

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 Ministers:** 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: 17th February 2024 - 25th February 2024

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION (when applicable)	
SAT	17 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	1 st Sunday of Lent	Michael, Patricia & Peter Mangan RIP	DMA
SUN	18 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	1 st Sunday of Lent	Alexei Navalny RIP	DMA
SUN	18 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	1 st Sunday of Lent	Teresa Connolly RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	18 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	1 st Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes	DMA
TUE	20 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	1 st Week of Lent	Den Walker RIP	DMA
WED	21 st	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	1 st Week of Lent	For Peace in Palestine & Ukraine	DMA
THUR	22 nd	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	Chair of Peter, Feast	as per celebrant	DQ
THUR	22 nd	St Francis	10.30am	Mass	Requiem Mass	Bernard Ffield RIP	RF/DMA
FRI	23 rd	OLSJ School	2.15pm	Liturgy	Lenten Liturgy	N/A	LG/DMA
SAT	24 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Elizabeth "Betty" O'Donnell RIP Anniv (9yrs)	DMA
SUN	25 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	For the work of CAFOD	DMA
SUN	25 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Den Walker RIP	DMA
SUN	25 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes	DMA

LET ME HUG IT BETTER. Perhaps as a parent, grandparent or spouse you have consoled your child or partner with a big hug. Or perhaps you were given a hug that made things better. Was the sadness soothed away? Was the anger and upset dispelled? Did the light and warmth of love make the darkness disappear? Were you able to get back to your normal self to recover a clear mind and a happier heart? Perhaps we can answer "yes" to all those questions. The alien cloud that had filled our soul was gently blown away.

I wonder if this experience can help us understand what Jesus was doing when he cast out devils. When we give way to fear, to anger, to hopelessness, to cynicism or to a greedy or lustful obsession that harmful energy possesses us. It may cause us to say or do things that we later regret. The loving kindness of others can help to free us from what is ultimately going to be destructive.

In Luke 8:2, Mary Magdalene (?) is referred to as someone Jesus cured of evil spirits and ailments and 'out of whom went seven devils'. This may refer to a life-style that was self-destructive in a number of ways. Her encounter with Jesus assured her of God's love and forgiveness. For this she showed lavish gratitude such that Jesus said her many sins must have been forgiven her or she would not have shown such great love. The one who is forgiven little, shows little love (Luke 7:47).

The French legal system recognises what we call "crimes of passion". One example, is when we become dangerously possessed by sudden anger which may lead to violence. We are still responsible for our actions but in such circumstances they are not pre-meditated.

In Matthew 12: 43-45 we have this parable : "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. This is how it will be with this wicked generation". The problem is the house may be cleaned up and tidy but it is EMPTY. In Shakespeare's plays concerning Henry V, the young prince is at first leading a dissolute life. Then he cleans up his act when he becomes king only to adopt a ruthless persona in place of the dissolute one. Morally speaking he ends up worse than he was before. The demons in the parable very clearly represent the harmful and egocentric energies that can possess us if we are not careful and open to God's help.

So when Jesus goes into the desert he confronts those destructive energies and consciously rejects them by the power of the Spirit. This is what we need to do in prayer, to identify the dangers, and with the help of God's Spirit, summon up the strength to reject them. So we shall be better prepared for the challenges that life throws at us. How else did the murdered advocate of freedom and justice, Alexei Navalny remain steadfast in his resolve when on the receiving end of such demonic persecution? (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Ralph Featherstone Walton (18th), Charles Patrick O'Neil McCoy (21st), Edith Beeching (22nd)

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

BERNARD FFIELD RIP: the Requiem Mass will be on Thursday, 22nd Feb at 10.30am in St Francis followed by burial in All Saints cemetery. Mourners will gather afterwards at The Beach house. Fr Richard Ffield OSB, Bernard's brother, will celebrating the Mass assisted by Fr David. Fr Richard & his brother Oswald would be grateful to know how many people intend to join them for the gathering in the Beach House so that the right amount of food can be ordered. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. And may Bernard rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

COFFEE MORNING: this Sunday, 18th Feb. Our thanks to the Team!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: on Friday 1st March, at 2.30pm in St Mary's Everton. The service was written in 2022 by Palestinian Christians. So this will be an ideal opportunity for us to pray for peace in this troubled region. Refreshments afterwards.

UKRAINE: Donations for generators still needed. Please put in envelope marked 'generators' in collection. Many thanks!

ALL 3 PARISHES: The next LYMINGTON Coffee Morning will be Saturday 24th February and it will be in aid of Ukraine. All funds raised will go to NFFU at Ampress Park, to help buy generators which are badly needed in Ukraine right now.

BIG LENT WALK – If anyone is interested in a local walk please contact Rosalie: rosaliemans@hotmail.com.

DATE FOR THE DIARY: Milford Choralia Choir have been invited to sing evensong at Salisbury Cathedral on Thurs, 20th June at 5.30pm. If you are interested in going please contact Rosalie as above.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Frederick Walter Mager (20th), Francis O'Donoghue R.A.F. Beaulieu (21st)

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

LENT BOOK GROUP: If you would like to join a Parish book group over Lent, to read a short story then to reflect and discuss every Friday afternoon (3.0pm-4.30pm), please see the email attachment to the newsletter for more details. The book we will be reading is *Women of Holy Week: An Easter Journey in Nine Stories* by Paula Gooder.

RECYCLING UPDATE: I am sorry to tell you that we no longer have an outlet for milk bottle tops at St Anne's and I would be really grateful if these were no longer left in the porch. NFDC are now taking milk bottle tops in the weekly recycling bags as long as they are attached to the plastic milk bottle.

NEW FOREST FOR UKRAINE: The box for donations will remain at the back of the church. Warm clothing items are still very welcome and we are also being asked for tinned soup and bars of soap.

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All Parishes

THANK YOU: A huge thank you from the Gardening club at our Catholic Primary school, Our Lady & St Joseph. On returning from their half term break they received a wonderful parcel containing the following items:

40 pairs of gardening gloves for the children and 4 pairs for staff.

10 gardening forks for children.

A fork and trowel and a small watering can.

5 Seed trays and 43 packets of assorted veg and flower seeds

and some small plastic pots to enable them to grow the seedlings on!

Thank you so much to Linda Guilding, Barbara Marklew, Carole Olding, Deirdre Threadgold, Sue Trubacik, Tom Turnbull -and those who anonymously dropped off the plastic pots at the back door of the presbytery- for all your help.

Thank you in advance to those who have promised plants for the school in the spring and early summer.

HAVE YOU ANY SMALL PLASTIC POTS? Our school could still do with more used or new see trays and plastic pots to help them grow the seedlings on. If you have any to spare, please hand them in to the parish office. Thank you.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lyminster

Anniversaries this week: Philip Smith, Mary Josephine Walby (17th), Sarah Walsh, Dorothy Teague, Margery Thwaites (18th), Douglas Webb (19th), Julia Rosa Ermalinda (Erma) French (20th), Michele Palmieri (21st), Yvonne Chamberlain, Rosita Evans (22nd), Cecil Nicholls, William O'Regan, Elizabeth O'Donnell (23rd)

Sick and Housebound: William Myers, Susie Wright, Joan McCafferty, Frances Riches, Ron & Rita Barrett, Canon Peter Wilkie, John & Nicki Collins, Frances Walker, Sean Dunn, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Simone Cluett.

PRAYERS PLEASE FOR: William Myers who is in hospital and for Frances Walker who is continuing her treatment and we pray everything will go as well as can be hoped.

DEN WALKER RIP: Den died peacefully in the early hours of Thursday morning with Frances and their daughters with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and may Den rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

RUMMIKUB AND SCRABBLE CLUB will meet in Joseph's Place on Monday 19 February at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for a game or two, good company and refreshments.

DONATIONS OF MONEY FOR EASTER EGGS (STELLA MARIS) The Apostleship of the Sea has asked us to help provide Easter eggs for seafarers. The best way of doing this is to buy the necessary quantities, hopefully at a sale price. This ensures best value for money and that everyone receives the same. If you want to contribute please put your gift in an envelope marked "Stella Maris – Easter Eggs" & pop in the collection plate or through the door of No.132. Clare Bassett will organise the purchases etc.

ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE: in St Thomas's Church Hall, Sundays 3pm-4pm from 18th Feb to 17th March. It is focussing on the Women of Holy Week using Paula Gooder's book. All welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Tom Turnbull, will leading the Stations of the Cross at 10am on Friday 23rd February in OLMSJ church.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DURING LENT: Saturday mornings from 10am – 10.30am in OLMSJ church. Nearer Holy Week additional opportunities will be available also.

LENTEN SERVICE OF REFLECTION: this will be led by Mary Dunn. It entitled – *The Veil of the Temple*, on Wed, 20th March at 7pm

DO YOU FANCY DONATING YOUR UNWANTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO CHARITY?: At the Coffee morning on 24th February, we will be running a Tombola and to make it a success we urgently need your help. We would welcome your last box of chocolates or those lovely toiletries you don't need or that bottle of wine you forgot you had, in fact any gift in good condition which can be used as a prize. Please donate them as prizes for our tombola on 24th February when **the funds raised from the coffee morning will help buy generators for Ukraine**. All donations will be gratefully received and can be left at church on Saturday or Sunday over the coming weeks and will be collected & transferred to a secure place. Thank you for your help.

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BUILDING FUND UPDATE: On 15/02/24 Church Building Fund was £261,855.08.

All Parishes

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Calling parents who have children in Yr 3 and who want them to make their 1st Holy Communion. Please make email contact with Fr David to enrol them for this year's programme. You will then receive details about dates and requirements.

LENTEN RETREATS ONLINE: from **Redemptorists** - For the online retreat: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/a-word-for-lent-retreat-2024-online-streaming> For the book only: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/a-word-for-lent>

From the **Sisters at Sway**: Book now to remember to join us for the first session on 20th February! Registration: <https://www.lightoftruth.uk/event-details/transformed-by-love-2024-02-20-19-30>

CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY NEXT FRIDAY: We will take a second collection on the weekend 24th/25th Feb for CAFOD.

SR VERONICA'S REFLECTION: Welcome to the 1st Sunday in Lent. During Lent instead of the usual Gospel reflection We shall be reflecting on the key characters of the journey from Genesis to Jesus. Today we look at Noah who features in the First reading today. In the coming weeks we shall look at Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus himself in his journey to the cross and his new covenant with all humankind. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MKAzdZWJM&t=71s> God bless Sr Veronica OP