

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 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: 24th February 2024 - 3rd March 2024

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION (when applicable)	
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	Peter Larke RIP, Ursula Beachey RIP, Tom Lyons RIP Anniv	DMA
SUN	25 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	Den Walker RIP & William Myers RIP	DMA
SUN	25 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes	DMA
TUE	27 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	2 nd Week of Lent	Personal Intention (PE)	DMA
WED	28 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	2 nd Week of Lent	For bereaved families	DMA
THUR	29 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	2 nd Week of Lent	as per celebrant	DQ
SAT	2 nd	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Dec'd Family & Friends (PE)	DMA
SUN	3 rd	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Ursula Beachey RIP & Peter Larke RIP	DMA
SUN	3 rd	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Lent	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	3 rd	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Lent	Robert Greenhalgh RIP Anniv	DMA

WHAT IS GOD ASKING – WHAT IS GOD GIVING?

For much of human history people have been fearful of the unknown, of “gods” or spirits and for the monotheistic religions, fearful of God. In the emerging consciousness of humanity the deity was difficult to find and hard to understand. People were suspicious of the forces that seemed to arbitrarily control their lives. Gods were to be feared not loved. They had to be placated and kept on side. This way of imaging God was dark and toxic.

The Old Testament patriarch, Abraham, was called away from such pagan religion into a relationship with the living God. This was the beginning of revelation as we have experienced it in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The pagan peoples who lived close to Abraham and the early Israelites are known to have practiced some kind of child sacrifice at various times. They obviously had an influence on the Jewish people. You can imagine the scenario; “We are so devoted to our god we are prepared to sacrifice our children! What are you prepared to do for your god?”

The story of Abraham and Isaac is a response to that kind of taunt. At some point people began to realise and believe that God doesn't want the sacrifice of humans – perhaps God will be pleased with an animal instead? But God doesn't really want animals to be killed either (cfr Micah 6: 6-8).

It takes thousands of years for people to realise that God doesn't want anything killed or destroyed at all. Jesus reveals God as life-giver not life-taker! Instead of demanding that we sacrifice ourselves God actually makes the sacrifice on our behalf. At one time we thought we had to kill things to get to God. In Jesus God accepts death to reveal the divine love, which is unconditional, gratuitous, inclusive and indiscriminate. Jesus accepts being killed, accepts being a victim so that we would no longer turn others into victims. God can be loved. We are not seeing a toxic God of our own imaging but the God whom Jesus reveals – Father and Mother to all.

There is another important teaching of spiritual wisdom here. Life gives and life takes away. Sometimes life takes from us the very people or things we have been cherishing the most. Isaac was the child of the promise – the whole future depended on him. Our life our work, the people we love, the people we depend on, the gifts God has given us, the enjoyments and pleasures we experience, our own life too, some day we will have to let them all go back to God. We must even hand over our sin, as Psalm 65 says: *To you all flesh will come with its burden of sin, too heavy for us our offences but you wipe them away.* We believe and trust in God's goodness and we hope new life will be given in ways we cannot now understand or imagine. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Thomas (Tom) Lyons (26th), John Frederick Kimber (28th), Floriana Malicki, Mary Rose Boddington (1st), Joseph Pentz, Margaret (Rita) Tew (2nd)

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

URSULA BEACHEY RIP: Ursula died at home early on Saturday morning, a few months short of her 100th birthday. Our thoughts and prayers are with Michael and all the family. May Ursula rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

PETER LARKE RIP: You will be shocked and saddened to hear that Peter died on Saturday morning in SGH. Maeve and the family were with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maeve and all the family. May Peter rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

GEORGE RUANE will be celebrating his First Holy Communion with us on Sunday, 3rd March. We wish him a very happy day with all his family and a deeper awareness of God's life in him.

A BIG SUGGESTION FOR LENT! How about buying a plastic sachet or 2, of pureed baby food, for Ukrainian babies (1st few months or older). Sell by dates are about Dec 2024. They also badly need tins of formula milk for babies and little ones too. There will be a box in S Francis porch. Thank you so much!

COFFEE MORNING: next Sunday, 3rd Mar. 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.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Elizabeth Hamilton McCabe (28th), Robert Noel Greenhalgh, Mary Rose Boddington, Sarah Eileen Bridget Dunn (1st), Gervase Scroope, Minnie Darlison, William Donald Fitzgerald-Graham (2nd)

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: I am very grateful to Fr David Quarmby who is willing and able to celebrate the Thursday morning Masses when I have conflicting appointments. Funerals and School governor duties have been encroaching. Please give Fr David Quarmby every help and support.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent appeal This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

There will be a second collection for CAFOD family fast day at the end of Mass or you can either give online. Thank you everyone for your continued support.

New Forest for Ukraine If you were unable to get to the coffee morning at OLMSJ on Saturday but would like to donate cash towards buying badly needed generators for Ukraine, there will be a donation basket at the back of the church after Mass. Warm clothing, tins of soup and soap bars will still be gratefully received.

All Parishes

CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY SECOND COLLECTION: We will take a second collection this weekend 24th/25th Feb for CAFOD.

SCHOOL NEWS: STAFF AT OLSJ PARTNERSHIP RECEIVE A NATIONAL AWARD: Some amazing news, **Pip and Pap Phonics** has won 'Start-Up Learning Provider of The Year!' ('The Learning Awards 2024). Ellie and Ian Prince were at the awards event in London to receive the award – all very Hollywood apparently!

This is phenomenal news and a testament to the passion, creativity and downright hard work of Ellie, Dave and the team. Ellie's vision for an accredited scheme was born several years ago and over the past 4 years (mainly at OLSJ) has journeyed into an exceptional scheme that makes a real difference to the children who experience it. We are all very proud to have been part of that journey and a part of such an inventive scheme. I know it will go on to even greater things and impact on even more children, building confident and successful thriving readers. Well done Ellie!

CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 3 AND 4 DODGEBALL TEAM: Our Year 3 and 4 dodgeball team took part in a Priestlands tournament against other local schools. Although determined and enthusiastic, this was the first time that our school had competed in this activity. In the group stages the team beat South Baddesley 2-0 drew with Beaulieu 1-1 and defeated William Gilpin 3-0. This meant they qualified for the final where they would play Brockenhurst. In a tight affair, the Year 3 and 4 team managed to edge the game 1-0 securing a gold medal. An amazing effort from the boys and girls in Year 3 and 4!

SR VERONICA'S WEEKLY REFLECTION: Welcome to this week's reflection. Today we reflect on the call of Abraham and the covenant made with him whereby from a family God calls Abraham to become father to a larger unit, a tribe. He is truly a man of faith like Noah and acts obediently to the call without questioning and is rewarded with the Father's blessing and a promise of many descendants. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i93Qji0ZP8w&t=12s>

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Joan Evans (24th), Kenneth Webdale, Annie O'Brien, John Haverson (27th), Martine (Tina) Mary Bernadette Booth (28th), Patrick O'Keeffe, Mary Agnes (Barbara) Balls (1st)

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

WILLIAM MYERS RIP: Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the comforting of his wife and family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Keith Stuttaford, representing the Catenians, will leading the Stations of the Cross at 10am on Friday 1st March 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

WELL DONE EVERYONE: £635.25 raised for Ukraine from the Tombola and the sale of drinks and cakes. Thank you to everyone who supplied cakes and prizes for the tombola. And thank you to everyone who helped on the day, particularly to Olivia & friend Freda who prepared the tombola prizes; and to helpers Kay, Mandy (Ukraine HUB), Lisa, Pete, Linda, Martha, Marie & Sr Veronica.

A LENTEN READ "Stations of the Cross - Then and Now" by Denis McBride (Redemptorist Press). This is a book of selected scripture readings, prayers and beautiful reflections & illustrated by Curd Lessig, of Christ's journey to Calvary. It's purpose is not only to celebrate the memory of Christ's passion by journeying with him but also to remind us of those who struggle today in our modern world under the weight of their own cross. A copy is available at the back of the church if you wish to borrow this book for private reflection (or buy your own from RP). Maybe you know of someone who is housebound who would like to borrow this book. It is one of the books left to us by Cathy Pickles for use by parishioners. Alternatively come and join your fellow parishioners every Friday, 10.00 during Lent for Stations of the Cross at OLMSJ, as we too walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

CHURCHES TOGETHER – LYMINGTON: Week of Prayer at Lymington Baptist Church - their week of "24/7" Prayer is fast approaching! From **Monday evening 11th March - Sunday morning 17th March** they will be praying non-stop, night and day for ourselves, our church, our wider Christian community, our local area and our world in our very own prayer room at LBC. Everyone is welcome to join them.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: On 23/02/24 Church Building Fund was £261,885.08.

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.

CARITAS EVENTS: Date for Your Diary: If you or your parish are interested in living more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, come along to the Caritas Online Networking Lunch on **Tuesday 5th March from 12:30-1pm** where we will be joined by Jo Lewry from CAFOD to tell us more about the **LiveSimply Award**. Everyone welcome, please [register here](#).

CHURCH BEYOND WALLS WORKSHOP: We have put together a workshop to help guide parishes to start to answer the question 'What does Poverty look like in my pastoral area?'. Following the See-Choose-Act pathway the workshop gives a parish the opportunity to explore what poverty is and how it impacts people locally, consider what gaps in support exist in the community, what gifts and resources are available within the parish and then start to discern and plan a response in line with Catholic Social Teaching. Ideal for parishes or pastoral areas. For further information or to plan a workshop please get in touch with Jenny at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. See flyer attached.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS: This spring, Caritas is focusing on our need to Care for Our Common Home— how we can use our grounds to both increase biodiversity as well as saving water and energy. We are just finishing resources so watch out for updates on the Intranet and via admin news and please circulate to any interested groups and parishioners.