrooms with a third in the Maryland Room being finished in the near future. At the moment, two of us are trying to keep these sparkling when we can but it's a job we feel ought to be shared. It's certainly a lot more pleasant than it used to be and takes only about 30 minutes or so on a fortnightly basis. If you'd like to help, please let me know on 01590 641595. (from Peter Larke)

THANKS TO DEBORAH & ROGER WARREN: they have begun clearing the back stairs in the Maryland room & taking stuff to the tip. The remaining stuff to be cleared is waiting for Fr David as more car space is needed!

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Leonard O Donnell, Stewart Charles James King (30th), Edward Colin Knight, Kathleen Knight (1st), Margaret Fergusson, Michael Denis Reardon (3rd)

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

RED MISSION BOXES: Would holders of Red Mission Boxes please bring them to Mass and give them to Bill Pignatelli who will be happy to empty them and return them to be filled again! If you do not have a Red Box but would like one please ask Bill and he will be happy to supply one. *Missio* have written to thank everyone in this Parish who has contributed so generously over many years.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY: 4th/5th Nov for the Diocese of Bamenda in the Cameroon. See the item in "All Parishes" for more detail.

WEEKDAY MASS: from 2nd Nov the Thursday morning Mass will move to the house.

THURSDAY LUNCHES AT ST SAVIOUR'S: They are holding informal and very friendly light lunches at St Saviour's Church Hall every Thursday from 1200 to 1.45pm. From November 2nd there will be delicious soup lunches with a selection of home-made soups plus cake, tea and coffee. There is no charge but donations are very welcome. Please come and join us! (Some from St Anne's are already enjoying these lunches)

All Parishes

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

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. **Brockenhurst Village Hall, Highwood Rd, Brockenhurst SO42 7RY time: 11.00am: TEA & COFFEE & CAKE WILL BE PROVIDED.** (After consultations all round the idea of "bring a picnic lunch" was dropped)

URGENT APPEAL: All the knitters in our parishes! from The New Forest for Ukraine Hub. Could you knit children's/babies hats, mittens, scarves or soft toys this Winter or even hot water bottle covers? You will find a full list of items needed to go to Poland and Ukraine at the back of the church. Please bring your donations to church and we will pass them on.

BAMENDA SUNDAY 4th/5th November 2023: On Bamenda Sunday (4/5 Nov), we celebrate and give thanks for our Diocesan link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon. Please pray for peace in Bamenda and for their five priests serving us here in the Portsmouth Diocese. Our second collection is the main source of annual income for the projects the Bamenda Fund will be able to support in 2024, the 50th anniversary of the formation of the link! Please read the attached Bamenda News for an update. Please be as generous as you can to support our sisters and brothers in Bamenda in these very challenging times. ANY contribution of ANY size is most welcome, as together we can make a big difference! Donations can also be made securely online: <https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php> where gift aid and standing order forms can also be downloaded and bank details can be found for direct transfers. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM FR PETER: I am not able to thank individually all of you in our 3 parishes who contributed so generously to my leaving gift (£2500), but I am sure that you will excuse me if I just put this brief message in our parish newsletter. I have so much enjoyed my time with all of you. You have been so kind to me over the years and I have very much valued all the friendship you have shown me. I shall keep you all in my thoughts and prayers in the years ahead and may I say once again how much I have appreciated your parting gift. May God's blessing be on each one of you. As ever. Fr Peter.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Agnes Kealey, Claude Seton-Dry (28th), Lily Kathleen Osborn (29th), Maurice Bogget, Iris Simpson, Stewart Charles James King (30th), Francis Gurd (31st), June Parkin, Thomas McCarthy, Jerzey 'George' Bokota (1st), Thomas Francis Tunney (3rd)

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

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY: 4th/5th Nov for the Diocese of Bamenda in the Cameroon. See the item in "All Parishes" for more detail.

DIARY DATE: FRIENDSHIP CLUB meets on Monday 6th November from 2-4pm in Joseph's Place. We will be featuring the Tudor Lady of Dorset who will demonstrate a lady's wardrobe and bring us court 'gossip'. Not to be missed. Free admission with quiz, raffle and tea at 3pm. Everyone welcome.

THE GARDEN GROUP: My sincere thanks to the 'garden group' which has hung up its tools for the winter! The last few boxes of flowers and shrubs in the car park were finished on Thursday and they will resume work again in the Spring. So if you missed out this time, there will be another opportunity to help in the Spring! They said they will keep an eye on the car park over the winter months and clear leaves away when it becomes necessary. It has been a huge job clearing weeds, pruning overgrown bushes and clearing away the debris. Thank you so much.

NEW FOREST FOR UKRAINE HUB: THANK YOU TO ALL THE KNITTERS! Our sincere thanks to the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph church in Lymington for the beautiful, knitted items and bags of wool we received yesterday. We are busy putting boxes of baby's clothing and toys together for the next delivery and would ask you to keep up the good work as we continue to answer the appeals from Ukraine and Poland. **HOT WATER BOTTLES.** We have had a fantastic response to our request for covers for hot water bottles - so much so we now need more bottles!! Please put the hot water bottles and any knitted items in the box at the back of the church.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Total in bank as at: 27/10/23: £260,185.08 This includes GAYL contributions.

All Parishes

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OLSJ SCHOOL: We welcome back all our staff and pupils refreshed and raring to go after their half term break.

SR VERONICA'S REFLECTION: Welcome to this week's reflection in which the Pharisees test Jesus. They ask what is the greatest commandment of the Law? We learn today about the greatest commandment of all; to love God and our neighbour as we love ourselves. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtlyYemydIE> God Bless Sr Veronica OP

The NEW FOREST FOODBANK will be running the Reverse Advent Calendar campaign again this year. Should you wish to take part, it works like this – To create a Reverse Advent Calendar:

Collect 24 Christmassy items during November – the list will be at the back of the church.

Put them all in a box – the box ideally decorated/wrapped, not the individual items.

Drop it off at the Foodbank by 4th December between 9am & 2pm Monday to Friday.

We then distribute these boxes to our clients during the run up to Christmas, one to each household. Please note the following: NO ALCOHOL, NO FRESH FOOD and all food items to be in-date until January 2024 at least. Last year we sent out 175 Reverse Advent Calendars and we hope to match or even exceed that this year. Many thanks. Hilary. (NF Foodbank)

CALLING ALL BAKERS! After the Mass on 19th November at Brockenhurst village hall we will be coming together for tea/coffee and cake, to have a chat and meet up with old friends and make new. Would you like to bake a cake(s) for this occasion? If so, please contact the parish office office@lymbrockmil.org.uk or phone 01590 676696 so we have a rough idea how much cake to expect. My thanks to those who have already let us know they will be baking a cake. **READ "A BETTER WORLD: REFLECTIONS ON PEACE AND FRATERNITY."** Published 7th November 2022 by Pope Francis. "The consistent practice of nonviolence," Pope Francis writes, "has broken barriers, bound wounds, healed nations." Since his installation in 2013, Pope Francis has called the Church and the world to "make active nonviolence our way of life."

CAFOD EMERGENCY ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL: The terrible situation in Israel and occupied Palestinian territory is tearing lives apart. Your donation today will allow CAFOD to provide urgent, practical help to the families who need it, as soon as it's safe to do so. **Donate online at** www.cafod.org.uk/?form=israelipalestiniancrisis