

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 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: 20th April 2024 - 28th April 2024

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION (when applicable)	
SAT	20 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	4 th Sunday of Easter	Harry Newenham RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	21 st	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Easter	Jacque Kirke	DMA
SUN	21 st	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Easter	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	21 st	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	4 th Sunday of Easter	Canon Peter Wilkie RIP	DMA
TUE	23 rd	OLMSJ	9.00am	Mass	St George, Solemnity	For Peace in Ukraine & Middle East	DMA
WED	24 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	4 th Week of Easter	For OLSJ & Partnership Governors	DMA
WED	24 th	OLSJ SCHOOL	2.30pm	Liturgy	Celebrating New Life	N/A	DMA/LGU
THUR	25 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	St Mark, Feast	For those who are unwell	DMA
SAT	27 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	5 th Sunday of Easter	For 1st HC Children & parents	DMA
SUN	28 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	5 th Sunday of Easter	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	28 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	5 th Sunday of Easter	Charles Joseph Weld RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	28 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	5 th Sunday of Easter	People of the Parishes	DMA

Jesus the Good Shepherd

The wandering figure of the good shepherd, anxiously tending his sheep to the point where he is willing to surrender his life for them, is the image Jesus uses about himself in today's Gospel. That mixture of tenderness and toughness, care and self-sacrifice, is one that summarizes his own practice of leadership. It is not a leadership of detachment and defensiveness; rather it is a leadership of physical involvement and self-sacrificial love. In the good shepherd's foolish extravagant love, his own life matters less than that of his sheep.

The good shepherd is not an image of religious authority that is eternally pleased with its own importance, blind to the useless pain it causes in those it leads. The authority of the shepherd costs the shepherd, not the sheep. The image of the shepherd cannot be separated from how the shepherd actually cares for his own sheep. His concern is not untroubled, his courage is not bloodless, his love is not detached. When we see how Jesus actually behaves as a leader, we see his tenderness and courage.

Jesus tackles his opponents, face to face. He confronts those who steal the dignity of the little ones. He names the wolves in sheep's clothing. He is willing to leave his enemies looking sheepish. He warns his followers about the rough terrain ahead. He goes there before them. He is defensive when people attack his own followers. He is realistic about people's wayward ways. He endures isolation and insult. He faces his own fear but stays loyal. He risks being slaughtered himself.

He does lay down his life for his sheep. In his life and in his death Jesus sought out the lost and the least and the last. When he wanted to speak of a tender God he told the people about a shepherd who, when he loses one of his sheep, leaves the other sheep and goes off in search of the lost one. The shepherd refuses to accept the loss of one sheep as "just one of those things". He searches for the lost sheep until he finds it, and then taking it on his shoulders he returns to share his joy with all his neighbours.

That is Jesus' image of pastoral care, a search that continues until a find can be made. We know, of course, that a search is not automatic after a loss. Many losses are not even registered. Where there is no love, there is no loss. Some people are regarded as "no great loss". Other people are encouraged to "get lost". But all of us hope that when we are lost someone, somewhere, will be looking for us, like the good shepherd.

The good shepherd challenges our own way of leaving people for lost: "I have come to seek out and save the lost." Probably all of us know two or three people who have wandered away from the Church, who have lost their sense of belonging, who feel they have no community to belong to. How will they know they are welcome back if no one tells them? How will they be helped back if no one offers to make the journey with them? (from *Seasons of the Word* by Denis McBride)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Fr Leonard Shaw SJ, Phyllis Mary Meldon, John Adair Langford, Cecilia June Litton (21st), Heinz Johann Mair (26th)

Sick & Housebound: Jacquie Kirke, Barbara Mills, Kath Randle, Rita Ford, June Gow, Norah Sweeney, Sarah Bell.

SPECIAL PRAYERS, PLEASE: for Anthony & Judith's daughter-in-law, Jacquie, who is gravely ill.

COFFEE MORNING: this Sunday, 21st April after Mass in the Maryland Room. All are welcome. And thanks to the Team.

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF) Aircraft Visit: The MAF plans to bring one of their aircraft and a flight simulator to Milford village green on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May in order to advertise their missionary work. You can sit in the pilot's seat of a real Cessna 150 aircraft and try you hand at landing an MAF plane on the flight simulator. Please do try to support this event sometime during the day 10.00am - 4.00pm. Kevin Crook from MAF will be talking to us on Sunday, 5th May. I won't do a homily that day and Kevin will speak for under 10 minutes at the end of Mass.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER MILFORD ON SEA: St. Francis needs a second person to represent our parish as a part of this group from the four Milford churches. It has the overall responsibility for organising all the joint Christian events in the village, ranging from Christmas carols to Good Friday on the Green. Meetings are usually monthly, in the mornings. If you are interested in helping with this please speak to Elisabeth Hall (01590 644839) or at church.

SUNFLOWERS: We are selling sunflower seedlings for £5 each. The money raised will be used to buy baby food which will be sent to Ukraine. Please ask Anthony.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Patrick Joseph Maher, Basil Francis Thatcher (22nd), Gary Michael Plumbly, Ellie Mary Tenestine Honniball (24th), William John Rhodes Walsh (25th), Charles Eric Nunes (26th)

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

SUNFLOWER SEEDS: Caritas are giving away sunflower seeds to parishes and schools across the diocese! Planting a few of these seeds in our gardens will support the bees and butterflies and is a simple way to celebrate God's creation. We will be handing out the seeds at the back of the church this Sunday to anyone who would like some - they come in two varieties, tall and dwarf - and perhaps you would like to participate in a Caritas sunflower competition! Small envelopes for you to put your seeds in will be provided.

WILDER Lymington (& Brockenhurst!) become informed, inspired and equipped to make your outdoor space more nature-friendly. In St Thomas Churchyard, Saturday 27th April, 10am to 1pm. Hosted by St Thomas Church in collaboration with Transition Lymington.

All Parishes

WEEKDAY MASS: AVAILABLE EVERY DAY at St Dominic's Priory, Shirley Holms, Sway, Lymington SO41 8NH; (what3words location: "props.auctioned.surfed"): All their Masses this week, Monday to Saturday, will be at 12.15pm. Sunday Mass is at 11am.

SR VERONICA'S WEEKLY REFLECTION: Today Good Shepherd Sunday is traditionally known as Vocations Sunday. We are called to consider and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, but more importantly to come to understand that everyone by virtue of their Baptism has a vocation in life to which God has especially called you to. No one is exempt from a vocation in life. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mE6_yOxdJc God Bless Sr Veronica OP

NEXT LYMINGTON COFFEE MORNING will take place on Saturday 27th April 2024 in Joseph's Place from 10am to 1pm. All proceeds to the Samaritans (Southampton & District) group, a charity which offers a listening ear and support, without judgement or pressure, to people and communities in times of need. **All cakes gratefully received.**

BITESIZE: When at night you cannot sleep, talk to the Shepherd and stop counting sheep. *Author Unknown*

TO ALL MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION- New and old: Our Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team invites all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to a Formation Day on **Saturday 4th May, from 9.30am to 2.30pm at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke.** The day starts with Mass at 9.30 am and includes talks and reflections to help people to encounter Christ through the liturgy. Refreshments are included. The day will take place at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. **Please RSVP to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**

MISSION MASS : Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries invite everyone to celebrate a special Mass for Mission at St Theresa's Church Beaumont Road, Totton SO40 3AL .On Wednesday 8 May at 7pm. Come and hear how the **Red Box** is supporting our global Catholic community through donations and prayerful support. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Bridie Jarratt, Kathleen Josephine England (21st), Gerald Carroll, Daniel Broomfield, John McGuirk, Marjorie Fay Filbee, Nuria Whittle (22nd), Susan Mary Holmes-Siedle (24th), William Conroy, Paul John Stephenson, Peter James Foot (25th), Ellie Agnes Webb, Joyce Irene Meek (26th)

Sick and Housebound: Joseph Slavin, Jo English, Fr Shaun Budden, Pat Leahy, Clare Bearcroft, Susie Wright, Joan McCafferty, Frances Riches, Ron & Rita Barrett, John & Nicki Collins, Frances Walker, Sean Dunn, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Simone Cluett.

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THANKS FROM STELLA MARIS FOR THE EASTER EGGS: On behalf of our team in Southampton, I must thank you and all the parishioners who kindly donated an abundance of Easter Eggs to seafarers visiting our ports in Southampton and Fawley. As ever, your parish has responded magnificently to our appeal, greatly boosting our Stella Maris Easter Offering to hard pressed seafarers. When visiting ships, we try to bring a smile to the faces of seafarers whose life at sea can be lonely, far away from families, and often tough. As you can see from the photos attached, your great efforts filled many lives with the joy and happiness that we associate with Easter. Many thanks for your tremendous support. Wishing you all a continuing happy and blessed Eastertide. Gregory Hogan, Southampton regional Port Chaplain, Stella Maris.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: On 19/04/24 Church Building Fund was £262,745.08.

All Parishes

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

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND, April 20th / 21st Diocesan (obligatory) Clergy Training Fund.

TO ALL 3 PARISHES: LANGUAGES: THE LORDS PRAYER: This year the Pope has asked us to concentrate on Prayer, in particular The Lord's Prayer, in preparation for The Year of Jubilee in 2025. As part of this preparation, we have been asked to search out the languages spoken in our parishes, then to get The Lord's Prayer translated into each of those languages and display them on Pentecost Sunday, 19th May. Many thanks to those who have already responded to the request to tell us which languages you speak or once spoke at home. So far across the 3 parishes we have 15 different languages and 3 dialects which are spoken today or were spoken by Grandparents but are no longer spoken. There are a lot of languages and dialects still missing. For example, are there no Scots out there? No Spanish? No Italians? *ACTS 2: 4 When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.*

IF YOU HAVE BEEN MEANING TO TAKE PART BUT HAVEN'T DONE SO YET, THERE IS STILL TIME. Please email the language you speak at home or once spoke at home to office@lymbrockmil.org.uk. **OR** call the office 01590 676696 **OR** pop a note with the language spoken through the presbytery door or put it in the collection plate. **BUT** the cut off date is Sunday 28th April.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAIN AS A CATECHIST? The Sisters of St Dominic at Sway are offering a 2 year training programme beginning in September 2024. This will involve online learning sessions and in person retreat days. This part-time, hybrid learning Certificate aims to equip all adults engaged in the mission of catechesis in the Church. It is a further education level course which will provide a foundation of doctrinal knowledge and practical skills to enable the transmission of the Catholic faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Visit www.lightoftruth.uk for more details and to register.

GENERAL ELECTION UK 2024 USING YOUR CATHOLIC VOICE: CAFOD is offering an online training session for parishioners who would like to use their Catholic voice to influence MPs ahead of the general election. The training will cover:-

- Our faith and political participation.
- How our parishes can draw attention to the issues we care about.
- Three simple, different ways to reach our local candidates.
- Resources, materials, and support available.

There will be a choice of two sessions. Thursday 25 April 6:30-8:30pm or Saturday 4 May 11am-1pm. You will need to register at <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/using-our-catholic-voice-at-the-next-election-training-session>